



SBP Standard 1: Feedstock Compliance

Principle 3 – Carbon in the landscape is maintained or increased

Revision Draft v1 for Public Consultation
(for status see document history on page ii)

Revision Draft v1 for Public Consultation

Date: 01 June 2021

Formal status of document: Consultation Document

Document history

(see Standards Development Process Terms of Reference v1, page 29)

SBP editing team working document	X
Working Group A working document	X
Agreed by Working Group A	X
Technical Committee review document	X
Technical Committee reviewed	X
Standards Committee review document	X
Standards Committee reviewed	X
Working Group A working document for public consultation approval	X
Approved by Working Group A as Revision Draft v1 for public consultation	X

Contents

Principle 3 – Carbon in the landscape is maintained or increased

1

		3	Principle 3 – Carbon in the landscape is maintained or increased
	Criterion 2.9: Regional carbon stocks are maintained or increased over the medium to long term	3.1	<p>Criterion</p> <p>As a result of sourcing feedstocks, carbon stocks in the supply base are maintained or increased.</p> <p>or</p> <p>Criterion</p> <p>As a result of sourcing feedstocks, carbon stocks in the supply base are not adversely affected</p>
2.9.1	Feedstock is not sourced from areas that had high carbon stocks in January 2008 and no longer have those high carbon stocks.		
	<p>Examples of means of verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps • Procedures and records • Regional, publicly available data from a credible third party • The existence of a strong legal framework in the region 		
	<p>Examples of areas that may have high carbon stock:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands: Land that is covered with or saturated by water, permanently or for a significant part of the year. These should remain as wetlands; that is biomass production should not result in drainage of previously undrained soil • Peatland: This should remain as peatland unless evidence is provided that the production of feedstock does not involve drainage of 		

	previously undrained soil		
2.9.2	Analysis demonstrates that feedstock harvesting does not diminish the capability of the forest to act as an effective sink or store of carbon over the long term.	3.1.1	<p>Indicator</p> <p>The organisation shall undertake a risk assessment of the impacts of biomass harvesting on forest carbon within the supply base, to ensure that forest carbon stocks are maintained or increased, and uses the assessment to justify feedstock sourcing decisions.</p> <p>The organisation shall provide justification for the time frame applicable to the assessment.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Indicator</p> <p>The organisation shall undertake a risk assessment of the impacts of biomass harvesting on forest carbon within the supply base, to ensure that forest carbon stocks are not adversely affected, and uses the assessment to justify feedstock sourcing decisions.</p> <p>The organisation shall provide justification for the time frame applicable to the assessment.</p>
	<p>Examples of means of verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of analysis of carbon stocks • Analysis of historic and present carbon uptake rates • Regional, publicly available data from a credible third party • The existence of a strong legal framework in the region 		[Means of Verification moved to S2 and new standalone document]
	<p>SBP recognises that at some times in some catchments, due to natural forest cycles that may be wholly unassociated with wood for energy, carbon stocks may decline for a period. These declines will be naturally recovered and carbon stocks will be maintained or increased.</p> <p>Assessment of risks to the carbon stock may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection of reliable data on current stocks, growth rates, age class distributions, and existing market requirements 		<p>The organisation shall undertake assessment and provide justification for sourcing feedstock within the following contexts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regions where growth<drain. The Organisation must provide justification for the time period to which the assessment applies • Slow growing forest • High carbon stock areas. Definitions and examples of high carbon stock

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of the data • Examination of various outcomes (changing species or productivity, disease, fire, other markets) • Consideration of risk over various spatial and temporal scales, with a minimum horizon of five to ten years • Awareness of pressures or opportunities from outside the supply area • Recognition that there may be periods of transition requiring management • Regular review <p>Where there is a direct land use change, the carbon emissions associated with this may need to be calculated.</p>		<p>areas are found in the standalone guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stumps and roots • Where demand for biomass could lead to diversion of feedstock from long term carbon stores <p>To inform the risk assessment and feedstock sourcing decision, the organisation should also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider whether there is evidence of dynamic response in the forest to increased economic demand for feedstock, measured over a justifiable period, providing evidence of its impact on carbon • Consider whether a robust carbon estimation needs to be undertaken. This might include a carbon stock and flow assessment, and should be based on best available data and methods • Establish systems and procedures to monitor the rate of carbon sequestration and storage within the supply base • Utilise relevant economic data on demand for alternative products in local markets to demonstrate the lack of alternative market for the fibre. The organisation may also provide evidence of systems in place to avoid using feedstocks which are high value or which may be used to produce longer use products <p>Where there is uncertainty about the assessment of carbon impact, the organisation should take a conservative approach. Conservative means a consideration of the full range of potential carbon impacts and takes action to ensure that there is a low risk of negative impacts on carbon stocks within the supply base.</p> <p>Requirements elsewhere in the standard are relevant for ensuring forest carbon stocks are maintained or increased, including those relating to forest productivity, ecosystem functions, soil carbon, residue removals, regeneration/restocking of forests etc. The standalone guidance identifies those sustainable forest management activities which have relevance to forest carbon stocks and advises how they may be taken into account in the forest carbon risk based regional assessment.</p>
<p>Sources of information include:</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publicationsand-updates/renewables-obligationsustainability-criteria-guidance• http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/biofuels/doc/2010_bsc_example_land_carbon_calculation.pdf		
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