NEPCon OÜ Evaluation of Geosantbel, Limited Liability Company Compliance with the SBP Framework: Public Summary Report

Reinstatement Audit

www.sbp-cert.org

Completed in accordance with the CB Public Summary Report Template Version 1.5

For further information on the SBP Framework and to view the full set of documentation see www.sbp-cert.org

Document history

Version 1.0: published 26 March 2015

Version 1.1: published 30 January 2018

Version 1.2: published 4 April 2018

Version 1.3: published 10 May 2018

Version 1.4: published 16 August 2018

Version 1.5: published 22 October 2020

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1 Overview

Certification Body (CB) Name:	NEPCon OÜ
Primary CB contact for SBP:	Ondrej Tarabus
Primary CB contact email:	otarabus@preferredbynature.org
Audit team leader:	Aliaksandr Zubkevich
Audit team members:	Aliaksandr Zubkevich
Name of the Company:	Geosantbel, Limited Liability Company
Company legal address:	Ulitsa Khimikov 10, Mogilev region, 212003 Mogilev, Belarus
Company contact for SBP:	Evgeny Batyushkov
Company contact email:	geosantbel@mail.ru
Company website:	N/A
SBP Certificate Code:	SBP-07-60
Date of certificate issue:	04 Mar 2020
Date of certificate expiry:	03 Mar 2025
Audit closing meeting date:	15 Jun 2021
Audit cycle:	Reinstatement Audit

2 Scope of the evaluation and SBP certificate

Scope Item	Check all that apply to the Certificate Scope	Change in scope (N/A for Assessments)
Primary Activity:	Biomass Producer	☐
Approved Standards:	SBP Standard 2: Verification of SBP-compliant Feedstock; SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody; SBP Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data Instruction; Instruction Document 5E: Collection and Communication of Energy and Carbon Data 1.4	☐
Includes Supply Base Evaluation (SBE):	No	☐
Includes communication of Dynamic Batch Sustainability Data (DBSD)	Yes	☐
Includes Group Scheme	No	☐
Products	Pellets	☐

Feedstock types:	Secondary	☐
Feedstock origin (countries):	Belarus	☐
SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessments used: **Public link:** **https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/risk-assessments/**	Not applicable	☐
Chain of custody system implemented:	FSC: NC-COC-057889	☐
	Transfer	☐

2.1 Description of the company

BP is a pellet producing company located in Mogilev region, Belarus. Total annual production capacity of pellet plant is 7000 tones. Company runs only pellet production. Sawdust is used in pellet production and wood chips are used for the drier. The secondary feedstock used for pellet production originates from Belarus as FSC certified. The BP implements FSC transfer system and produced biomass is sold with FSC 100% claim. Non certified feedstock is stored separately with sign “Not FSC” and shall be processed separately and segregated during all the production and storage proceses. The biomass is expected to be transported by rail to Belarusian/Latvian border, Bigosovo railway station and Belarusian/Lithuanian border, Gudogai railway station as well as sold at factory gate. Pellet plant was commissioned in 2017.

2.2 Detailed description of the Chain of Custody system

BP implements FSC transfer system of claims. The input material used by the Organisation for biomass production contains only secondary feedstock - sawdust for pellet production and wood chips for dryer. Secondary feedstock (sawdust and wood chips) is sourced only from external suppliers (sawmills). The BP sourced for pellet production both FSC 100% feedstock and non-certified feedstock. The organization has the segregation system in place. Physical separation is implemented – FSC certified raw material is stored in special place and processed separately in time when production line is cleaned of non-certified product, final products are segregated also. Incoming sawdust reception register and supplier list are maintained. All material is checked during the arrival and correctly recorded in the internal system.

3 Specific objective

The specific objective of this evaluation was to confirm that the Biomass Producer’s management system is capable of ensuring that sufficien steps undertaken to close Major NCR.

4 Evaluation process

4.1 Timing of evaluation activities

Audit Level of Effort (LoE)		
Activity	***Auditors***	**Auditor hours**
1. Preparation	Aliaksandr Zubkevich	1,0
2. On-site (excl. travel time)	Aliaksandr Zubkevich	2,0
3. Report writing	Aliaksandr Zubkevich	2,0
4. Other	N/A	N/A

Audit Schedule			
Activity	**Location**	**Auditor name**	**Date/time**
Review of provided documents	Minsk (desk audit)	Aliaksandr Zubkevich	15 Jun 2021/14:00

Auditor qualification		
Auditor name	**Role**	**Qualification**
Aliaksandr Zubkevich	Lead auditor	Mr Aliaksandr Zubkevich has education of engineer-economist in timber industry. He had postgraduate study at the Belarusian State Technological University. A. Zubkevich has passed

		FSC CoC/ FM lead auditor training course, Legal Source, ISO 14001 and SBP training coursed. Previous experience in woodworking industry and SBP pre-assessment and assessments in Belarus.

4.2 Description of evaluation activities

Audito sas conducted as desk audit. Client via phone explained what was undertaken to close NCR. The data was provided to auditor.

4.3 Sampling methodology

The director responsible for the SBP was interviewed. Also, the updated register for recording volumes was checked, taking into account the sent copies of the missing consignment notes.

4.4 CB stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder consultation was not conducted for this audit

4.5 Stakeholder feedback

None

5 Results

5.1 Main strengths and weaknesses

Strengths: Use of the FSC transfer system. Effective recordkeeping system. Small number of the management staff and clearly designated responsibilities within the staff members.

Weaknesses: Not identified.

5.2 Rigour of Supply Base Evaluation

Not applicable

5.3 Collection and communication of data

The following energy sources are used by BP: electricity for pellet production; diesel for feedstock handling, shipping and for biomass transportation to customer. Electricity consumption value is based invoicing from supplier; diesel consumption value is based on accounting system

5.4 Competency of involved personnel

Overall, BP staff showed good understanding of knowledge of all applicable SBP requirements. SBP related staff responsibilities are presented in Section 3 of the SBP Procedure. Interviewed staff was well familiar with their responsibilities. Generally, very few staff members are involved into SBP certification: SBP responsible/director (maintaining of the management system, staff training, volume recording, performance of outcoming invoices and transport documents), director (trademark use), chief of production of pellet plant (moisture measurements, weight of biomass produced).

6 Review of company's risk assessments

6.1 Overview of company's risk assessments and mitigation measures

Not applicable

6.2 Specified risk indicators and mitigation measures

Country/Area	Indicator	Specified risk description	Mitigation measure
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

7 Non-conformities and observations

NC number NC-000420	NC Grading: Major
Standard:	SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody
Requirement:	5.3.1 All requirements of the relevant chain of custody control system specified in the SBP-approved CoC system shall be implemented to calculate outputs.
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The following average conversion factor was established by BP: 2,3 solid m3 of secondary feedstock (sawdust) for production of 1 tone pellets and 0,38 solid m3 of wood chips for drier per 1 tonne of pellet. The director explained that the conversion factor is received based on measurement of volume of input feedstock (quantity of loader shovel) and biomass produced which is conducted one day each week. But the BP do not record such measurements.	
Timeline for Conformance:	3 months from the report finalisation
Evidence Provided by Company to close NC:	Audit 2021 Protocol of conversion factor measurement dated 02.12.2020 CVA audit The data of volume and moisture measurments in Excel sheet (exh 1) Reinstate audit Root cause analize (exh 1) The data of volume and moisture measurments in Excel sheet (exh 2)
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	Audit 2021 The SBP manager has provided “Protocol of conversion factor measurement” dated 02.12.2020. In accordance with measurements conversion factor for pellet is 2.34 solid m3 per tonne pellet and 0.5 solid m3 per tonne pellet for the drier. It was explained that such measurements will be conducted each month. Taking in account recorded average moisture of feedstock (which is 43.8%) and input volume of feedstock auditor via theoretical calculation came to significant difference (13%) between theoreticaly calculated volume of biomass and recorded volume of produced biomass. The NCR is upgraded to Major. CVA 2021 The BP manager has provided evidences to close NCR. During review of data it was found out that there are mistakes in provided data. The BP has provided updated data. Taking in account recorded average moisture of feedstock (which is 46.3%) and input volume of feedstock auditor via theoretical calculation came to significant difference (29%) between theoreticaly calculated volume of biomass and recorded volume of produced biomass. Reinstate audit As a result of the analysis, two reasons for the appearance of a of non conformance were identified: 1) if the truck with feedstock arrived in the evening, then it was accepted by the master and he did not always take documents (way bill) and handed it over to the director, so not all of the volume was included in the accounting 2) the humidity device gives a large error, also the

	measurements were made by the master of poor quality. To correct the inconsistency, penalties were applied to the responsible persons, training was conducted on how to measure moisture, the moisture meter was put to the test. The organization provided an updated table of accounting for volumes, taking into account the missed volumes, as well as scanned copies of the way bills (for the missed volumes). They also provided photographic evidence of humidity measurements, which the director made together with the employees; according to measurements, the average humidity was about 35.5%. A new procedure is in place and according to the director, no vehicles should be unloaded until the documents have been checked and submitted to him for verification. Taking in account recorded average moisture of feedstock (which is 35.5 %) and input volume of feedstock auditor via theoretical calculation came to minor difference (0.8%) between theoreticaly calculated volume of biomass and recorded volume of produced biomass. Auditor consider that the corrective action is effective to avoid this gaps occurs in the future and the NCR can be closed
NC Status:	Closed

8 Certification decision

Based on the auditor's recommendation and the Certification Body's quality review, the following certification decision is taken:	
Certification decision:	Certification approved
Certification decision by (name of the person):	Pilar Gorría
Date of decision:	15 Jun 2021
Other comments:	N/A