



Control Union Certifications BV Evaluation of Vitol SA Compliance with the SBP Framework: Public Summary Report

Main (Initial) Audit

www.sbp-cert.org



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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

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1 Overview

Certification Body (CB) Name: Control Union Certifications BV

Primary CB contact for SBP: Robin Rosendahl

Primary CB contact email: rrosendahl@controlunion.com

Audit team leader: Lennart Holm

Audit team members: -

Name of the Company: Vitol SA

Company legal address: N/A

Company contact for SBP: Aleandra Wentworth-Foster

Company contact email: awf@vitol.com

Company website: N/A

SBP Certificate Code: SBP-06-52

Date of certificate issue: 04 May 2021

Date of certificate expiry: 03 May 2026

Audit closing meeting date: 04 May 2021

Audit cycle: Main (Initial) 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:	Trader	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved Standards:	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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Includes Supply Base Evaluation (SBE):	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Includes communication of Dynamic Batch Sustainability Data (DBSD)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Includes Group Scheme	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Products	Chips, Pellets	<input type="checkbox"/>

Feedstock types:	Primary, Secondary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feedstock origin (countries):	Russia, Norway	<input type="checkbox"/>
SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessments used: Public link: https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/risk-assessments/	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chain of custody system implemented:	PEFC, FSC: FSC: CU-COC-878648 PEFC: CU-PEFC-878648	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.1 Description of the company

Founded in Rotterdam in 1966, today Vitol trades over eight million barrels of crude oil and products a day. Vitol SA is a privately owned, independent energy trading company with over 40 offices around the world. As well as oil, gas, coal, power and oil-derived products Vitol SA invests and trades in energy transition and renewable products such as, Biofuels, Biogas, Biomass, Wind, Solar and Hydrogen. Vitol SA holds the following certifications pertaining to the trading of woody biomass: • FSC Chain of Custody; • PEFC Chain of Custody; • Sustainable Biomass Program (applying); • Green Gold Label (applying). Vitol SA trades woody biomass in the form of pellets and wood chips. Possible incoterms conditions for Vitol's trade are FCA, DAP, DDP, DPU, CIP, EXW, FOB, CIF, CPT, and CFR.

2.2 Detailed description of the Chain of Custody system

The organization has implemented FSC transfer and PEFC physical separation systems with biomass (wood chips and pellets) in the scope of their certificates, although only FSC is the basis for SBP certification. FSC certificate of Vitol: CU-COC-878648, valid to 17/03/2026. The process covers trade of biomass with physical possession. Valid FSC system description and other documents exist. As a trading company, they export biomass (wood pellets) by sea mainly CIF, with storage. The Chain of custody process is simple, and consist of purchasing - transport - sales based on back to back business (supplier to recipient).

3 Specific objective

The specific objective of this evaluation was to confirm that Vitol's management system is capable of ensuring that all requirements of the specified SBP Standards are implemented across the entire scope of certification.

The scope of the evaluation covered:

- Review of Vitol's management procedures;
- Review of SBP system control points and an analysis of the existing PEFC and FSC CoC system;
- Interviews with responsible staff;
- Review of the records and calculations;
- Analysis of DTS and SREG knowledge.

4 Evaluation process

4.1 Timing of evaluation activities

<i>Audit Level of Effort (LoE)</i>		
Activity	Auditors	Auditor hours
1. Preparation	Lennart Holm	2,0
2. On-site (excl. travel time)	Lennart Holm	6,5
3. Report writing	Lennart Holm	4,0
4. Other	-	0,0

Audit Schedule			
Activity	Location	Auditor name	Date/time
<i>Opening meeting</i>	Vitol office, remotely using Blue jeans	Lennart Holm	04 May 2021/09.00
<i>Business integrity, social, health and safety requirements</i>	Vitol office, remotely using Blue jeans	Lennart Holm	04 May 2021/09.30
<i>Logo/Trademark use</i>	Vitol office, remotely using Blue jeans	Lennart Holm	04 May 2021/09.45
<i>Complaints procedures</i>	Vitol office, remotely using	Lennart Holm	04 May 2021/10.00

	Blue jeans		
<i>Incoming material claims and raw material registration</i>	Vitol office, remotely using Blue jeans	Lennart Holm	04 May 2021/10.10
<i>Lunch Break</i>	N/A	N/A	04 May 2021/12.00
<i>GHG Data registrations</i>	Vitol office, remotely using Blue jeans	Lennart Holm	04 May 2021/13.00
<i>Chain of Custody Registrations</i>	Vitol office, remotely using Blue jeans	Lennart Holm	04 May 2021/13.30
<i>Outstanding issues and next steps</i>	Vitol office, remotely using Blue jeans	Lennart Holm	04 May 2021/14.00
<i>Closing meeting</i>	Vitol office, remotely using Blue jeans	Lennart Holm	04 May 2021/14.30
<i>End of audit</i>	Vitol office, remotely using Blue jeans	Lennart Holm	04 May 2021/15.30

Auditor qualification

Auditor name	Role	Qualification
Lennart Holm	Lead Auditor	Lead SBP, GGL, SDE+ and FSC and PEFC FM/COC auditor and successfully passed the SBP auditor training programme

4.2 Description of evaluation activities

This was a remote audit due to COVID-19 restrictions and was being undertaken following SBP COVID-19 Normative Requirements of 30 March, 2021.

In this remote audit, Control Union used information and communication technology (ICT) to evaluate all requirements from the annual audit plan to the extent possible. The audit was conducted on the basis of virtual meetings / interviews with relevant people of the certificate holder, relevant documents and records, and other best available information.

This remote audit consisted of an opening meeting, during which the scope was confirmed. The auditor also explained the methods to be employed during the audit.

After this introduction, all relevant requirements of the applicable SBP standard(s) were verified on compliance through the use of a report template and checklists. Procedures for handling of biomass at ports were reviewed remotely. All relevant requirements for storage locations was evaluated and found to be sufficiently managed.

The audit was completed by filling in the audit report and discussing the audit results.

Critical Control points were evaluated and found to be sufficiently managed and a closing meeting performed.

4.3 Sampling methodology

All applicable documents and procedures were reviewed. Vitol has not yet traded any wood based products, thus no invoices, DTS registrations, SAR or SREG to check.

4.4 CB stakeholder engagement

N/A

4.5 Stakeholder feedback

N/A

5 Results

5.1 Main strengths and weaknesses

The audit of Vitol demonstrated a good level of compliance with the required criteria of Standard 4 and 5. There was reasonable evidence provided to support compliance where a Non-Conformity was not detected. The existence of a FSC/PEFC Chain of Custody system are considered a main strength with respect to Vitol's overall conformity with the relevant SBP standards.

No weaknesses were identified.

5.2 Rigour of Supply Base Evaluation

N/A

5.3 Collection and communication of data

Vitol assures the completeness of incoming documentation to forward to their buyers. Vitol is a trader with physical possession, and thus, does handle with the purchased biomass. Vitol forwards to its customer the energy use data, received from their suppliers, supported by the production of the applicable SREG.

5.4 Competency of involved personnel

The company consist of a biomass trading desk of which one has the main responsibility related to the SBP system. All personnel that is involved with SBP have received appropriate training where all relevant procedures and requirements have been covered. The SBP responsible staff has shown good understanding of the requirements in relation to SBP certification and of the already implemented FSC/PEFC CoC system. Considering the size of the company, there were no risks detected related to the competency of involved personnel.

6 Review of company's risk assessments

6.1 Overview of company's risk assessments and mitigation measures

N/A

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

N/A

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):	Robin Rosendahl
Date of decision:	16 Jun 2021
Other comments:	N/A