

REDIIBIO: FOREST BIOMASS SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA REDII

REDII IMPLEMENTATION AND BEYOND

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MICHÈLE KOPER
NAVIGANT, A GUIDEHOUSE COMPANY

NAVIGANT
A Guidehouse Company

FOREST BIOMASS REDII CRITERIA: SUSTAINABLE HARVESTING & LULUCF CRITERIA

- Minimise the risk of using forest biomass derived from unsustainable production at sourcing level (REDII Article 29.6):
 - the **legality** of harvesting operations
 - forest **regeneration** of harvested areas
 - protection of areas designated for nature **protection purposes**, including in wetlands and peatlands
 - maintenance of **soil quality and biodiversity**
 - that harvesting maintains or improves the **long-term production capacity** of the forest.
- Addressing LULUCF emissions/removals (REDII Article 29.7):
 - is a Party to the **Paris Agreement**, and
 - has submitted a nationally determined contribution (**NDC**) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), or
 - has **national or sub-national laws** in place, to conserve and enhance carbon stocks and sinks, and providing evidence that reported LULUCF-sector emissions do not exceed removals

*All forest biomass should comply (including primary residues), excluding wastes & processing residues
All types of bioenergy used to count towards the targets or financially incentivized, although there is an installation threshold*

HOW TO COMPLY? THE BASIC PROCESS

- To demonstrate compliance economic operators submit third-party audited information:
 - National (governmental) schemes set up by Member States, or
 - Voluntary (market-based) schemes that have been recognised by the EC
- A risk-based approach has been taken for forest biomass
 - A country has sufficient regulation and proper enforcement/monitoring in place at a national level (Level A) -> there is a low risk of forest biomass derived from unsustainable production
 - If this is not the case, the risk for unsustainable production is higher -> thus it is important to assure on a sourcing area level that forest biomass is derived from sustainable production (Level B).
 - *This approach is intended to balance administrative burden while minimizing the risk that unsustainably produced forest biomass is used for energy production in Europe.*

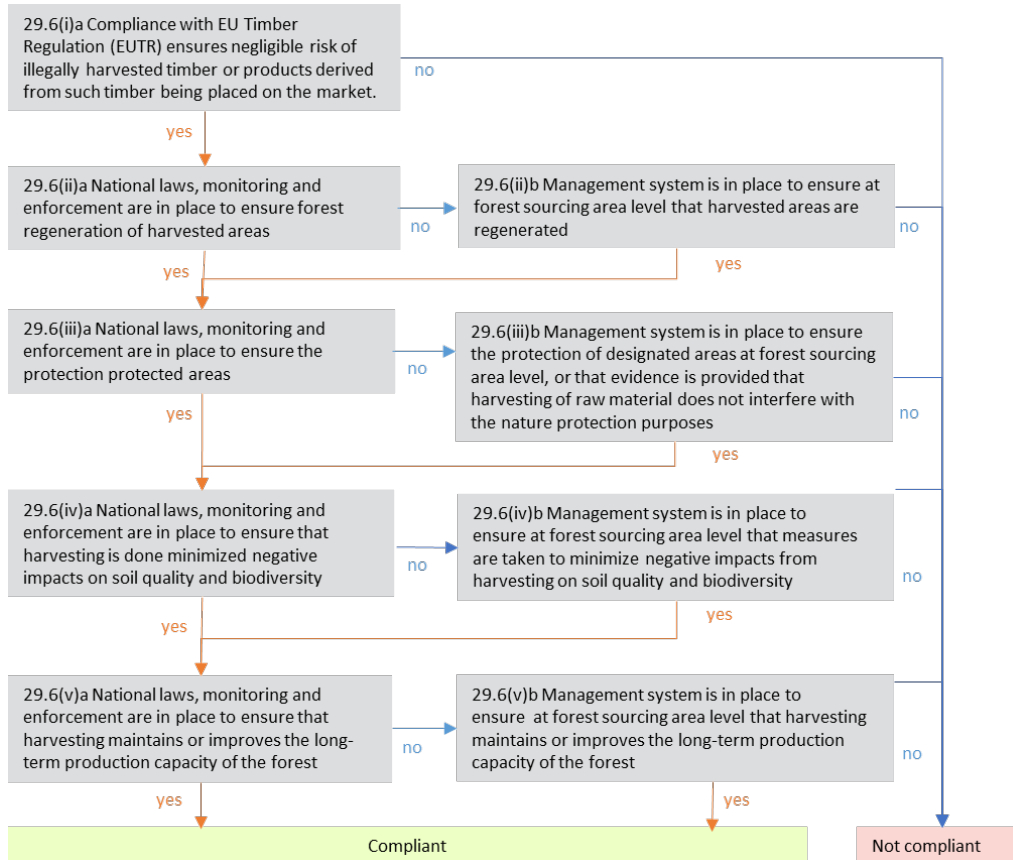


So compliance can be demonstrated either on (sub)national level (level A – in case of low risk countries) or at forest sourcing area level (level B).

For every criterion, if level A evidence is not available, level B evidence is required

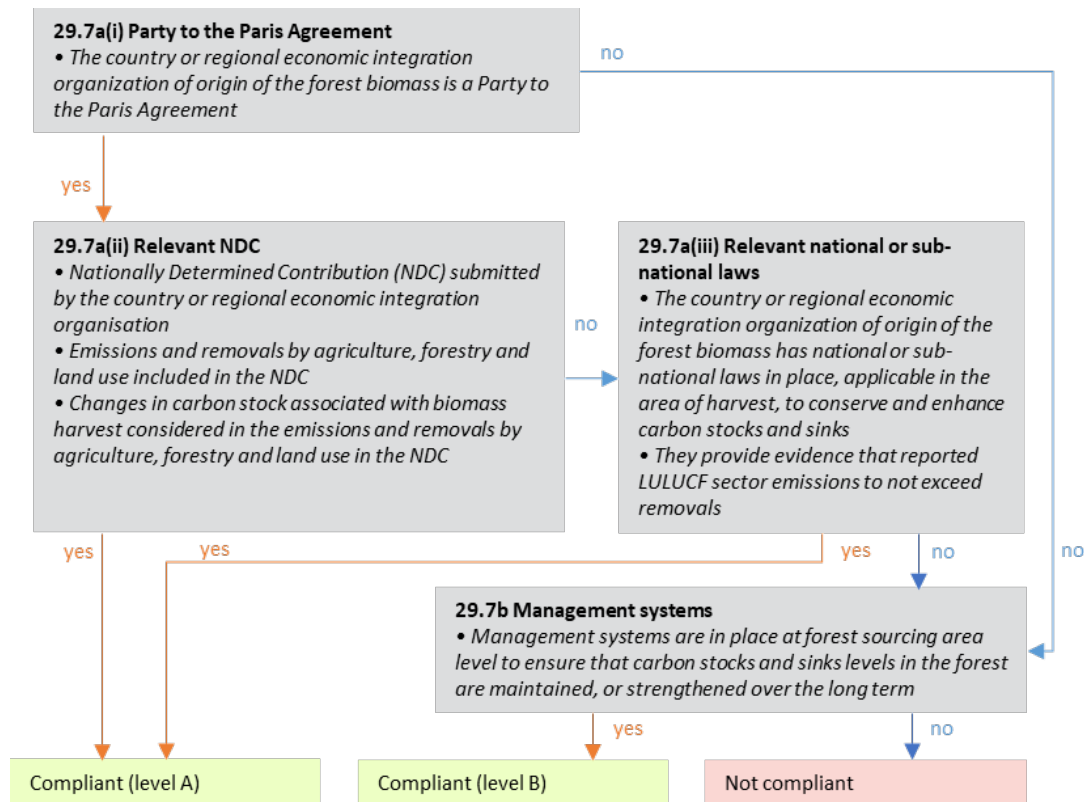
- Both Level A as well as Level B compliance are to be verified by third party (no list of high/low risk countries to be maintained by the EC)

SUSTAINABLE HARVESTING CRITERIA



- Each element should either be demonstrated on national or on sourcing area level
- Country sheet – Examples of national level compliance:
 - No detailed check on the quality of the law has been included
 - Enforcement most difficult to have replicable and consistent results (also limiting evidence - no solely NGO sources)
 - Most not complying examples lacked evidence legislation on long-term production capacity
- Case studies – Examples of sourcing area compliance:
 - Most of the required background information seems to be available in the case studies, however not always it is currently included in supplier contracts
 - Examples of evidence reported were concessions or declarations of compliance, forest management
 - On some elements additional evidence would be necessary (e.g. forest regeneration and long-term production capacity)

LULUCF CRITERIA



- Country sheet – Examples of national level compliance:
 - For EU Member States the LULUCF criteria are covered by EU activities (Paris Agreement, NDC and LULUCF legislation)
- Case studies – Examples of sourcing area compliance:
 - At sourcing area level a forward looking modelling and monitoring should be in place (which can be done based on existing calculators).
 - However some familiarity with calculations on forest carbon stocks and sinks is needed to be able to provide evidence

CONCLUDING REMARKS – PROCESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Remaining elements REDIIBIO project:
 - The stakeholder consultation process of REDIIBIO has been concluded and feedback incorporated in the final report
 - The REDIIBIO report is currently at the Commission for their final review, after which it will be published.
- Following process Implementing Act on Forest Biomass:
 - Commission is drafting and will soon publish draft Implementing Act
 - Public feedback period on draft Implementing Act: fall 2020
 - Commission formal adoption: by end of 2020, latest 31st of January 2021
- Timeline voluntary schemes recognition under REDII:
 - Call for interest and updated assessment template published on DG ENER website (July 2020)
 - Assessment of applications, adjustment of the schemes to reflect the adopted implementing acts (fall 2020 – 1st half of 2021)
 - Recognition of the schemes for REDII (spring/mid 2021)
- Member States are responsible for the implementation of the sustainability criteria by July 2021

CONTACTS

MICHÈLE KOPER

Navigant, a Guidehouse company

Michele.Koper@Guidehouse.com

<https://efi.int/projects/rediibio-red-ii-sustainability-criteria>