

SBP Public Consultation:

Principle 3 – Biomass sourcing contributes to climate change mitigation

On 2 June 2022, SBP launched a public consultation on Principle 3 (Biomass sourcing contributes to climate change mitigation) of draft SBP Standard 1: Feedstock Compliance.

The objective of the public consultation was threefold:

- To inform stakeholders of the status of Principle 3;
- To gather expert input and suggestions to ensure clarity of the requirements; and
- To identify the need for the development of specific guidance for Principle 3, once the Standard has been approved.

The consultation closed on Thursday, 30 June 2022.

The following text was consulted on:

3.1 Biomass feedstock sourcing maintains or enhances carbon stocks in the supply base.

3.1.1 Forest carbon stocks in the supply base shall be maintained or enhanced over a determined time period.

3.1.2 Up to date data and justification for the time period used to carry out the carbon stock assessment shall be available.

3.1.3 Justification shall be available for sourcing feedstocks from supply bases including lower-than-average annual growth.

3.1.4 Stumps shall not be used as biomass feedstock unless there are demonstrable forest management benefits.

3.1.5 Low quality wood products shall be prioritised for feedstock sourcing.

3.1.6 Carbon stocks in supply bases where trees outside forests are sourced shall be maintained or enhanced over a determined time period.

3.1.7 Up to date data and justification for the time period used to carry out the carbon stock assessment for trees outside forests shall be available.

3.2 The biomass producer shall not source from supply bases where Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector greenhouse gas emissions exceeds greenhouse gas removals.

3.2.1 Feedstocks shall not be sourced from areas where LULUCF sector greenhouse gas emissions exceed greenhouse gas removals over a determined period of time, by one or more of the following three routes:

Route A

Feedstocks shall be sourced from a country of origin which is party to the Paris Agreement, and which has submitted a nationally determined contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) covering carbon emissions and

removals from agriculture, forestry and land use which ensure the changes in carbon stock associated with biomass harvest are counted towards the country's commitment to reduce or limit greenhouse gas emissions), or

Route B

Feedstocks shall be sourced from a country of origin which is party to the Paris Agreement and has national or sub-national laws in place, in accordance with Article 5 of the Paris Agreement, applicable in the area of harvest, to conserve and enhance carbon stocks and sinks, and providing evidence that reported LULUCF-sector emissions do not exceed removals, or

Route C

An assessment shall be available at the supply base level to demonstrate that LULUCF emissions do not exceed greenhouse gas removals over the long term.

3.2.2 Justification shall be available for the time period used in assessment for Routes B or C.

3.2.3 The data used to demonstrate compliance with 3.2.1 shall be updated at least once every 5 years.