



Instruction Document

Instruction Document 1A:
**SBP Requirements
for Primary
Feedstock from
Trees Outside
Forests (TOF)**

Sustainable Biomass Program

sbp-cert.org



Version 2.0

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In the case of inconsistency between translations, the official English language version shall always take precedence.

SBP welcomes comments and suggestions for changes, revisions and / or clarifications on all of its Standards documentation. Please contact: info@sbp-cert.org

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A Introduction

The Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP) is a certification scheme designed for biomass, mostly in the form of wood pellets and chips.

The SBP certification scheme provides assurance to stakeholders that biomass is sourced both legally and sustainably, and it provides a means to collect and communicate reliable and verified data throughout the supply chain, including energy data, allowing companies in the biomass sector to demonstrate their responsible sourcing achievement and compliance with regulatory requirements, and to calculate their Greenhouse Gas (GHG) footprint.

There are six SBP Standards, which collectively represent the SBP certification scheme, against which Organisations can be assessed (as applicable) for certification by independent third-party accredited Certification Bodies (CBs). The Standards were developed and revised following a rigorous process aligned with ISEAL Standard-setting Code of Good Practice, considering and building on existing regulatory requirements, peer voluntary certification standards and stakeholders' input.

An Organisation that satisfactorily demonstrates conformance with the SBP Standards receives a certificate and may be entitled to make use of the SBP Data Transfer System (DTS) and SBP claims in relation to the biomass it produces, sells, buys and / or uses.

B Purpose

The SBP certification scheme provides assurance to End-users that the biomass is sourced from legal and sustainable feedstock as defined in SBP Standard 1. SBP certification relies on a third-party, independent certification process carried out by accredited CBs.

SBP Instruction Document 1A sets out the requirements for feedstock when it originates from trees outside forests (TOF). The primary purpose of the document is to define the applicability of SBP Standard 1: Feedstock Compliance requirements for various types of TOF feedstock.

Section 1 of the document defines the classification of feedstock types. Section 2 provides a normative instruction on applicability of each SBP Standard 1 indicator to different types of TOF feedstock.

C Scope

SBP Instruction Document 1A shall be used by Biomass Producers (BPs), that source TOF feedstock.

D How to use this document

SBP Instruction Document 1A shall be used in conjunction with SBP Standard 1, when a BP sources feedstock categorised as TOF.

BPs shall demonstrate low risk of sourcing non-compliant feedstock and define and implement Risk Management Measures to effectively reduce specified risks to a low risk level.

The following terms are used by SBP in its normative documents to indicate requirements, recommendations, permissions, and possibilities or capabilities:

“shall” indicates a requirement,

“should” indicates a recommendation,

“may” indicates a permission, and

“can” indicates a possibility or a capability.

The CB will evaluate conformance of the Organisation against SBP Standard 2: Feedstock Verification based on the requirements set in SBP Standard 1 and this Instruction Document 1A (if applicable) using the general certification rules set in SBP Standard 3: Requirements for Certification Bodies. The CB shall evaluate whether a BP has established a separate sub-scope for each TOF category as well as that a risk assessment covers TOF sources.

E Normative references

SBP Standard 1: Feedstock Compliance

SBP Standard 2: Feedstock Verification

SBP Standard 3: Requirements for Certification Bodies

SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody

SBP Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data

SBP Standard 6: Energy and Carbon Balance Calculation

F Glossary of terms and definitions

Please refer to the separate SBP Glossary of Terms and Definitions document.

G

Summary of changes

Instruction Document 1A v1.0	Instruction Document 1A v2.0	Comments
1.1.3 Feedstock shall be legally harvested, supplied and produced, including in compliance with CITES, EUTR and other applicable legal trade requirements.	1.1.3 Feedstock shall be legally harvested, supplied and produced, including in compliance with applicable legal trade requirements (for example, CITES, EUTR/EUDR or others).	The indicator was updated based on the SBP Standard 1 v2.1.
2.2.1 Feedstock shall not be sourced from land that had one of the following statuses in January 2008 and no longer has that status due to land conversion: a. Forests; b. Wetlands; c. Peatlands; d. Highly biodiverse grasslands.	2.2.1 Feedstock shall not be sourced from land that had one of the following statuses in January 2008 and no longer has that status due to land conversion: a. Forests; b. Wetlands; c. Peatlands; d. Highly biodiverse grasslands.	The applicability of requirements for points a, b, c and d for Urban, domestic and infrastructure TOF was corrected from Yes to N/A.
2.2.4 Where the removal of harvest forest residues and/or stumps occurs, this shall not lead to irreversible negative impacts to the ecosystem.	2.2.4 Where the removal of harvest forest residues, stumps, and/or roots is allowable and occurs, adverse impacts on the ecosystems shall be minimised.	The indicator was updated based on the SBP Standard 1 v2.1.
2.2.6 Air emissions shall comply with national legislation or in the absence of national legislation with industry best practice.	2.2.6 Emissions to air shall comply with national legislation or, in the absence of national legislation, with industry best practice.	The indicator was updated based on the SBP Standard 1 v2.1.
New	2.2.13 Harvesting is carried out in compliance with maximum thresholds for large clear-cuts as defined in the country where the forest is located.	The indicator was introduced based on the SBP Standard 1 v2.1.
New	2.2.14 Harvesting is carried out in compliance with locally and ecologically appropriate retention thresholds for deadwood extraction.	The indicator was introduced based on the SBP Standard 1 v2.1.
3.2.3 Primary feedstock shall not be sourced from forest areas in the Supply Base which, according to local definitions or norms, are classified as having combined attributes of high carbon stocks and high conservation value (HCV).	3.2.3 Primary feedstock shall not be sourced from primary forest, old-growth forests, heathland forming a climax stage or natural highly biodiverse grassland.	The indicator was updated based on the SBP Standard 1 v2.1.
New	3.2.4 Primary feedstock may be sourced from highly biodiverse forests, peatlands, wetlands, or non-natural highly biodiverse grasslands only when evidence demonstrates that sourcing does not risk diminishing the conservation values.	The indicator was introduced based on the SBP Standard 1 v2.1.

1 Classification and definitions of feedstock types

Biomass type	Feedstock category	Product Group	Origin	Feedstock type	
Woody biomass	Primary	Forest	Final harvest from (semi-) natural forests	High grade stemwood Low grade stemwood	
			Final harvest from plantations	Forest residues with stumps	
			Thinning from (semi-)natural forests	Forest residues without stumps	
			Thinning from plantation forests	End-of-life trees Salvage trees Trees removed for nature conservation	
		Trees outside forests (TOF) – Urban and landscape feedstock	Landscape	Low grade stemwood	
			Urban, domestic and infrastructure	Tree residues with stumps Tree residues without stumps End-of-life trees Salvage trees Trees removed for nature conservation	
		Trees outside forests (TOF) – Agricultural land feedstock	Woody residues from agricultural land (Orchards, vineyards, nuts and other woody crops, agro-forestry)	Product and co-products End-of-life trees Salvage trees	
			Woody energy crops (i.e. woody biomass), short rotation coppice		
		Processing residues	n / a	Processing residues	Sawmill and wood industry residues
		Post-consumer	n / a	Post-consumer waste	Recycled wood

2 Applicability of Standard 1 requirements to different types of TOF feedstock

Guidance for the table below:

Indicators marked with “YES” specify an indicator that is applicable to the respective feedstock source, while indicators marked with “N/A” are not applicable to the feedstock source in question.

Requirement	Trees outside forests (TOF) – Urban and landscape feedstock		Trees outside forests (TOF) – Agricultural land feedstock		
	Landscape	Urban, domestic and infrastructure	Woody residues from agricultural land ¹		
			Woody residues	Primary production of the agriculture	Woody energy crops, short rotation coppice
1 Principle 1 – Feedstock is legally sourced					
1.1 Operators and operations are legal					
1.1.1 Operations related to feedstock sourcing and biomass production shall comply with all existing applicable laws and regulations.	YES	YES	YES	N/A	YES
1.1.2 Legal ownership of land and resource use rights shall be respected.	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
1.1.3 Feedstock shall be legally harvested, supplied and produced, including in compliance with applicable legal trade requirements (for example, CITES, EUTR/EUDR or others).	YES	YES	YES	N/A	YES
1.1.4 Payments for harvest rights and feedstock, including duties, relevant royalties and taxes related to timber harvesting shall be complete and up-to-date.	YES	YES	YES	N/A	YES
1.1.5 There shall be adequate protection of the Supply Base from unauthorised and illegal activities, such as illegal logging, mining, and encroachment.	N/A	N/A	YES	N/A	N/A

¹ When sourcing woody residues from agricultural production a risk assessment has to be performed both for the production of the biomass (the residues), but also the primary production of agriculture i.e. management of the orchard plantation.

2 Applicability of Standard 1 requirements to different types of TOF feedstock continued

Requirement	Trees outside forests (TOF) – Urban and landscape feedstock		Trees outside forests (TOF) – Agricultural land feedstock		
	Landscape	Urban, domestic and infrastructure	Woody residues from agricultural land ¹		
			Woody residues	Primary production of the agriculture	Woody energy crops, short rotation coppice
2 Principle 2 – Feedstock sourcing does not harm the environment					
2.1 Biodiversity is maintained or enhanced					
2.1.1 Key species, habitats, ecosystems, and areas of high conservation value (HCV) pertaining to biodiversity in the Supply Base shall be identified.	YES	N/A	YES	YES	YES
2.1.2 Threats to and impacts on the identified key species, habitats, ecosystems, and areas of high conservation value (HCV) pertaining to biodiversity in the Supply Base shall be identified and evaluated.	YES	N/A	YES	YES	YES
2.1.3 Key species, habitats, ecosystems, and areas of high conservation value (HCV) pertaining to biodiversity in the Supply Base shall be maintained or enhanced.	YES	N/A	YES	YES	YES
2.2 Ecosystem productivity, functions, and services are maintained or enhanced					
2.2.1 Feedstock shall not be sourced from land that had one of the following statuses in January 2008 and no longer has that status due to land conversion:	YES	N/A	YES	YES	YES
a. Forests	YES	N/A	YES	YES	YES
b. Wetlands	YES	N/A	YES	YES	YES
c. Peatlands	YES	N/A	YES	YES	YES
d. Highly biodiverse grasslands.	YES	N/A	YES	YES	YES
2.2.2 Ecosystems, their health, vitality, functions and services in the Supply Base shall be maintained or enhanced.	YES	N/A	N/A	N/A	YES

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2 Applicability of Standard 1 requirements to different types of TOF feedstock continued

Requirement	Trees outside forests (TOF) – Urban and landscape feedstock		Trees outside forests (TOF) – Agricultural land feedstock			
	Landscape	Urban, domestic and infrastructure	Woody residues from agricultural land ¹			
			Woody residues	Primary production of the agriculture	Woody energy crops, short rotation coppice	
2.2.3	Soil quality in the Supply Base shall be maintained or enhanced.	YES	N/A	YES	YES	YES
2.2.4	Where the removal of harvest forest residues, stumps, and/or roots is allowable and occurs, adverse impacts on the ecosystems shall be minimised.	YES	N/A	YES	N/A	YES
2.2.5	Quality and quantity of ground water, surface water and water downstream shall be maintained or enhanced.	YES	N/A	YES	YES	YES
2.2.6	Emissions to air shall comply with national legislation or, in the absence of national legislation, with industry best practice.	YES	YES	YES	N/A	YES
2.2.7	Pesticides shall only be used as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan in compliance with national legislation, chemical safety data sheets and industry best practice. Banned pesticides shall not be used.	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	YES
2.2.8	Waste shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner.	YES	YES	YES	N/A	YES
2.2.9	Harvesting levels shall be justified as to how they can be sustained with reference to inventory and growth data for the Supply Base.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.2.10	Harvested areas shall be regenerated.	YES	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.2.11	The impacts of natural processes such as fires, pests and diseases shall be managed.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.2.12	Genetically modified trees shall not be used.	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	YES

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2 Applicability of Standard 1 requirements to different types of TOF feedstock continued

Requirement	Trees outside forests (TOF) – Urban and landscape feedstock		Trees outside forests (TOF) – Agricultural land feedstock			
	Landscape	Urban, domestic and infrastructure	Woody residues from agricultural land ¹			
			Woody residues	Primary production of the agriculture	Woody energy crops, short rotation coppice	
2.2.13	Harvesting is carried out in compliance with maximum thresholds for large clear-cuts as defined in the country where the forest is located.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.2.14	Harvesting is carried out in compliance with locally and ecologically appropriate retention thresholds for deadwood extraction.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

¹ When sourcing woody residues from agricultural production a risk assessment has to be performed both for the production of the biomass (the residues), but also the primary production of agriculture i.e. management of the orchard plantation.

2 Applicability of Standard 1 requirements to different types of TOF feedstock continued

Requirement	Trees outside forests (TOF) – Urban and landscape feedstock		Trees outside forests (TOF) – Agricultural land feedstock		
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			Woody residues	Primary production of the agriculture	Woody energy crops, short rotation coppice
3 Principle 3 – Feedstock is only sourced from Supply Bases where the forest carbon stock is stable or increasing long term					
3.1 Feedstock sourcing complies with REDII requirements for LULUCF emissions					
<p>3.1.1 LULUCF emissions shall be accounted for through one of the following routes:</p> <p>Route A Feedstock may 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</p> <p>Route B Feedstock may be sourced from a country of origin which is party to the Paris Agreement and has national or sub-national laws in place (developed in accordance with Article 5 of the Paris Agreement and applicable in the area of harvest), to conserve and enhance carbon stocks and sinks, and providing there is evidence that reported LULUCF-sector emissions do not exceed removals, or</p> <p>Route C Feedstock may be sourced from a Supply Base where an assessment demonstrates that both the carbon stock is stable, and the forests’ capacity to act as a carbon sink is stable or increasing over the long term.</p>	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

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2 Applicability of Standard 1 requirements to different types of TOF feedstock continued

Requirement	Trees outside forests (TOF) – Urban and landscape feedstock		Trees outside forests (TOF) – Agricultural land feedstock		
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			Woody residues	Primary production of the agriculture	Woody energy crops, short rotation coppice
3.2 Carbon stocks in the forest area of the Supply Base are stable or increasing in the long term					
3.2.1 All feedstock sourcing shall be consistent with either of these two options: Option A. Feedstock may be sourced from Supply Bases where an assessment of the Supply Base shows that the forest carbon stocks are stable or increasing. or Option B. Feedstock may be sourced, if the assessment shows that the forest carbon stocks are declining in the Supply Base, provided that the decline is due to natural processes (fire, pests etc.) and sourcing of feedstock has the aim to recover feedstock that would otherwise be lost or to assist regeneration.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3.2.2 Primary feedstock shall not be sourced from forest areas where site productivity is low, and according to local definitions or norms, the areas are classified as low-productive or difficult to regenerate.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3.2.3 Primary feedstock shall not be sourced from primary forest, old-growth forests, heathland forming a climax stage or natural highly biodiverse grassland.	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
3.2.4 Primary feedstock may be sourced from highly biodiverse forests, peatlands, wetlands, or non-natural highly biodiverse grasslands only when evidence demonstrates that sourcing does not risk diminishing the conservation values.	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

¹ When sourcing woody residues from agricultural production a risk assessment has to be performed both for the production of the biomass (the residues), but also the primary production of agriculture i.e. management of the orchard plantation.

2 Applicability of Standard 1 requirements to different types of TOF feedstock continued

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			Woody residues	Primary production of the agriculture	Woody energy crops, short rotation coppice
3.3 Feedstock sourcing shall not compete with wood sourcing for long-lived wood products					
3.3.1 Feedstock sourcing shall be in compliance with the principles of cascading use, high quality stem wood shall not be used as feedstock if it is in substantial demand for long-lived products in the Supply Base.	N / A	N / A	N / A	N / A	N / A
4 Principle 4 – Feedstock sourcing benefits people and communities					
4.1 Decent working conditions are provided, and labour rights are safeguarded					
4.1.1 Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining shall be respected in the workplace.	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
4.1.2 Forced or compulsory labour shall not be used.	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
4.1.3 Child labour shall not be used.	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
4.1.4 Workers shall not be discriminated in hiring, remuneration, access to training, promotion, termination or retirement.	YES	YES	YES	N / A	YES
4.1.5 Wages paid to workers shall meet or exceed the legal minimum wage or where there is no statutory minimum wage industry norms shall be met or exceeded.	YES	YES	YES	N / A	YES
4.1.6 Working hours shall comply with legal requirements.	YES	YES	YES	N / A	YES
4.1.7 Workers shall have access to health care provisions, sickness benefits, retirement benefits, invalidity benefits, death benefits and workers' compensation.	YES	YES	YES	N / A	YES

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			Woody residues	Primary production of the agriculture	Woody energy crops, short rotation coppice
4.1.8 Training shall be provided for all workers to allow them to implement the conditions set out in all elements of the SBP Standards relevant to their responsibilities.	YES	YES	YES	N/A	YES
4.1.9 Mechanisms shall be in place for resolving grievances and disputes in the workplace.	YES	YES	YES	N/A	YES
4.1.10 Safeguards shall be put in place to protect the health and safety of workers by developing, communicating and implementing policies and procedures.	YES	YES	YES	N/A	YES
4.2 Feedstock sourcing benefits communities					
4.2.1 Negative social and community impacts shall be identified and avoided.	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
4.2.2 Feedstock sourcing shall positively contribute to the local economy, including employment.	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	YES
4.2.3 Food, water supply or high conservation values (HCV) that are essential for the fulfilment of basic needs of communities shall be maintained or enhanced.	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	YES
4.2.4 Legal, customary, and traditional tenure and use rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities related to the Supply Base shall be identified, documented, and respected.	YES	N/A	YES	YES	YES
4.2.5 Mechanisms shall be in place for resolving grievances and disputes relating to tenure and use rights of the forest and other land management practices.	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

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			Woody residues	Primary production of the agriculture	Woody energy crops, short rotation coppice
4.2.6 Where Indigenous Peoples' rights are identified in the Supply Base, and Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) has not been achieved for the proposed and planned activities, a consultation and, if required, accommodation process shall be put in place.	YES	N/A	YES	N/A	YES
4.2.7 Designated cultural heritage sites shall be preserved.	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

¹ When sourcing woody residues from agricultural production a risk assessment has to be performed both for the production of the biomass (the residues), but also the primary production of agriculture i.e. management of the orchard plantation.