



Standards Document

SBP Standard 1: Feedstock Compliance

Sustainable Biomass Program

sbp-cert.org



Version 2.1

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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 applicable 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 Standard 1 sets out the requirements for feedstock sourced for SBP-certified biomass. It is designed to be used as a reference for the biomass sector in consistently defining and managing sourcing risks and driving continuous improvement. It covers the most relevant sustainability aspects of feedstock production, including social, environmental, legal, and carbon stock related elements.

The SBP Standards are not meant to replace forest management certification schemes. Rather, the SBP Standards aim to support Biomass Producers (BPs) in identifying sustainability risks when designing their sourcing policies and actions to mitigate specified risks. The SBP Risk Management System acknowledges the synergies with recognised existing forest management certification schemes to adequately manage risks in the Supply Base. Such that Risk Management is adapted for feedstock that is certified by SBP-recognised and SBP-benchmarked schemes.

The SBP certification scheme follows a risk-based approach. BPs assess the risk of non-conformance against the principles and criteria of SBP Standard 1, when deciding which feedstock to source for biomass production. Using SBP Standard 2, BPs will identify, evaluate and mitigate the risks of sourcing feedstock, for the purposes of biomass production, that does not conform with the criteria set in SBP Standard 1.

Risks are rated as 'low' or 'specified'. Organisations need to ensure that all specified risks are managed and thus reduced to a low level, or otherwise exclude the feedstock associated with specified risks from SBP supply chains.

Organisations gain certification against SBP Standard 2 by conforming with the requirements set in SBP Standard 1 and demonstrating that any specified risks of sourcing feedstock not in conformance with SBP Standard 1 have been adequately reduced to low risk, following Standard 2 requirements.

Once granted a certificate, an Organisation is entitled to use the SBP-compliant and/or SBP-controlled claims, provided the SBP-certified management system is implemented during production. Organisations must use the DTS to pass those claims down the supply chain, in conformance with the requirements set in SBP Standard 4. The Organisation will also collect the data required by SBP Standards 5 and 6 and use the DTS to communicate all data to their customers.

C

Scope

SBP Standard 1 applies to the Supply Base of the BP. SBP Standard 1 is for use by Organisations defined as BPs seeking certification against SBP Standard 2, which requires identification, evaluation and adequate mitigation of the risks of non-conformance with SBP Standard 1 when sourcing feedstock from their Supply Base.

D

How to use this document

SBP Standard 1 shall be used in conjunction with SBP Standard 2, which defines the steps the Organisation shall take to identify, evaluate and mitigate the risks of sourcing feedstock that is not compliant with the requirements set in this Standard. BPs shall demonstrate that any specified risks of sourcing feedstock not in compliance with SBP Standard 1 have been adequately reduced to low risk, following Standard 2 requirements.

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.

“Criterion” indicates the intention of the Standard with regard to the indicators that follow the criterion.

“Indicator” indicates a normative requirement that applicants and Certificate Holders are assessed against.

SBP Standard 1 may be accompanied by guidance published from time-to-time by SBP to support the implementation of the requirements.

The Organisation shall also refer to the SBP Instruction Documents and/or Normative Interpretations related to SBP Standard 1 as published by SBP.

The CB will evaluate conformance of the Organisation against SBP Standard 1 using the general certification rules set in SBP Standard 3.

E Normative references

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

| SBP Standard 1 v2.0 | SBP Standard 1 v2.1 | 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 to explicitly reference the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). |
| 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. | Alignment with REDIII sustainability criteria. |
| 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. | To refine the language. |
| 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. | Alignment with REDIII sustainability criteria. |
| New | 2.2.14 Harvesting is carried out in compliance with locally and ecologically appropriate retention thresholds for deadwood extraction. | Alignment with REDIII sustainability criteria. |
| 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. | Alignment with REDIII sustainability criteria. |
| 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. | Alignment with REDIII sustainability criteria. |

Principle 1 Feedstock is legally sourced

- 1.1 Criterion:
Operators and operations are legal.
-
- 1.1.1** Indicator:
Operations related to feedstock sourcing and biomass production shall comply with all existing applicable laws and regulations.
-
- 1.1.2** Indicator:
Legal ownership of land and resource use rights shall be respected.
-
- 1.1.3** Indicator:
Feedstock shall be legally harvested, supplied and produced, including in compliance with applicable legal trade requirements (for example, CITES, EUTR/EUDR or others).
-
- 1.1.4** Indicator:
Payments for harvest rights and feedstock, including duties, relevant royalties and taxes related to timber harvesting shall be complete and up-to-date.
-
- 1.1.5** Indicator:
There shall be adequate protection of the Supply Base from unauthorised and illegal activities, such as illegal logging, mining, and encroachment.

Principle 2 Feedstock sourcing does not harm the environment

- 2.1 Criterion:
Biodiversity is maintained or enhanced.
-
- 2.1.1** Indicator:
Key species, habitats, ecosystems, and areas of high conservation value (HCV) pertaining to biodiversity in the Supply Base shall be identified.
-
- 2.1.2** Indicator:
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.
-
- 2.1.3** Indicator:
Key species, habitats, ecosystems, and areas of high conservation value (HCV) pertaining to biodiversity in the Supply Base shall be maintained or enhanced.

2.2

Criterion:

Ecosystem productivity, functions, and services are maintained or enhanced.

- 2.2.1** Indicator:
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.
-
- 2.2.2** Indicator:
Ecosystems, their health, vitality, functions and services in the Supply Base shall be maintained or enhanced.
-
- 2.2.3** Indicator:
Soil quality in the Supply Base shall be maintained or enhanced.
-
- 2.2.4** Indicator:
Where the removal of harvest forest residues, stumps, and/or roots is allowable and occurs, adverse impacts on the ecosystems shall be minimised.
-
- 2.2.5** Indicator:
Quality and quantity of ground water, surface water and water downstream shall be maintained or enhanced.
-
- 2.2.6** Indicator:
Emissions to air shall comply with national legislation or, in the absence of national legislation, with industry best practice.
-
- 2.2.7** Indicator:
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.
-
- 2.2.8** Indicator:
Waste shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner.
-
- 2.2.9** Indicator:
Harvesting levels shall be justified as to how they can be sustained with reference to inventory and growth data for the Supply Base.
-
- 2.2.10** Indicator:
Harvested areas shall be regenerated.

- 2.2.11** Indicator:
The impacts of natural processes such as fires, pests and diseases shall be managed.
- 2.2.12** Indicator:
Genetically modified trees shall not be used.
- 2.2.13** Indicator:
Harvesting is carried out in compliance with maximum thresholds for large clear-cuts as defined in the country where the forest is located.
- 2.2.14** Indicator:
Harvesting is carried out in compliance with locally and ecologically appropriate retention thresholds for deadwood extraction.

Principle 3 Feedstock is only sourced from Supply Bases where the forest carbon stock is stable or increasing in the long term

- 3.1** Criterion:
Feedstock sourcing is consistent with international requirements for land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) emissions.

- 3.1.1** Indicator:
LULUCF emissions shall be accounted for through one of the following routes:

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

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 provided there is evidence that reported LULUCF-sector emissions do not exceed removals, or

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.

3.2

Criterion:

Carbon stocks in the forest area of the Supply Base are stable or increasing in the long term.**3.2.1**

Indicator:

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.

3.2.2

Indicator:

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.

3.2.3

Indicator:

Primary feedstock shall not be sourced from primary forest, old-growth forests, heathland forming a climax stage or natural highly biodiverse grassland.

3.2.4

Indicator:

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.

3.3

Criterion:

Feedstock sourcing shall not compete with wood sourcing for long-lived wood products.**3.3.1**

Indicator:

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.

Principle 4 Feedstock sourcing benefits people and communities

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|--------|--|
| 4.1 | <p>Criterion: Decent working conditions are provided, and labour rights are safeguarded.</p> |
| 4.1.1 | <p>Indicator: Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining shall be respected in the workplace.</p> |
| 4.1.2 | <p>Indicator: Forced or compulsory labour shall not be used.</p> |
| 4.1.3 | <p>Indicator: Child labour shall not be used.</p> |
| 4.1.4 | <p>Indicator: Workers shall not be discriminated in hiring, remuneration, access to training, promotion, termination or retirement.</p> |
| 4.1.5 | <p>Indicator: 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.</p> |
| 4.1.6 | <p>Indicator: Working hours shall comply with legal requirements.</p> |
| 4.1.7 | <p>Indicator: Workers shall have access to health care provisions, sickness benefits, retirement benefits, invalidity benefits, death benefits, and workers' compensation.</p> |
| 4.1.8 | <p>Indicator: 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.</p> |
| 4.1.9 | <p>Indicator: Mechanisms shall be in place for resolving grievances and disputes in the workplace.</p> |
| 4.1.10 | <p>Indicator: Safeguards shall be put in place to protect the health and safety of workers by developing, communicating and implementing policies and procedures.</p> |

4.2

Criterion:

Feedstock sourcing benefits communities.

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- 4.2.1** Indicator:
Negative social and community impacts shall be identified and avoided.
-
- 4.2.2** Indicator:
Feedstock sourcing shall positively contribute to the local economy, including employment.
-
- 4.2.3** Indicator:
Food, water supply or high conservation values (HCV) that are essential for the fulfilment of basic needs of communities shall be maintained or enhanced.
-
- 4.2.4** Indicator:
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.
-
- 4.2.5** Indicator:
Mechanisms shall be in place for resolving grievances and disputes relating to tenure and use rights of the forest and other land management practices.
-
- 4.2.6** Indicator:
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.
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- 4.2.7** Indicator:
Designated cultural heritage sites shall be preserved.