



Standards Document

SBP Standard 1: Feedstock Compliance

Sustainable Biomass Program

sbp-cert.org



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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 the 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. Defined terms are shown in italics in each instance where the definition applies.

Principle 1 Feedstock is legally sourced

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

Principle 2 Feedstock sourcing does not harm the environment

- 2.1** Criterion:
Biodiversity is maintained or enhanced.
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- 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.
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- 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.
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- 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.
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- 2.2** Criterion:
Ecosystem productivity, functions, and services are maintained or enhanced.
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- 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* and/or stumps occurs, this shall not lead to irreversible negative impacts to the *ecosystem*.
-
- 2.2.5** Indicator:
Quality and quantity of ground water, surface water and water downstream shall be maintained or enhanced.
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- 2.2.6** Indicator:
Air emissions shall comply with national legislation or in the absence of national legislation with industry best practice.

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- 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.
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- 2.2.8** Indicator:
Waste shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner.
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- 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*.
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- 2.2.10** Indicator:
Harvested areas shall be *regenerated*.
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- 2.2.11** Indicator:
The impacts of natural processes such as fires, pests and diseases shall be managed.
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- 2.2.12** Indicator:
Genetically modified trees shall not be used.

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 *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)*.

3.3

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

4.1	<p>Criterion: Decent working conditions are provided, and labour rights are safeguarded.</p>
4.1.1	<p>Indicator: <i>Freedom of association</i> and the right to <i>collective bargaining</i> shall be respected in the workplace.</p>
4.1.2	<p>Indicator: <i>Forced or compulsory labour</i> shall not be used.</p>
4.1.3	<p>Indicator: <i>Child labour</i> 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	<p>Criterion: Feedstock sourcing benefits communities.</p>
4.2.1	<p>Indicator: Negative social and community impacts shall be identified and avoided.</p>
4.2.2	<p>Indicator: <i>Feedstock</i> sourcing shall positively contribute to the local economy, including employment.</p>

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- 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.
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- 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*.
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- 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.
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- 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.