ISCC PLUS 205-07
GUIDANCE FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF SOLID BIOMASS

Version 1.0

Document Title: ISCC PLUS 205-07 Guidance for the Certification of Solid Biomass

Version 1.0

Valid from: 15 December 2017

Content

1 Introduction

Peculiarities of forest management

Compared to agricultural production, solid biomass production in the forest shows some peculiarities. In contrast to agricultural crops, trees often have a rotation cycle of more than 50 years. Forest management practices are different from agricultural practices, generally due to a more extensive land management. Ensuring a retaining or increasing of the carbon stocks in the long-term in the forest is crucial for guaranteeing the stability of the ecosystem.

Applicability

This document provides additional guidelines for the certification of solid biomass from forestry (including forest plantations) and other managed ecosystems excluding agriculture. This document does not apply for short rotation coppice (SRC) cultivating fast-growing woody biomass (e.g. poplar) being agricultural cropping systems with an overall lifetime of about 20 years, and harvest taking place about every 3-5 years. Such biomass production systems apply to agriculture.

The documents specifies ISCC requirements for sustainable solid biomass production for forest management units, taking into account the differences to agriculture with respect to land management, ecosystem protection, harvesting, soil protection, and ensuring long-term productivity of the forest management unit.

The binding requirements apply to forest management units (including wood plantations) and companies managing other ecosystems with woody biomass production. Explicitly, this does not include agriculture / agricultural production systems.

2 Scope and Normative References

Certification requirements

This document comprises additional requirements for the certification of solid biomass from forests and other ecosystems with woody biomass excluding agriculture and plantations. The specific criteria described complement the system basics described in ISCC Document 201 and the sustainability requirements described in ISCC Document 202.

As a basic principle, all relevant ISCC documents are valid.

3 Certification Requirements

Solid biomass from forestry and other managed ecosystems excluding agriculture must fulfill all sustainability, GHG and traceability requirements set up in ISCC. This includes in particular:

1 Sustainability Requirements

The ISCC document 202 Sustainability Requirements addresses sustainable practices for agricultural biomass. These requirements must be fulfilled by forestry as well. Chapter 4 of this document gives further guidelines on how to apply these requirements for forestry as well as additional sustainability requirements.

2 Requirements Concerning Greenhouse Gas Emission Savings

Requirements for the calculation and verification of greenhouse gas emissions and emission reduction are specified in ISCC document 205 “Greenhouse Gas Emissions”. ISCC certification along the whole supply chain can be used proving compliance with GHG emission reduction requirements.

3 Requirements Concerning Traceability and Mass Balance

For traceability and mass balance, the requirements laid down in ISCC document 203 Traceability and Chain of Custody apply. The provenance of solid biomass must be traceable throughout the whole supply chain under ISCC.

4 Additional Requirements for Sustainable Solid Biomass from Forestry

4.1 General Requirements for Forest Management Units

Entire land of the forest management unit is subject to certification

The forest management unit is a company / site where woody biomass is cultivated and / or grows. The forest management unit is either defined as distinct legal entity or as an organisation managing a forestry operation and having control regarding the compliance with the ISCC requirements.

Forest management units have to fulfil ISCC sustainability requirements as stated in ISCC Document 202 (ISCC Principles 1-6). If the forest management unit calculates its greenhouse gas emissions, the GHG calculation needs to be included in the audit and must be verified by the certification body.

In addition, forest management units have to fulfil additional requirements for sustainable solid biomass from forestry as laid down in chapter 4.3.

4.2 GHG Emission Savings

Emissions along the whole supply chain must be considered

GHG emissions occurring along the whole supply chain must be considered for the GHG calculation, including emissions from Forest Management Units.

Along the whole supply chain, no consignment of solid biomass shall result in emissions above 74 g CO_{2eq}/MJ for electricity and 32 g CO_{2eq}/MJ for heating.

4.3 Additional and Specific Requirements for Sustainable Forest Management

FMUs must comply with ISCC Principles 1-6

Forest management units must comply with ISCC Principles 1-6 set out in ISCC Document 202 Sustainability Requirements. As described in chapter 1, forestry differs from agricultural biomass production. For forest management units producing sustainable solid biomass, the following requirements apply and must be verified during the audit.

If reference is given to a requirement set out in ISCC 202, the following description shall be taken as supplementing guidance and further specification for sustainable solid biomass production. In case no reference to ISCC Document 202 is made, this is an additional requirement for sustainable solid biomass.

Criterion number	Criterion	Supplementary Criterion (ISCC 202)
1 Land Management and Management System		
SB_1.1	A forest management plan or equivalent documentation correlating with size and the management intensity of the forest management unit shall promote sustainable use and managment of all areas of the FMU, aiming to retain or increase carbon stocks in the medium or long term. The plan shall further cover the inventory, analysis, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and adjustment cycle and include at least: - a description of the current condition of the forest management unit - long term goals for the ecological functions of the forest management unit - the average annual allowable harvest of non-timber forest products based on reliable and current data - budget planning for the implementation of the forest management plan A map is available indicating essential elements for the managment of the forest management unit. The plan shall be periodically monitored and the ecological effect of the forest management is evaluated. Further, the implementation of the forest management plan is conducted by professional office and field staff, whose expertise and knowledge is maintained by means of an effective and regular training programme.	2.1.1, 2.1.2, 3.1.1, 3.1.2
SB_1.2	Biomass shall not be obtained from production forests, including wood plantations, which were created by means of conversion of natural or semi-natural forests after 31 December 1997.	
SB_1.3	On average less than half the volume of the annual round wood harvest from forests is processed as biomass for energy generation. Round wood from prodcution forests with a rotation period of less than 40 years is exempt from this requirement.	
2 Protection of Biodiversity		
SB_2.1	Where possible, natural regeneration and native tree species shall be preferred for the cultivation of young stands.	2.1.2
SB_2.2	The cultivation of highly invasive species shall be prevented. If species are officially prohibited in the country of operation, they shall not be used. Adequate tree species shall be selected for cultivation and regeneration.	2.1.4
SB_2.3	Genetically modified trees shall not be used.	2.1.4
SB_2.4	Mixed stands with tree species suited to the site conditions with the exception of naturally occurring pure stands shall be conserved or created.	2.1.2
SB_2.5	Habitats of rare and endangered species shall be safeguarded.	2.1.2
SB_2.6	Trees and deadwood safeguarding the biodiversity of the forest shall be preserved and left in the forest.	2.1.2
SB_2.7	The burning of forest residues or parts of the forest is allowed only with the permission of competent authority and only for the case that biodiversity of nature shall be promoted through the controlled use of fire.	2.1.5

Criterion number	Criterion	Supplementary Criterion (ISCC 202)
3 Maintaining the Production Capacity and Harvesting of Wood		
SB_3.1	The production capacity of all forest types represented in the forest management unit shall be maintained. The wood production capacity of the site shall be taken into consideration for harvesting as well as its biodiversity and aspects related to water protection. The harvesting of stumps is not allowed, unless these stumps had to be removed from the site for other reasons than wood or biomass production. The level of sustainable allowable cut shall not be exceeded in the area of the forest mangement unit.	2.1.2
SB_3.2	The forest management unit is sufficiently protected against all forms of illegal exploitation of timber and non-timber forest products, including hunting and fishing, illegal establishment of settlements, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires and any other illegal activities.	
SB_3.3	The forest management measures are designed to prevent and control diseases and pests where these form a threat to natural capital.	
SB_3.4	Harvesting shall be adjusted to the location, aiming to avoid unnecessary damages to the ecosystem, remaining trees and minimizing soil combustion.	
SB_3.5	An adequate road infrastructure shall be established and maintained, minizing damages to the ecosystem.	
4 Soil Fertility and Ecosystem Management		
SB_4.1	Soil fertility: Tree species should only be grown on suitable soils. In order to ensure a sustainable treatment of soils, good forest management practices, with respect to soil quality, soil contamination and soul erosion are addressed in the soil management. Damages to the soil shall be avoided. Applied practices shall refer to: - Prevention and control of erosion - Maintaining and improving soil structure - Maintaining and improving soil biodiversity.	2.2.1, 2.2.2
SB_4.2	Exploitation of non-timber forest products, including products from hunting and fishing, is regulated, monitored and controlled, among others to safeguard the maintenance of the biodiversity in the forests.	
SB_4.3	Important ecological cycles present in the forest management unit are preserved, including carbon and nutrient cycles.	
SB_4.4	Biomass sourced from new bioenergy plantations systems that were planted after 1 January 2008 have a demonstrably low iLUC risk.	