



Audit Requirements for Biomass Production

"First gathering point" (Agricultural biomass producers and Wastes and residues producers)

Note on the status of this document

This reference document is an integral part of the 2BS voluntary scheme developed by the 2BS Association.

This update aims to comply with the current version of the Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III).¹

¹ Consolidated version of the Directive: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02018L2001-20240716>



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2BS Voluntary Scheme

Revised RED EU/2018/2001 (RED III) - Audit requirements for the Biomass Production

Doc : **2BS-STD-01**

Version : **11**

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Traceability of the changes in this auditing standard²

Date	Section	Paragraph	Deleted text	Text added	Version

² After validation from the EC



Introduction

The 2BS voluntary scheme has been developed to allow biomass producers, wastes and residues originators, 1st gathering entities, first gathering points, processors, traders, and all other actors involved in the biomass, biofuels, biogas, recycled carbon fuels and renewable fuels of non-biological origin, supply chains (referred to in this introduction with the global term: "economic operators") to demonstrate the sustainability of their products in conformity with the Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III).

The Requirements for the verification of biomass production contained in this document have been designed to cover the biomass producers, 1st gathering entity and first gathering points, wastes and residues producers, and any related commercial transactions between these entities and to have adequate levels of reliability, transparency and independent auditing. Auditing by an independent certification body ensures that the systems covered by the scope of the certificate are reliable and protected against fraud.

The requirements for sustainable production of agricultural biomass are detailed in this document. Requirements for forest biomass are detailed in the document 2BS-STD-03. Agricultural production includes main crops, intermediate crops (such as cover/ley crops, catch crops, intercrops), and low indirect land-use change-risk crops.

These requirements shall be applied to verify the conformity of the biomass producers /1st gathering entity and associated **1st** commercial transactions within the group certification unit as defined by the 1st gathering entity (see diagram below).

To avoid an excessive burden for economic operators in general, the 1st gathering entity / first gathering point acts as a group manager and is responsible for defining the scope of the certification unit and shall identify and specify the biomass producers, collection and storage sites covered by the certification unit for which the 1st gathering entity / first gathering point has developed a quality and group management system designed to demonstrate the conformity of the biomass with the sustainability criteria set in the Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III).

The certification unit for the biomass production and related **1st** commercial transactions as defined in the 2BS voluntary scheme shall include the biomass producers as group members and the 1st gathering entity / first gathering points as a group manager. Biomass producers within the scope of the certificate shall be near each other and share similar characteristics.

Concerning first gathering sites/wastes and residues producers, except agricultural residues, Principles 3 to 8 are not applicable. Still, the notions of group members for wastes and residues originators and group managers for the first gathering point remain appropriate in situations like those of "Used Cooking Oil: UCO collectors" and restaurants³.

The expression "**sustainability characteristics**" encompasses the sustainable qualitative criteria – the origin and land use where the biomass has been cultivated.

The expression "**GHG characteristics**" encompasses the sustainable quantitative criteria – the GHG emissions related to biomass production, biofuels and biomass fuels.

³ For more details, see 2BS-PRO-04 (Extension of requirements to produce Fuels from Waste and residues)



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The expression '**biomass**' includes agricultural, forestry biomass, as well as the biogenic fraction of waste and residues, unless otherwise stated, in accordance with the definition of 'biomass'. Note that this document handles details for agricultural biomass and biomass present in waste and residues only; forest biomass is addressed in 2BS-STD-03.

The expression '**wastes and residues**' encompasses both fossil and biogenic material, unless otherwise stated, following the definitions of 'waste' and 'residue'.

Grading of non-conformities raised during an audit shall be classified as critical, major and minor following the instructions set out in the procedures 2BS-PRO-02, Requirements for the Certification Process, section 5.2.10.

To facilitate the reading of this standard,

- "critical" and "major" requirements are identified as "critical" or "major" indicators.
- The table below provides an overview of the weight of critical & major indicators for each principle.

Principle	Subject	Critical indicators	Major indicators
Principle 0	Internal Management System (21 indicators)	0	6
Principle 1	Mass Balance Systems (25 indicators)	1	10
Principle 2	Greenhouse Gas Savings (7 indicators)	3	6
Principle 3	High Biodiversity Land (11 indicators)	4	2
Principle 4	Monitoring of Impacts on Soil quality and Carbon content	0	2
Principle 5	High Carbon stock land (7 indicators)	3	1
Principle 6	Peatland (5 indicators)	1	1
Principle 7	Agro-environmental practises (4 indicators)	Recommendation	
Principle 8	Soil water and air protection (4 indicators)	Recommendation	
Principle 9	Social Sustainability (5 indicators)	Recommendation	

The verification requirements in this document apply to the first gathering entity, biomass producers and/or collection sites of wastes and residues. However, demonstrating conformity with these requirements shall not affect, replace, or impact their respective individual technical, commercial, or legal responsibilities.

The certification body is mandated to implement conflict-of-interest procedures ensuring that an auditor can conduct audits (certification, surveillance, and renewal audits) for the same economic operator for a maximum of three consecutive years. Furthermore, auditors cannot simultaneously engage in consultancy and auditing activities for the same economic operator. If an auditor has provided consultancy services to an economic operator, a minimum gap of 3 years should be maintained before being assigned to audit the same economic operator on the topics covered by 2BS.

Beyond consultancy and audit, the conflict-of-interest procedure established by the certification body must encompass additional aspects. These include financial or business relationships, as well as personal relationships, between the auditor, CB staff (including back-office personnel and report reviewers), and the economic operator (auditee).

The procedure should outline the specific compliance records required to demonstrate the implementation of this process. Monitoring compliance with this conflict-of-interest procedure is an integral part of the 2BS integrity program.

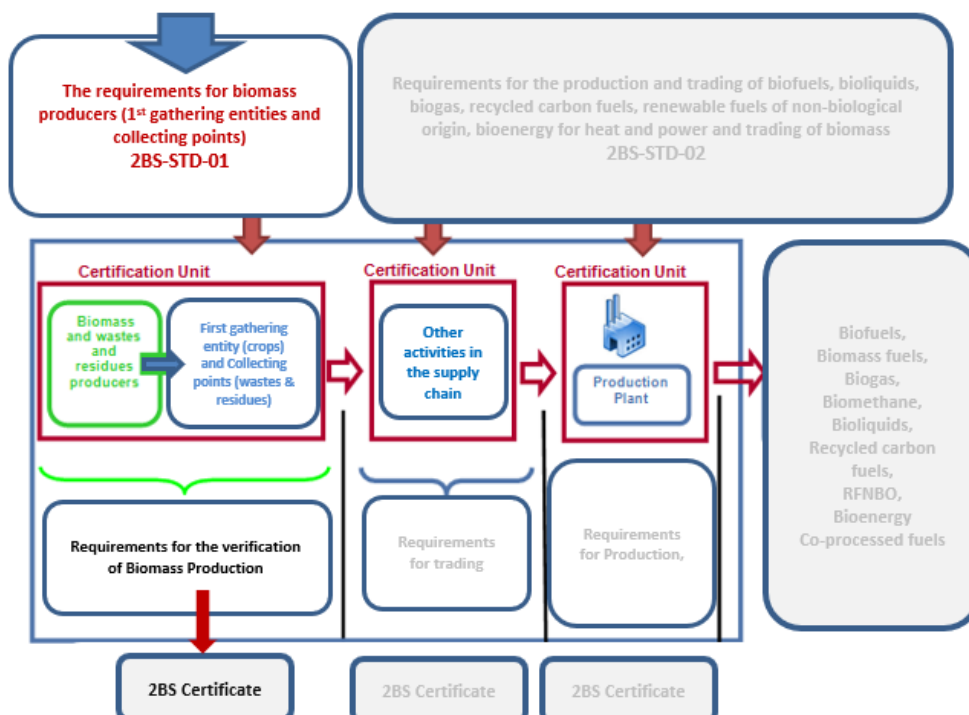
This document is an integral part of the 2BS voluntary scheme developed to evaluate the sustainability of biofuels, bioliquids, biomass fuels and bioenergy and shall not be used to assess 1st gathering entities, collection sites, and their related biofuels producers without implementing all the relevant procedures and requirements of the 2BS voluntary scheme.

Further details and explanations can be found on

- 2BS-PRO-02 (Requirements for the certification process)
- 2BS-PRO-03 (Methodology for the calculation of GHG emissions)
- 2BS-PRO-04 (Extension of requirements to produce fuels from waste and residues)
- 2BS-PRO-05 (Extension of requirements to produce biogas and biomethane as well as bioenergy from biomass)
- 2BS-PRO-06 (Co-processing of raw materials and fuels from biomass, recycled carbon, renewable and fossil sources)

Scope of the Requirements of 2BS-STD-01

Requirements may be applicable to first gathering points, interfaces whose activity is to collect sustainable feedstock from producers (agricultural biomass and/or wastes and residues)



Principle 0: Internal management and monitoring system

*The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall** have available up-to-date records of accurate data concerning the sustainability criteria and all information required to demonstrate conformity with the Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III).*

Criterion 0.1: The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall** have access to relevant and detailed information regarding the origin (country of origin and supplier for agricultural biomass and point of origin and country for wastes and residues) of the biomass and may perform a risk analysis and assessment.

Indicator 0.1.1: The 1st gathering entity **shall define the data, documents and/or records** needed for its suppliers of biomass covered by the certification unit to demonstrate that the biomass is in conformity with Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III) and that the biomass can be considered as sustainable. Such evidence shall be based on relevant official records, official land registry data, points of origin of wastes, and residues or documents that can be independently verified.

- **Verifier:** List of official data, documents, land registry and/or records, or
- **Verifier:** List of crops and cultivated areas
- **Verifier:** List of points of origin (wastes and residues)
- **Verifier:** List of official documents currently in use.

Indicator 0.1.2 : The 1st gathering entity (FGE) **shall establish a list of all its biomass suppliers (agricultural biomass and wastes and residues)**, claiming sustainability with the approximate localization of the production area and points of origin. Agricultural biomass producers included within the scope of the certificate shall be near each other (e.g., in the same administrative region) and have similar characteristics, such as climatic conditions. Each first gathering point shall establish a list with exact addresses of the points of origin (wastes and residues). These lists shall be kept as part of the records of the entity and shall be reviewed and updated at least once a year.

- **Verifier:** For 1st gathering entity & first gathering point and a detailed list of suppliers with - for each supplier - the name, address, and main characteristics (location, type of feedstock cultivated, area of certification, points of origin, type of material and monthly tonnage supplied, etc.) or
- **Verifier:** For 1st gathering entity collecting agricultural biomass a detailed list of suppliers with - for each supplier - the geographical location of the production area with, for example, the geographical coordinate as a reference (e.g., One central point with an estimated amount of sustainable material that could be harvested annually (agricultural biomass) and main characteristics (climatic conditions, etc.).
- **Verifier:** For 1st gathering entity collecting waste and residues a detailed list of suppliers/points of origin with - for each supplier - the geographical location and associated processes. One central point with an estimated number of materials (per type) that could be collected annually (wastes and residues) and a list of intermediate storage (storage time > 24 h and storage capacity) between the points of origin and the first gathering point.

Indicator 0.1.3: The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall have a self-declaration⁴, questionnaire, form, or other document signed every year at least by all its suppliers of biomass (agricultural biomass and wastes & residues) demonstrating their commitment** to ensuring that the biomass declared as sustainable and conform has been produced in compliance with the requirements of the Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III) and or the Waste Directive 2008/98/EC. The form used for this declaration may take different forms but shall contain an explicit statement regarding the sustainability requirements with which to comply and a requirement to inform the 1st gathering entity / first gathering point of any possible change whenever it may occur.

- **Verifier:** Signed Scheme Declaration Form, or
- **Verifier:** Contract with appropriate clause, or
- **Verifier:** Amendment to an existing contract, or
- **Verifier:** Pre-acceptance information document for waste in a waste management facility, or
- **Verifier:** Waste registers, or
- **Verifier:** Other questionnaire or form used during site visits by 1st gathering entity / first gathering point.

Indicator 0.1.4: The 1st gathering entity **shall have identified and recorded the origin and country of origin of the biomass through the suppliers' declarations.** This can be done based on the address declared by the supplier or relevant coordinates.

- **Verifier:** Location of the suppliers of biomass, country of origin, NUTS 2 region, or
- **Verifier:** Land registry document, or
- **Verifier:** Geographical coordinates, or
- **Verifier:** Have access to the Reference Map of Agricultural Plots.
- **Verifier:** Access to the contracts, addresses, contacts of each point of origin, including the date and transport records from the point of origin

Criterion 0.2: The 1st gathering entity have received and/or recorded relevant and detailed information regarding the type and volume of biomass supplied, including the crop category and any sustainability and GHG characteristics.

(Note: This Criterion 0.2 needs to be audited within the context of the requirements defined in other Criteria under Principle 1 below).

Indicator 0.2.1: The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall have implemented a procedure to record all the information**, data, and documents required to receive and classify biomass as sustainable. All records **shall** be kept for five (5) years.

- **Verifier:** Documented procedure
- **Verifier:** Evidence that the procedure has been implemented
- **Verifier:** List the information required.
- **Verifier:** The category of crop such as main crop, intermediate crops (cover/ley crops, catch crops, intercrops...)

⁴ Self-declarations are required to be audited annually by the internal monitoring system of the first gathering point

Indicator 0.2.2 (Major Indicator): The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall have records of all relevant information for each batch, consignment, and/or volume of the potentially sustainable biomass it has received.** These records shall be available for independent auditors to review at any time.

- **Verifier:** Records including the name and address of the producer (upstream interface) for every quantity and type of biomass, or a certificate number of a recognized voluntary scheme
- **Verifier:** GHG characteristics:
 - If the (disaggregated) default value is used, the value must not be expressly stated. Therefore, it is the responsibility of downstream economic operators to include information concerning the (disaggregated) default GHG emission values for the final biofuels and biomass fuels when reporting to the Member States;
 - If an actual value is used, the GHG emissions produced shall be an absolute value (cumulative across all upstream operations) in the unit KgCO_{2eq}/dry-ton of incoming sustainable biomass for individual calculation;
 - NUTS 2 values may be applied as an alternative to actual values, provided these are available in the unit KgCO_{2eq}/dry-ton of feedstock on the Commission website.

Criterion 0.3: The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall develop and implement a quality and monitoring system to monitor the biomass producers** covered by the scope of the certificate and ensure that all information regarding biomass is accurate, reliable, and trustworthy. This information should be monitored by the 1st gathering entity / first gathering point to ensure it is accurate and reliable through internal monitoring and verification activities. First Gathering Points are required to keep all evidence necessary to comply with the Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III) and Implementing regulation (EU) 2022/996 for a minimum of 5 years or longer where it is required by the relevant national authority

Indicator 0.3.1: The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall appoint a trained group manager, responsible** for implementing and monitoring the 2BS system, including all internal control activities.

- **Verifier:** Terms of reference of the manager with explicit responsibilities and powers concerning the sustainability characteristics of the biomass.
- **Verifier:** Designated manager to be audited on site by an independent auditor.

Indicator 0.3.2: The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall identify and establish a list of the information, data, and documents that need to be checked during the monitoring activities of the biomass producers.** The system of the 1st gathering entity / first gathering point should include written policies, forms, and instructions that contain an adequate description of the quality objectives, the organizational structure, the quality control and quality assurance techniques, the monitoring frequency, the quality records such as inspection reports and the means of achieving the monitoring of the required product sustainability criteria.



- **Verifier:** List of information, data, and documents to be checked during document review, visits, and/or monitoring audits.
- **Verifier:** Whenever applicable⁵, list of management and monitoring practices to promote and monitor soil carbon sequestration and soil quality, long-term commitment by the farmer to continue applying the improved management practice for a minimum of a 5-years renewable commitment
- **Verifier:** Whenever applicable, calculation records of "eec", "esca" and "el"

Indicator 0.3.3 (Major Indicator): As part of its **annual monitoring activities**, the 1st gathering entity **shall ensure the required sustainable characteristics and GHG information provided by all the farmers is accurate, reliable, and trustworthy before recording it in the mass balance**. This means that every self-declaration (see section 0.1.3) is crosschecked annually for every farmer claiming sustainability for its crops. The results of these crosschecks shall be assessed on tangible evidence, recorded by the FGP and made available to third-party audits.

First gathering entities (collecting agriculture biomass) are required to organize their suppliers by group auditing⁶ to enable the third-party auditor to perform group auditing by selecting annually the square root of the eligible farmers' taking a sample of 75% based on risk analyses and 25% at random for each group.

- **Verifier:** List of eligible farmers per year
- **Verifier:** Positioning of the geographic plots of eligible farmers
- **Verifier:** Self-declarations fulfilled, dated, and signed
- **Verifier:** Supplying forecast (tonnage per crop)
- **Verifier:** Internal audits
- **Verifier:** Management reviews

Concerning FGP collecting wastes and residues⁷, the internal auditor **shall ensure the whole supply chain is covered starting from its origin, that is to say, the economic operator where the waste or residue material arises**.

The first gathering point of wastes and residues⁸ **shall** audit on-site (applicable only to biofuels and bioliquids) all suppliers of biomass-producing raw material resulting in more than 5 tons per month of final good and it must keep records of these verifications.

This is mandatory to ensure that the information provided by these specific suppliers of biomass is accurate, reliable, and trustworthy. During these verifications, the internal auditors of the first gathering point should review the self-declaration form signed by the wastes and residues originator and check all relevant documented evidence demonstrating that the declaration is accurate and reliable.

Self-declarations from each point of origin are required annually or at each transaction in accordance with the type of logistical arrangement.

⁵ See esca claims on procedure 2BS-PRO-03, Methodology for calculation of GHG emissions

⁶ See group auditing meaning in the "Definition" section of this standard

⁷ Auditing first gathering points of wastes and residues, there is a difference in approach when the feedstock is used on a biofuels or liquid supply chain or on a biomass fuel unit; see details on procedures 2BS-PRO-04 (Extension of requirements to produce Fuels from Waste and residues) and 2BS-PRO-05 (Extension of requirements to produce biogas and biomethane)

⁸ For more details, see procedure 2BS-PRO-04 (Extension of requirements to produce Fuels from Waste and residues)



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Raw materials listed in Annex IV of Implementing Regulation 2022/996 are automatically classified as waste or residues, regardless of their country of origin.

For materials not listed in Annex IV:

- If sourced in the EU, the relevant national legislation of the country of origin applies.
- If sourced from a third country with legislation aligned with the EU, the relevant national legislation may also be applied.
- In all other cases, classification must follow the decision tree in procedure 2BS-PRO-04.

For wastes and residues, an official list of materials designated as waste or residues in the country of origin shall be used to confirm the status of the material as waste or residue. The content of the consignment shall not be altered in any way from its point of origin.

First gathering entities (collecting wastes and residues⁹) are required to organize their suppliers by group auditing¹⁰ to enable the third-party auditor to perform group auditing by selecting annually the square root of the eligible points of origin¹¹ taking a sample of 75% based on risk analyses and 25% at random for each group.

- **Verifier:** List of eligible points of origin per year
- **Verifier:** Classification of points of origin (per tonnage, per type of material, per seasonality, etc)
- **Verifier:** Positioning intermediary (> 24 hours) storage sites
- **Verifier:** Self-declaration fulfilled, signed, and dated
- **Verifier:** Internal audits
- **Verifier:** Management reviews

When a biomass producer cannot demonstrate conformity with the sustainability requirements, the producer **shall** be removed from the list of sustainable suppliers.

- **Verifier:** Verification schedule, or
- **Verifier:** Records of verifications.

Indicator 0.3.4 (Major Indicator): The 1st gathering entity shall verify that every new supplier of potentially sustainable biomass before being accepted into a group and added to the initial scope of the certificate awarded submits a self-declaration as in indicator 0.1.3. In addition, the same procedure as in indicators 0.1.4, 0.3.2, and 0.3.3, respectively, should be followed. When a biomass producer (farmer or point of origin) cannot demonstrate conformity with the sustainability requirements including the status of the material in line with the Waste Directive, the producer **shall** be removed from the list of eligible suppliers.

- **Verifier:** List of new suppliers accepted as suppliers of sustainable biomass, and
- **Verifier:** Records of verifications.

⁹ Cross-check with the procedure 2BS-PRO-04, concerning requirements of on-site audits (points of origin)

¹⁰ See group auditing meaning in the "Definition" section of this standard

¹¹ Physical place in a process where the waste and residue arise

Indicator 0.3.5 (Major Indicator): The designated manager of the 1st gathering entity point shall perform annual reviews of its internal monitoring system to address potential non-conformities and ensure continuous improvement. Relevant procedures and records **shall** be checked by the manager/group manager, and a report written to record the annual review, including the level of conformity of the biomass producers (agricultural biomass and wastes & residues). Such yearly review reports may be sent to top management for evaluation, action and/or approval.

- **Verifier:** Internal review plan, or
- **Verifier:** Report of internal reviews.

Criterion 0.4: The '1st gathering entity' **shall ensure that all suppliers of biomass (agricultural biomass and wastes & residues) covered under the certification unit (i.e., group members) and personnel have received adequate information, training, and responsibility** as required to implement the system and ensure the eligible characteristics of the biomass, e.g. the sustainability characteristics, the GHG emissions calculations and the status of materials (products, coproducts, wastes, and residues). The 1st gathering entity can choose its own preferred method to inform and train people, but records of information and/or training shall be kept.

Indicator 0.4.1: The '1st gathering entity' **shall develop appropriate information and/or training material for all relevant staff members and all its suppliers** of biomass claiming sustainability. Such material should be available for review by the independent auditor.

- **Verifier:** Information and/or training material.

Indicator 0.4.2: The '1st gathering entity' **shall develop and implement a plan for training and/or information sessions** covering all relevant staff members and all its suppliers of biomass claiming sustainability.

- **Verifier:** Plan for training and/or information sessions, or
- **Verifier:** Interviews with staff members and suppliers, or
- **Verifier:** Evidence of implementation, or
- **Verifier:** List of information and/or training sessions with date and location, or
- **Verifier:** List of participants for each information and/or training session.

Criterion 0.5: The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point shall have and maintain relevant, up-to-date registers and records covering all requirements included in this document.

Indicator 0.5.1: The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall** identify and make a list of all documents, information, and data that are relevant to demonstrate the conformity of producers of biomass with the requirements of European Union Revised Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III) and Waste Directive 2008/98/EC. Such documented evidence can differ on a case-by-case basis and needs to be established by the 1st gathering point when the certification unit is defined. The system should contain written policies, procedures, and instructions.

- **Verifier:** List of all relevant documents, information, and data.

Indicator 0.5.2: The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall** keep records for each supplier of biomass of the documents, information and/or data that have been identified and

listed as relevant to demonstrate conformity with the requirements of the Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III).

- **Verifier:** Procedure related to record keeping, maintenance, and/or document control.
- **Verifier:** Records.

Indicator 0.5.3: The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall** keep all records for the period of validity of the verification certificate, i.e., five (5) years or longer where it is required by the relevant national authority.

- **Verifier:** Procedure related to record-keeping, maintenance, and/or document control.
- **Verifier:** Records.

Criterion 0.6: Shall not be considered and classified as sustainable, every biomass from an unknown country of origin or unclear origin (agricultural biomass) and point of origin (waste and residue)

Indicator 0.6.1: The 1st gathering entity / **first gathering point shall have a procedure to verify that a supplier conforms with the requirements of the Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III) and Waste Directive 2008/98/EC** before classifying as eligible biomass originating from this supplier.

- **Verifier:** the written procedure mentioned above
- **Verifier:** a declaration form and content from biomass producers (agricultural biomass wastes & residues)

Indicator 0.6.2: For all suppliers of biomass claiming sustainability that have declared land use changes in the previous year(s), the 1st gathering entity **shall** have recorded the corresponding e_i value (land use change).

- **Verifier:** List of suppliers of biomass claiming sustainability where land use changes have resulted in carbon emission and stock change.

Indicator 0.6.3 (Major Indicator): The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall have developed and implemented a procedure to ensure that in case of doubt** regarding the origin or country of origin of the biomass, the principle of caution is applied, and the biomass is not registered and/or claimed as sustainable.

- **Verifier:** written procedure, and
- **Verifier:** evidence that the procedure has been communicated to all relevant staff, and
- **Verifier:** interview relevant staff to ensure awareness and systematic implementation of the procedure.



Principle 1: Mass Balance System for Biomass

*The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall** implement a mass balance system in conformity with the Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 RED (III) and Commission Implementing Regulations (EU) 2022/996 (Article 19) and as described in 2BS-PRO-02. Different raw materials shall only be considered part of a mixture if they belong to the same product group (except where the raw material is mixed for further processing).*

Separate mass balances shall be kept for different product groups.

Criterion 1.1: The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall** have developed and documented a control system for the biomass received based on a mass balance system at the level of the container, processing or logistical facility, or sites (defined as a geographical location with precise boundaries within which products are mixed or wastes are treated) to ensure that "sustainability characteristics" remain assigned to "consignments", in conformity with the Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III) and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996.

Indicator 1.1.1 (Critical Indicator): The 1st gathering entity /first gathering point **shall have developed and documented a mass balance system** for the potentially sustainable biomass it receives. Such mass balance may be consolidated centrally as long as relevant information for:

- 1st gathering point (collecting agricultural biomass), i.e., inputs and outputs, type of feedstock, tonnage, country of origin, cultivation area/position, year of harvest, sustainability characteristics, and GHG data, including whether default, actual¹² or NUTS2 values are used, or
- 1st first gathering points (collecting wastes and residues), i.e., inputs and outputs, points of origin, identification of feedstock according to annex IX of RED III and annex IX of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996, tonnage, and distance from points of origin ("etd" GHG emissions)

is available for each container, or logistical facility, or site.

- **Verifier:** Set of documented procedures for mass balance system, or
- **Verifier:** Set of work instructions.

Indicator 1.1.2: The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall have identified, characterized and classified the types of biomasses it receives** into different product groups, making reference to the type of feedstock (including wastes and residues), year of harvest, country of origin, sustainability characteristics and all necessary GHG characteristics.

- **Verifier:** List with product groups containing biomass defined by the type of feedstock, year of harvest, country of origin, sustainability characteristics and GHG characteristics.

¹² "esca" and "eec" calculated values are required to be transferred to the downstream operators separated this meaning not being summed up

Indicator 1.1.3 (Major Indicator): The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall record all information**, data and/or documents received that were used to classify the biomass as sustainable. All records shall be kept for a period of five (5) years or longer where it is required by the relevant national authority. These records shall include at least the declaration forms of the suppliers classified as sustainable, the delivery documents and evidence of the monitoring process.

- **Verifier:** Records kept for a period of five (5) years or longer where it is required by the relevant national authority.

Indicator 1.1.4: The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall ensure that all relevant personnel have received adequate information and/or training** as needed to implement the procedures of the mass balance system, centrally and on each logistical site.

- **Verifier:** Training and/or information records.
- **Verifier:** Interview with staff members
- **Verifier:** Attendance list

Criterion 1.2: The mass balance system developed and implemented by the 1st gathering entity / first gathering point shall comply with Article 30 (1) and Article 30 (2) of Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 RED (III), *Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996* and the following requirements:

Indicator 1.2.1 (Major Indicator): The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall develop documented mass balance procedures** for biomass, from the delivery of the biomass to the transfer of ownership or transfer of responsibility in the case of waste, if applicable. These procedures shall cover each processing or logistical facility or site where potentially sustainable biomass is received. Mass balance procedures should be based on records of inputs: product group, type of feedstock (including wastes and residues names, categories for animal fat), year of harvest¹³ and volume, conversion factors if any processing takes place, records of movements between logistical sites if any, records of outputs, country of origin, sustainability characteristics, GHG characteristics and whether support has been provided for the production of that consignment, and if so, on the type of support scheme. Where consignments are withdrawn from a mixture, any sets of sustainability characteristics may be assigned to them, provided that the groups of sustainability and GHG emissions saving characteristics are not split. The sustainability characteristics and all other information described above shall be detailed on a Proof of Sustainability, which shall accompany each consignment of sustainable material that leaves the site and/or ownership is transferred. If processing or trading takes place, the 1st gathering entity / first gathering point shall follow the requirements of 2BS-STD-02.

- **Verifier:** Evidence of ownership transfer from the supplier up to the customer (date, type of feedstock, tonnage, GHG emissions, sustainability characteristics)
- **Verifier:** Credit account procedures, self-declaration, sustainability declaration

¹³ "Year of harvest" for wastes and residues is the year of "collection".

Indicator 1.2.2 (Major Indicator): The '1st gathering entity' / 'first gathering point' **shall check and ensure during reception of the biomass that all relevant documentation, data and/or information is accurate, reliable and trustworthy**, and in conformity with the requirements defined in this document. The relevant information should be available in the system, and spot checks should be performed and recorded. The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point shall also ensure that relevant information regarding conformity with the sustainability criteria is available to cover the chain from the biomass producer (including wastes and residues names, categories for animal fat), and that the supplier has been registered as sustainable and that the relevant declaration form is signed and available.

- **Verifier:** Mass balance / Credit account procedure specifying that the following information needs to be checked at the reception; type of feedstock, year of harvest, volume, country of origin, supplier, sustainability characteristics and GHG characteristics, and
- **Verifier:** Work instruction, or
- **Verifier:** Records, or
- **Verifier:** Interviews with staff members.

Indicator 1.2.3 (Major Indicator): The '1st gathering entity' **shall record in a Mass balance / Credit account** the origin of the feedstock (cultivation regions), type of raw material (points of origin for wastes and residues), biomass feedstock, year of harvest, volume, sustainability characteristics, GHG characteristics whenever relevant for all the potentially sustainable biomass that it received.

This activity should only be performed by the most competent staff person(s) to maintain a high level of control and avoid incorrect sustainability claims at the level of each logistical site or centrally.

- **Verifier:** Mass balance/credit account per feedstock

Indicator 1.2.4 (Major Indicator): The '1st gathering entity' / 'first gathering point' **shall ensure that only the biomass for which conformity with the sustainability requirements can be demonstrated is registered as sustainable in the Mass balance / Credit account.**

The following information needs to be registered and checked during internal monitoring and verification activities and by the independent auditor; type of feedstock, year of harvest, volume, country of origin, supplier, sustainability characteristics and all necessary GHG characteristics

- **Verifier:** Scheme Declaration Form or another document listed in Indicator 0.1.3, and
- **Verifier:** Records, (sustainability characteristics report) and
- **Verifier:** Credit account (tonnage received, on stock and delivered during the MB period), and
- **Verifier:** Interviews with staff members crosschecking with monitoring records

Indicator 1.2.5 (Major Indicator): The mass balance period for the collection of only **agricultural biomass** from the farmers by the first gathering point is set to 12 months. **No sustainable deficit (paper credit) is acceptable at the end of each month during the 12-month period.** At the end of a 12-month period, economic operators can only carry forward a volume of credits equivalent to the feedstock that remains physically in stock. If there is still feedstock that remains unsold, economic operators can carry over the corresponding credits. Physically sustainable credits do not have to expire at that point. The volume of "credits" needs to be reconciled with the remaining physical stock.

This mass balance system shall not go into deficit during its period.
The harvest campaign is a typical starting date.

- **Verifier:** Credit account, or
- **Verifier:** Records.

Indicator 1.2.5a: The credit claim period for a first gathering point of **agricultural or forest residues** and related suppliers **shall not exceed three months from the date of the corresponding collection of the material to the date of sale**. The balance must not be in 'deficit' after three months. The credit claim period is defined to be consistent with that of the 1st gathering point. For example: with a "harvest campaign" like straw, the rule is similar to the one for feedstock, and the date of harvest is fixed: 1 August.

- **Verifier:** Credit account, or
- **Verifier:** Records.

Indicator 1.2.5b: For "**non-agricultural/non-forest residues and wastes**" (e.g., "UCO, municipal waste"), the first gathering point **shall, as a minimum, establish a three-month monitoring system** to ensure that the balance of the credit account remains positive (it is possible to have a monthly monitoring system if it is more efficient for the company's organization). The balance **must not be** in 'deficit' at the closing date.

- **Verifier:** Credit account, or
- **Verifier:** Records.

Indicator 1.2.6 (Major Indicator): The '1st gathering entity' / 'first gathering point' **shall ensure that no credit is claimed before an equivalent credit of sustainable biomass has been purchased, received, and/or registered in the credit account**. The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point shall establish a monthly monitoring system to ensure that the credit account balance remains positive according to the applicable period of the mass balance.

- **Verifier:** Credit account always positive, and
- **Verifier:** End-of-month balance, and
- **Verifier:** Interview with staff members.

Indicator 1.2.7: The '1st gathering entity' / 'first gathering point' **shall maintain its credit account up to date for all the sustainable biomass under its ownership**. The transfer of this "positive" credit from one period to another is only possible if the equivalent quantity of physical biomass covers the credit transfer (i.e. it is not possible to carry over more positive credits into the next period than the quantity which is physically in stock at the end of the period).

- **Verifier:** Credit account, or
- **Verifier:** End-of-month balance, or
- **Verifier:** Records.

Indicator 1.2.8: The '1st gathering entity / first gathering point' **shall** ensure that the transfer of credit across national borders or trading of virtual credit between different legal entities is not authorized in its procedures and does not take place.

- **Verifier:** Mass balance / Credit account, or
- **Verifier:** Records.

Indicator 1.2.9: The '1st gathering entity' / 'first gathering point' **shall** develop and implement a documented procedure to ensure that the correct credit amount is deducted from the credit account when there is a transfer of ownership of sustainable biomass.

- **Verifier:** Procedure and operation mode (training of concerned staff), and
- **Verifier:** Cross-checking of deliveries (clients) with mass balance updating
- **Verifier:** Records and Interviews with concerned staff to check the correct understanding

Indicator 1.2.10: The '1st gathering entity' / 'first gathering point' **shall** ensure that the Mass balance / Credit account is up to date, accessible to all staff members that need it but also secured against fraud by staff members as well as third parties. This should be periodically checked as part of the monitoring and verification activities implemented by the 1st gathering entity / first gathering point. Records should be kept and made available to the independent auditor.

- **Verifier:** List of authorized people to access to the mass balance tool
- **Verifier:** Control mechanism and definition of responsibilities
- **Verifier:** Implementation monitoring and possible corrective actions

Indicator 1.2.11: The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall** ensure that the following information is included in all its declaration of sustainability whenever a sustainability claim is made for the biomass: the type of feedstock (including wastes and residues), the volume, the country of origin, the sustainability characteristics and GHG emission values. The complete set of data to be included is shown in Annex 1 of this auditing standard

The transfer of a batch with sustainability characteristics and associated GHG emissions must always be accompanied by a physical transfer of material.

Sustainability claims shall not be made before an independent verification audit has taken place and an approved Independent Certification body has awarded a valid certificate.

- **Verifier:** Sales or delivery documents, Declaration of Sustainability, (name and address of the purchaser (downstream interface, type/date/quantity of sustainable biomass), and
- **Verifier:** Origin and GHG emissions of the batch expedited
 - If the **disaggregated default value** is used, it is sufficient to indicate this (e.g., GHG calculation based on default value) – the value must not be specifically stated;
 - If **NUTS 2** value is used, it is sufficient to indicate this (e.g., GHG calculation based on NUTS 2) – the value must be specifically stated with the production region.
 - If **actual value** is used, the GHG emissions are transferred as an absolute value (cumulative across all upstream operations) in KgCO_{2eq}/ton (dry basis) of incoming sustainable biomass for individual calculation.
 - If a **esca factor** is claimed, this value should be identified separately from the e_{ec} factor.

Indicator 1.2.12: The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall only make truthful and accurate sustainability claims on sales documents, promotional documents, and other communication** that correspond to the relevant sustainability claim and available credit of sustainable biomass. Sustainability claims shall only be made if the 1st gathering entity / first gathering point can demonstrate that the sustainability criteria have been fulfilled for the relevant biomass. Sustainability claims should be checked during the monitoring and verification activities of the 1st gathering entity / first gathering point. Records should be kept and made available to the independent auditor.

- **Verifier:** Sales documents, or
- **Verifier:** Mechanism to control the veracity and accuracy of sustainability claims
- **Verifier:** Control results and further actions

Indicator 1.2.13: For France exclusively, sharing of dedicated crops in the total gross tonnage of inputs a **biogas unit shall not exceed 15%** over the rolling year¹⁴ between annual audits.

- **Verifier:** List of inputs of batches injected into the grid (rolling year between two audits)
- **Verifier:** Mass balance linked to batches above
- **Verifier:** Declaration form available for signature to be addressed to the member state (France)

Indicator 1.2.14: The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall develop a coding system** for the **products sold as sustainable** in its accounting system to ensure that it can link the quantities sold as sustainable on the sales documents.

- **Verifier:** Linked sales documents, product codes or product identification, and accounting system.

Criterion 1.3: The '1st gathering entity' / 'first gathering point' certified under the 2BS voluntary scheme **shall declare before 30 January to 2BS the quantities of sustainable biomass collected and sold** per type of feedstock and country of origin during the previous calendar year. Biomass and material, which are covered by other voluntary schemes with sustainability certification, are not considered. The biomass trading activity (biomass bought with a certificate established by 2BS or another recognized voluntary scheme) is not concerned with this criterion.

Indicator 1.3.1: The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall appoint a trained manager responsible for implementing the monitoring system** in line with the data issued from the mass balance, per type of biomass and/or materials and country of origin marketed during the precedent calendar year.

- **Verifier:** Documented procedure and,
- **Verifier:** Evidence that procedure has been implemented and,
- **Verifier:** List with the information required and records and,
- **Verifier:** Records available in the 2BS intranet of the certified entity

Indicator 1.3.2 (Major indicator): The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall record the information transmitted** for each type of biomass/material, country of origin, and

¹⁴ Verification to be carried at the first surveillance audit

quantity in metric tons. These records shall be available to independent auditors for review at any time.

- **Verifier:** 2BS intranet duly completed, and
- **Verifier:** Compliance with deadlines for transmission (30 January), and
- **Verifier:** Coherency of the data transmitted to 2BS with the mass balance information covering the period from 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar year.

Criterion 1.4: When economic operators are under the legal obligation to fill in transactions under the Union Database, the auditor **shall** ensure that these economic operators use the European Union database or relevant national database

Indicator 1.4.1 (Major Indicator): The economic operator **shall** ensure that all relevant information¹⁵ for each consignment, as required, is entered into the Union database (or relevant national database) within the timeframe required. Any deviations between data that has been registered in the database and the respective data from the economic operator's documentation shall be immediately flagged in the audit report and to the voluntary scheme.

- **Verifier:** Work instructions, training, and responsibilities
- **Verifier:** European Union database or relevant national database entries (initial stock registration, transaction data etc.)

Principle 2: Greenhouse Gas Savings

The 1st gathering entity **shall** provide its customers with all required information to ensure that the greenhouse gas emission saving from using potentially sustainable fuels conforms with Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III).

- 50 % for biofuels, bioliquids, biogas consumed in the transport sector, and biomass fuels produced in installations in operation on or before 5 October 2015;
- 60 % for biofuels, bioliquids, biogas consumed in the transport sector, and biomass fuels produced in installations having started operation from 6 October 2015 until 31 December 2020;
- 65 % for biofuels, bioliquids, biogas consumed in the transport sector, and biomass fuels produced in installations starting operation from 1 January 2021;
- for electricity, heating and cooling production from biomass fuels used in installations that started operating after 20 November 2023, at least 80 %;
- for electricity, heating and cooling production from biomass fuels used in installations with a total rated thermal input equal to or exceeding 10 MW that started operating between 1 January 2021 and 20 November 2023, at least 70 % until 31 December 2029, and at least 80 % from 1 January 2030;
- for electricity, heating and cooling production from gaseous biomass fuels used in installations with a total rated thermal input equal to or lower than 10 MW that started operating between 1 January 2021 and 20 November 2023, at least 70 % before they have been operating for 15 years, and at least 80 % after they have been in operation for 15 years;

¹⁵ Relevant information means the transactions made and the sustainability characteristics of the fuels subject to those transactions, including their life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions, starting from their point of production to the moment they are placed on the market in the Union

- for electricity, heating and cooling production from biomass fuels used in installations with a total rated thermal input equal to or exceeding 10 MW that started operating before 1 January 2021, at least 80 % after they have been operating for 15 years, at the earliest from 1 January 2026 and at the latest from 31 December 2029;
- for electricity, heating and cooling production from gaseous biomass fuels used in installations with a total rated thermal input equal to or lower than 10 MW that started operating before 1 January 2021, at least 80 % after they have been operating for 15 years and at the earliest from 1 January 2026.;
- 70 % from the use of renewable liquid and gaseous fuels of non-biological origin (RNFB0)
70% from the use of recycled carbon fuels (RCF)

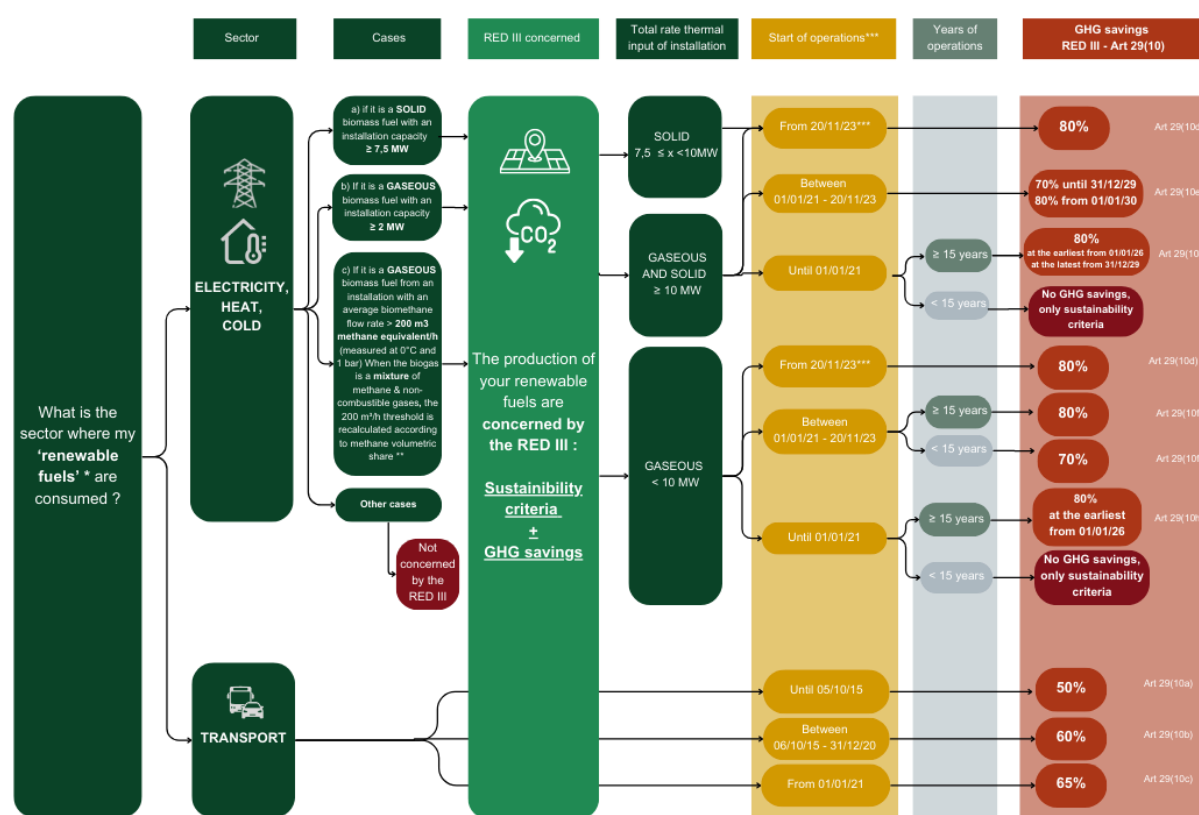


Figure 1: Scope of the RED III requirements and minimum greenhouse gas savings compared to those resulting from the use of biomass fuels in the transport sector and for electricity, heating, and cooling production a

*biofuels, bioliquids, biomass fuels and renewable fuels of non-biological origin;

** In the case of installations producing gaseous biomass fuels with the following average biomethane flow rate:

(i) above 200 m³ methane equivalent/h measured at standard conditions of temperature and pressure, namely 0 °C and 1 bar atmospheric pressure;

(ii) if biogas is composed of a mixture of methane and non-combustible other gas, for the methane flowrate, the threshold set out in point (i), recalculated proportionally to the volumetric share of methane in the mixture.

***Until 31/12/2030, the sustainability and GHG emissions saving criteria set out in Article 29 in its version in force on 29/09/2020 apply, only if support was granted before 20/11/2023 and that support was granted in the form of a long-term support for which a fixed amount has been determined at the start of the support period and provided that a correction mechanism to ensure the absence of overcompensation is in place.



*Of the Criteria listed below, the first gathering point of wastes and residues **shall apply only** to the last Criterion - 2.4*

Criterion 2.1: The 1st gathering entity **should** ensure that biomass producers participate in the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases to achieve the objectives of Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III).

Indicator 2.1.1: It is recommended that the 1st gathering entity **should** develop a plan in collaboration with biomass producers to participate in the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases and ensure that the objectives of the RED III can be achieved.

- **Verifier:** Training and work instructions
- **Verifier:** Onboarding of suppliers to a GHG methodology and emission calculation

Criterion 2.2: When the 1st gathering entity wants to use the disaggregated default value for the biomass, it shall use the appropriate default value proposed by Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III) and shall record and justify its decision.

To use a default value, the 1st gathering entity shall ensure that the biomass has not been produced on land whose use has changed since January 2008, such as the conversion of permanent grassland. Please note that default values also exist for different raw materials, such as waste cooking oil and category 1 and 2 animal fats from rendering.

Furthermore, default values for some raw materials may also depend on the process type (i.e., sugar beet ethanol, corn (maize) ethanol, palm oil biodiesel, etc.). These default values must be used only when process technology and feedstock used for the production of the biofuel match their description and scope.

Where there is a reference to a specific process or specific energy, it is necessary to be sure that the reality of the process matches perfectly with the one used for the calculation of the default value GHG emission data shall only be included in documentation if actual values have been calculated.

In case default values are used¹⁶ it is only necessary to transmit that the default value is used in order to simplify the administrative burden and to avoid mistakes.

Therefore, it is the responsibility of downstream economic operators to include information concerning the (disaggregated) default GHG emission values for the final biofuels when reporting to the Member States.

Indicator 2.2.1: The 1st gathering entity **shall** ensure that the appropriate default values have been used to estimate the GHG emissions of the produced crop. The decision shall be recorded and justified.

- **Verifier:** Disaggregated default value for cultivation, including soil N₂O emissions for the biofuel and bioliquid production pathway [RED III, Annex V (part D)].

¹⁶ Please note that default values also exist for different raw materials, such as waste cooking oil and category 1 and 2 animal fats from rendering.

Indicator 2.2.2 (Critical indicator): Whenever appropriate¹⁷, the economic operator **should** use the NUTS 2 typical greenhouse gas emissions from the cultivation of agricultural raw materials with emissions lower than or equal to the emissions reported under the heading 'Disaggregated default values for the cultivation of Annex V of the Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III). These values included in the NUTS 2 reports do **not** represent disaggregated default values. Therefore, they can only be used as input for calculating actual values but cannot be used to report emissions from cultivation in the unit grCO_{2eq}/MJ of biofuel. Additionally, these values must be published on "The Commission Website" in the following unit: KgCO_{2eq}/dry ton of feedstock to be considered usable.

- **Verifier:** Region of cultivation of the suppliers of biomass for a given country
- **Verifier:** Nuts 2 value for the crop according to the region as defined by the implementing act of the EC for the country concerned

Criterion 2.3: Whenever the 1st gathering entity wants to use calculated GHG values, the entity **shall** operate a calculation methodology approved and recognized by the European Commission.

Indicator 2.3.1 (Critical Indicator): When calculating GHG values, the 1st gathering entity **shall** use the 2BS methodology¹⁸ to calculate greenhouse gas emissions. This procedure relies on:

- Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 RED (III)
 - Annex V (*Rules for calculating the greenhouse gas impact of **biofuels, bioliquids, and their fossil fuel comparators***)
 - Annex VI (*Rules for calculating the greenhouse gas impact of **biomass fuels and their fossil fuel comparators***)
- the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996 of 14 June 2022¹⁹
 - Annex V (*Methodology for determining the emissions savings from soil carbon accumulation via improved agricultural management, **esca***)
 - Annex VII (*Methodology for determining the emissions from the extraction or cultivation of raw materials, **eec***), and
 - Annex IX (*Standard values of emission factors*).

No other methodology shall be used to calculate the actual GHG emissions generated by the production of agricultural biomass.

It is possible to establish an average emissions factor e_{ec} for a more fine-grained level than NUTS 2 for member states or third countries. The calculation of alternative averages for areas and crops which are covered by the NUTS 2 reports should not be deemed appropriate as the national authorities have already calculated the relevant averages. Furthermore, using average data is possible only at the group farm level and not at the farm level.

- **Verifier:** Compliance with the required methodology in determining the emissions from the extraction or cultivation of raw material

¹⁷ An economic operator can use the default value, the NUTS 2 value or the calculated value.

¹⁸ The 2BS methodology to calculate the GHG emissions is described in procedure 2BS-PRO-03.

¹⁹ CIR (EU) 2022/996 of 14 June 2022 on rules to verify sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria and low indirect land-use change-risk criteria

Indicator 2.3.2 (Major Indicator): Whenever actual values are calculated; economic operators shall describe them in detail by writing down all relevant information to justify their choices. It is necessary to split the total amount of emissions into all relevant elements of the GHG emission calculation formula.

This also applies to the elements of the formula that are not included in the default values, such as e_l , e_{sca} .

Please note that default values also exist for different raw materials, such as waste cooking oil and category 1 and 2 animal fats from rendering. Relevant information includes a detailed description of the collection process, data collected at the site or coming from literature, in case of unknown/unusual data, an explanation must be provided, description of the calculating tool used in case it is a "specific" tool. This documentation must be available in advance of the audit.

- **Verifier:** Collection of data (Time, space, sampling rules, group auditing)
- **Verifier:** Inputs entered into the calculator, emission factors, GWP data, exclusions
- **Verifier:** Explanation in case of non-usual data used
- **Verifier:** The partial (per input) and total GHG emissions (for the crop)
- **Verifier:** Control of the calculating tool used and update of GWP and emissions factors (responsibility)

Criterion 2.4: When the 1st gathering entity uses the e_{sca} bonus, the entity **shall** operate the methodology described in 2BS-PRO-03 and shall record and justify its choices.

Indicator 2.4.1 (Major Indicator): To establish to which case the farmer belongs, the first gathering entity **shall** have sufficient evidence.

- **Verifier:** Category definition (Cross-check with section 2.7.7.3 of 2BS-PRO-03)
- **Verifier:** Attribution of a category
- **Verifier:** Esca self-declaration for every farmer

Indicator 2.4.2 (Minor Indicator): Whenever the first gathering entity wants to determine the climate and soil categories of a farm, the entity **shall** use of the IPCC climate maps (Tier 2 type) associated to date with the e_{sca} calculation model or equivalent if the resolution is higher. In case of doubt about the precise location for the climate type (straddling several zones), the climate type with the lowest carbon stock per hectare should be considered.

- **Verifier:** Usage of IPCC Tier 2 climate maps

Indicator 2.4.3 (Major Indicator): In the case of two sequential energy crops on the same plot and in the same year, the e_{sca} value is allocated in proportion to the LHV (MJ/kg on a dry basis) of the raw material²⁰.

- **Verifier:** Farm management system (plotting system, spreading book, allocation of the esca value)
- **Verifier:** LHV of each raw material

Indicator 2.4.4 (Critical Indicator): Whenever the farmer implements agriculture practices that promote soil carbon storage in the context of the e_{sca} , the first gathering entity **shall** have recorded accurate information in terms of inputs and soil works.

- **Verifier:** spreading book, farm management system, organic itineraries

²⁰ See Annex IX of the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996

- **Verifier:** purchase invoices for organic inputs, nitrogen fixing plant seeds, catch crops or vegetation cover etc.
- **Verifier:** Esca self-declaration for every farmer.

Indicator 2.4.5a: Whenever the farmer uses biochar as an organic soil improver alone or in combination with other eligible e_{sca} practices, the first gathering entity **shall** induce a cap on esca at 45gCO₂eq/MJ of biofuel or bioliquld.

- **Verifier:** dated proof of purchase (invoices detailing product specifications)
- **Verifier:** spreading book including biochar.

Indicator 2.4.5b: Whenever the farmer uses manure as an organic soil improver alone or in combination with other eligible e_{sca} practices, the first gathering entity **shall** induce a cap on esca at 45gCO₂eq/MJ of manure.

- **Verifier:** Manure production and storage capacity
- **Verifier:** Monthly quantity entered into the digester

Indicator 2.4.6: Whenever the first gathering entity choose to create homogeneous groups among farmers allowing the third-party auditor to audit the square root of the farmers, the entity **shall** have accurate evidence to justify its decision.

- **Verifier:** Esca self-declaration for every farmer
- **Verifier:** List of homogeneous groups (decision criteria)

Indicator 2.4.7 (Major Indicator): Whenever a farmer withdraws from the e_{sca} commitment, the first gathering entity **shall** apply adequate penalties as described in the 2BS-PRO-03 and keep all recordings. This information **shall** be communicated annually to 2BS.

- **Verifier:** Spreading book (agricultural practices)
- **Verifier:** Esca self-declaration for every farmer
- **Verifier:** list of farmers excluded from the esca system
- **Verifier:** list of penalties applied to each farmer

Indicator 2.4.8 (Major Indicator): Whenever there is a non-correlation between the model and the measurement, the first gathering entity **shall** apply adequate penalties as described in the 2BS-PRO-03 and keep all recordings. This information **shall** be communicated annually to 2BS.

- **Verifier:** Soil analysis report and last esca value from modelling
- **Verifier:** list of farmers involved
- **Verifier:** list of penalties applied to each farmer

Criterion 2.5: The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall** record the biomass with the correct information in terms of GHG emission value that has been determined, either by using the Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III)²¹ default values or an actual GHG calculation using a calculation methodology approved or recognized by the European Commission.

Indicator 2.5.1 (Major Indicator): The 1st gathering entity **shall** have recorded accurate information on the type of GHG data attached to the delivered biomass, whenever applicable.

- **Verifier:** Mass balance (12 months) / Credit account (gCO₂/kg of dry raw materials), tonnage of each raw material, delivery note, sustainability declaration

²¹ See procedures 2BS-PRO-03 for details.

Indicator 2.5.2: The 1st gathering entity / first gathering point **shall** consider wastes and residues to have zero life cycle greenhouse gas emissions up to the collection process (i.e. the point of origin, where the material arises in the first place, for example, for used cooking oil this would be the restaurants or plants producing the fried products; in the case of household waste, this would be the first collector, which could be a private company or a municipality). In case the actual value is used, instead of the usable default value for transportation e_{td} , GHG calculation emissions shall be done from the "point of origin", which is, for example:

- The farm for agricultural raw materials,
 - The restaurant for UCO,
 - The first collector of household waste, in the case of municipal waste,
- and not only from the 1st gathering entity / first gathering point, which is the place where the Crop / the wastes and residues are gathered.

- **Verifier:** Mass balance (3 months) / GHG emissions related to the transport and co-products for each material, decision tree, delivery note.

Principle 3: High Biodiversity Land

Biofuels, bioliquids, and biomass fuels produced from agricultural biomass shall not be made from raw material obtained from land with high biodiversity value.

Criterion 3.1: The 1st gathering entity **shall** demonstrate that a system has been implemented to inform agricultural or forest biomass producers claiming sustainability that raw material for the production of sustainable biofuels and biomass fuels does not come from land that had/ has High Biodiversity value in or after January 2008, unless it can provide evidence that the production of raw material did not interfere with nature protection purposes.

Indicator 3.1.1: The 1st gathering entity **shall ensure that all its suppliers** of agricultural biomass claiming sustainability have been informed and have made a self-declaration that raw material for the production of sustainable biofuels does not come from land that had/has High Biodiversity value in or after January 2008, unless it can provide evidence that the production of raw material did not interfere with nature protection purposes.

- **Verifier:** Cross-check with records enabling to establish conformity against indicator 0.4.2
- **Verifier:** Self-declarations fulfilled, dated, signed

Indicator 3.1.2: The 1st gathering entity shall, in collaboration with its suppliers, **shall identify land that had 'High Biodiversity value' in or after January 2008**, within its region of activity, unless it can provide evidence that the production of raw material did not interfere with nature protection purposes. Records shall be kept.

- **Verifier:** Records of internal audits of suppliers, or
- **Verifier:** Records of land identified as High Biodiversity Value land (such as 2BS Mapping Tool, UCROP.it, Geoportail, etc.), with

Criterion 3.2: The 1st gathering entity **shall demonstrate that it has identified the land** that had 'High Biodiversity value' in or after January 2008 within its region of activity unless it can provide evidence that the raw material production did not interfere with nature protection purposes.

Indicator 3.2.1: The 1st gathering entity **shall** have access to an up-to-date list of the official documents from competent authorities regarding high biodiversity in its region of activity (harvesting). The designated manager/group manager shall maintain access to all the relevant information for the concerned area. Access to such information and the relevance of this information shall be checked by the independent auditor.

- **Verifier:** Access to official documents from competent authorities, or

Indicator 3.2.2: The 1st gathering entity **shall use the official documents/tools to identify the areas** with potentially high biodiversity value in its region of activity and keep records. Records should be made available and checked for relevance by the independent auditor.

- **Verifier:** 2BS Mapping tool, Geoportal Satellite images, site surveys, official maps or other registries of land identified as High Biodiversity Value land, or
- **Verifier:** Satellite images, site surveys or maps that comprehensively cover the entire region where the raw material is being produced/harvested and are from an official land registry source.

Indicator 3.2.3 (Critical Indicator): The 1st gathering entity **shall ensure that agricultural biomass does not come from** the following categories of land in or after January 2008, whether or not unless evidence is provided that the production of that raw material did not interfere with those nature protection purposes.

- primary forest, other wooded land, and old growth forest namely forest and other wooded lands of native species where there is no clearly visible indication of human activity, and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed; and old growth forests as defined in the country where the forest is located. In cases where no country level definition of 'old growth forests' exists, apply the following definition : "A forest stand or area consisting of native tree species that have developed, predominantly through natural processes, structures and dynamics normally associated with late-seral developmental phases in primary or undisturbed forests of the same type. Signs of former human activities may be visible, but they are gradually disappearing or too limited to significantly disturb natural processes"²².
- highly biodiverse forest and other wooded land which is species-rich and not degraded or have been identified as highly biodiverse by the relevant competent authority²³;

This shall be checked by means of risk analysis by the 1st gathering entity. If any risk has been identified, then the 1st gathering entity **shall** investigate to ensure that this sustainability criterion is respected. Evidence of the investigation shall be recorded and made available to the independent auditor.

²² As set out in section 2.3 of SWD (2023) 62 final.

²³ See Commission Regulation (EU) No 1307/2014 of 8 December 2014, Article 1 (4), (b), and (c) for definitions of degraded and species-rich. See Annex 1 related to the definitions applicable to this audit standard.

- **Verifier:** 2BS Mapping tool, satellite images, site surveys, official maps or other registries of land identified as areas designated by law for nature or ecosystem protection purposes, primary forest, highly biodiverse forest, other wooded lands, and old growth forest where there is no visible indication of human activity, and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed in or after January 2008, or
- **Verifier:** Satellite images, site surveys or maps that comprehensively cover the entire region in which the raw material is being produced and are from an official land registry source, or
- **Verifier:** Information, reports, satellite images or GIS system showing that the localization of each biomass producer has been compared to the identified high biodiversity areas in the region of activity, or
- **Verifier:** Previous production and sales contract(s) with biomass producers before January 2008 covering the same production area.
- **Verifier:** Access to lists of protected areas covered by International Agreements, intergovernmental organizations, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Indicator 3.2.4 (Critical Indicator): The 1st gathering entity **shall ensure that agricultural biomass does not come from** geographic ranges of the European Union, which shall always be regarded as "highly biodiverse grassland" as defined by Commission Regulation (EU) No 1307/2014 of 8 December 2014, in or after January 2008.

- 1: Habitats as listed in Annex I of Council Directive 92/43/EEC,
- 2: Habitats of significant importance for animal and plant species of Union interest listed in Annex II and IV of Directive 92/43/EEC,
- 3: Habitats of significant importance for wild bird species listed in Annex I of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and the Council.

This shall be checked against a risk analysis performed by the 1st gathering entity. If any risk has been identified, then the 1st gathering entity shall investigate to ensure that the sustainability criteria are respected. Evidence of the investigation **shall** be recorded and shall be made available to the third-party auditor.

- **Verifier:** 2BS Mapping tool, Satellite images, site surveys, official maps or other registries of land identified as above-named "Habitats" in or after January 2008, or
- **Verifier:** Information, report, satellite images or GIS system showing that the localization of each biomass producer has been compared to the identified above-named "Habitats" in the region of activity, or
- **Verifier:** Previous production and sales contract(s) with biomass producers before January 2008 covering the same production area.

Indicator 3.2.5 (Critical Indicator): The 1st gathering entity **shall** demonstrate that the collected agricultural biomass is not produced from "grassland"²⁴ spanning more than one hectare, that was qualified as highly biodiverse in January 2008, whether or not the land continues to have the status.

This requires distinguishing **natural highly biodiverse grassland** from **non-natural highly biodiverse grassland, respectively**.

- **Verifier:** 2BS Mapping tool, Geoportal, ucrop.it, Satellite images, site surveys, official maps or other recognized sources such as the MNHN in France
- (a) Independent auditors verifying whether the land is highly biodiverse grassland as referred to in Article 29(3), point (d), of the Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III) shall verify whether the land is or has been highly biodiverse grassland at any moment since January 2008.
- (b) Where land remains grassland or would have remained grassland in the absence of **human intervention** and is located in any of the geographic ranges listed in Regulation (EU) No 1307/2014, it shall be considered a natural, highly biodiverse grassland²⁵.
- (c) For land that is located outside the areas referred to in paragraph (b), the auditor shall assess whether the grassland maintains, or would have maintained in the absence of **human intervention**, the natural species composition, and ecological characteristics and processes. Where that is the case, the land shall be considered as being or having been natural, highly biodiverse grassland. Where grassland has already been converted to arable land, and it is not possible to assess the characteristics of the land itself through the information available from the competent national authorities or satellite imagery, the auditor shall consider such land as not having been highly biodiverse grassland at the moment of conversion.
- (d) Where the land ceased or would have ceased in the absence of **human intervention**, to be grassland, is species-rich²⁶ and not degraded²⁷, and has been identified as being highly biodiverse by the relevant competent authority, then the land shall be considered as non-natural, highly biodiverse grassland²⁸.
- (e) **Any land that is, or was, non-natural, highly biodiverse grassland in or after January 2008 may be used** for fuel production on the condition that **harvesting of the raw material is necessary** to preserve the status of the grassland as a highly biodiverse grassland and that current management practices **do not present a risk of causing biodiversity decline of the grassland**.

²⁴ Check the meaning and the extent of "grassland" in Annex 1 related to the definitions applicable to this audit standard.

²⁵ See Commission Regulation (EU) No 1307/2014 of 8 December 2014, Article 1 (3), and see Annex 1 related to the definitions applicable to this audit standard.

²⁶ See Commission Regulation (EU) No 1307/2014 of 8 December 2014, Article 1 (4), (c), and see Annex 1 related to the definitions applicable to this audit standard.

²⁷ See Commission Regulation (EU) No 1307/2014 of 8 December 2014, Article 1 (4), (b), and see Annex 1 related to the definitions applicable to this audit standard.

²⁸ See Commission Regulation (EU) No 1307/2014 of 8 December 2014, Article 1 (4), and see Annex 1 related to the definitions applicable to this audit standard.

Indicator 3.2.6 (Major Indicator): where harvesting of the raw material is necessary to preserve the grassland status of a **non-natural grassland**, the economic operator, shall show:

- **Verifier:** evidence that the harvesting of the raw material is necessary to preserve the highly biodiverse grassland status and that management practices do not present a risk of causing biodiversity decline in the grassland

Indicator 3.2.7 (Major Indicator): where economic operators are unable to provide this evidence, they shall provide evidence that they have been granted permission by the relevant competent authority or designated agency to harvest the raw material in order to preserve the highly biodiverse grassland status.

The technical assessment of the land shall be conducted by a qualified specialist who is external and independent of the activity being audited and free from conflict of interest and who may be part of the audit team.

- **Verifier:** Evidence that they have been granted permission by the relevant competent authority or designated agency to harvest the raw material in order to preserve grassland status (non-natural highly biodiversity grasslands).
- **Verifier:** whenever auditors or experts replace national authorities: professional experience and education

Indicator 3.2.8 (Critical Indicator): The 1st gathering entity **shall ensure that agricultural biomass does not come** from areas designated

- by law, or by other competent national authority, for nature protection purposes, or
 - for the protection of rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems or species recognized by international agreements or included in lists drawn up by intergovernmental organizations or the IUCN, subject to their recognition by the European Commission unless the 1st gathering entity can provide evidence that the production of that raw material did not interfere with the nature protection purposes
- **Verifier:** Official maps or other registries of land identified for nature protection purposes (*as indicated above*) in or after January 2008 (2BS Mapping tool, Geoportal, ucrop.it, Satellite images, site surveys, official maps)

Indicator 3.2.9 (Critical Indicator): The 1st gathering entity **shall ensure that agricultural biomass does not come from** geographic ranges of the European Union, which shall always be regarded as "heathland"²⁹ in or after January 2008; as defined by the applicable Member State or third country. In absence of such definition, the definition provided by the Copernicus programme managed by the European Commission shall be applied.³⁰

²⁹ As defined by the applicable Member State or third country, when available. In absence of such definition, apply the definition provided by the Copernicus programme managed by the European Commission and written in note 27 of this document.

³⁰ "Vegetation with low and closed cover, dominated by bushes, shrubs, dwarf shrubs (heather, briars, broom, gorse, laburnum etc.) and herbaceous plants, forming a climax stage of development" (Source: EU Copernicus)

This shall be checked against a risk analysis performed by the 1st gathering entity. If any risk has been identified, then the 1st gathering entity shall investigate to ensure that the sustainability criteria are respected. Evidence of the investigation shall be recorded and shall be made available to the third-party auditor.

- **Verifier:** 2BS Mapping tool, Satellite images, site surveys, official maps or other registries of land identified as above-named "heathlands" in or after January 2008, or
- **Verifier:** Information, report, satellite images or GIS system showing that the localization of each biomass producer has been compared to the identified above-named "heathlands" in the region of activity, or
- **Verifier:** Previous production and sales contract(s) with biomass producers before January 2008 covering the same production area.

Criterion 3.3: The 1st gathering entity **should** record whether the **country of origin of the agricultural biomass** has ratified and implemented the relevant international biodiversity agreements, conventions, and protocols.

Indicator 3.3.1: The 1st gathering entity **should** record whether the country of origin of the agricultural biomass has ratified and implemented the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

- **Verifier:** Impact of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on the activity being audited and if yes, list of suppliers per country concerned

Indicator 3.3.2: The 1st gathering entity **should** record whether the country of origin of the agricultural biomass has ratified and implemented the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

- **Verifier:** Impact of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora on the activity being audited and if yes, list of suppliers per country concerned. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species

Principle 4: Monitoring of Impacts on soil quality and carbon content

Biofuels, bioliquids, and biomass fuels produced from harvested agriculture residues³¹ shall not have a negative impact on the soil quality and the soil carbon stock. Therefore, the first gathering points collecting agricultural residues shall ensure that the collection of such materials does not affect these two parameters.

Criterion 4.1: The first gathering entity **shall** develop a management plan to verify and monitor soil quality and carbon mitigation impacts. Reliance on the CAP/GAEC is not sufficient for demonstrating compliance with Article 29(2) of the Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III).

³¹ Cross-check with procedure 2BS-PRO-04, section 4

Indicator 4.1.1 (Major Indicator): The 1st gathering entity **shall demonstrate** the management plan³² is available and coherent with the pedoclimatic conditions of the harvesting areas and or the requirements of the Member State or third country for the region concerned.

- **Verifier:** requirements from national law, or
- **Verifier:** requirements issued from *a competent individual, a professional agronomy advisor/ consultant, or a research institution's advice*
- **Verifier:** action management program and applicable timeframe
- **Verifier:** the deployment and monitoring of the verification methods proposed by the action management plan
- **Verifier:** annual individual farmers' self-declaration³³ including relevant information on how compliance is met (e.g., soil management monitoring practices³⁴ and soil management practices³⁵ applied on the farm)

Indicator 4.1.2 (Major Indicator): The 1st gathering entity **shall demonstrate** the soil management practice(s) adopted have been deployed and are fitted to the purpose.

- **Verifier:** checking results of management practice(s) adopted
- **Verifier:** calibration of soil management practices in line with monitoring result(s)
- **Verifier:** calibration of the monitoring approach if required

Indicator 4.1.3: The 1st gathering entity **shall demonstrate** the requirements are effectively applied and monitored at the level of the farm holdings supplying biomass in both contexts: soil management plans covered or not covered by the national law/level.

The verification of compliance at the national level may be delegated to a recognised certification body³⁶ that also has responsibility for the certification audits.

- **Verifier:** group auditing with homogeneous pedoclimatic conditions and technical pathways shall be used

Principle 5: High Carbon Stock

*Sustainable biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels **shall not** be made from agricultural biomass produced on land with high carbon stock (Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III) Article 29(4)).*

Criterion 5.1: The 1st gathering entity shall demonstrate that a system has been implemented to inform agricultural biomass producers claiming sustainability that raw material for the production of sustainable biofuels shall not come from land that had High Carbon Stock status in January 2008 and no longer has that status.

Indicator 5.1.1 (Major Indicator): The 1st gathering entity **shall ensure** that all its suppliers of agricultural biomass claiming sustainability have been informed and have completed a

³² The management practices are not limited exclusively to Annex VI of the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996; Member States and Third Countries authorities, recognized technical institutes and scientific literature are additional sources of information.

³³ Cross-check with the self-declaration template available in Annex 2 of this document or Annex 10.5 of the procedure 2BS-PRO-04

³⁴ Cross-check with section 10.6 of 2BS-PRO-04

³⁵ Cross-check with section 10.7 of 2BS-PRO-04

³⁶ Certification bodies in charge of the verification of national-level compliance are required to demonstrate the technical capabilities to perform this role.

declaration that raw material for the production of sustainable biofuels does not come from land that had High Carbon Stock status in January 2008 and no longer has that status.

- **Verifier:** Self-declarations fulfilled, dated, and signed
- **Verifier:** Amendment to the previous contract, including a reference to the new requirements.
- **Verifier:** Maps or other registries of land identified previously as High Carbon Stock according to the definition in section 4 (2BS Mapping tool, Geoportal, ucrop.it, Satellite images, site surveys, official maps)
- **Verifier:** Records of verifications of suppliers (annual internal audits), and

Criterion 5.2: The 1st gathering entity **shall demonstrate that it has identified the land** that had High Carbon Stock status in January 2008 and no longer has that status within its region of activity.

Indicator 5.2.1: The 1st gathering entity **shall** have access to official documents from competent authorities identifying High Carbon Stock areas in January 2008 and no longer has that status in its region of activity. The designated manager shall maintain access to all the relevant information for the territory concerned. Access to such information and the relevance of this information shall be checked by the independent auditor.

- **Verifier:** Satellite images, site surveys, official maps or a list of official documents from competent authorities, or
- **Verifier:** Access to relevant Websites.
- **Verifier:** Evidence of verification should reflect seasonal changes within a year.

Indicator 5.2.2 (Critical Indicator): The 1st gathering entity **shall ensure that agricultural biomass does not come from** continuously forested areas of more than 1 hectare with trees higher than five metres and a canopy cover of more than 30% or with trees that are able to reach those thresholds in situ. This should be checked following a risk analysis by the 1st gathering entity. If any risk has been identified, then the 1st gathering entity shall investigate to ensure that these sustainability criteria are respected. Evidence of the investigation shall be recorded and shall be made available to the independent auditor. Continuously forested areas do not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use. In this context, agricultural land use refers to tree stands in agricultural production systems, such as fruit tree plantations, oil palm plantations and agroforestry systems when crops are grown under tree cover.

- **Verifier:** Records of verifications of suppliers (annual internal audits), and
- **Verifier:** Satellite images, site surveys, official maps, or other registries of continuously forested areas of more than 1 hectare with trees higher than five metres and a canopy cover of more than 30% or with trees that are able to reach those thresholds in situ, or
- **Verifier:** Information, reports, satellite images, or GIS system showing that the localization of each biomass producer has been compared to the identified continuously forested areas in the region of activity, or

Indicator 5.2.3 (Critical Indicator): The 1st gathering entity shall ensure that agricultural biomass does not come from land spanning more than 1 hectare with trees higher than five meters and a canopy cover of between 10% and 30%, or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ, unless evidence is provided that the carbon stock of the area before and after conversion is such that, when the methodology laid down in part C of Annex V of the RED III is applied, the greenhouse gas threshold in Principle 2 will still be fulfilled. This should be checked following a risk analysis by the 1st gathering entity. If any risk has been identified, then the 1st gathering entity shall investigate to ensure that these sustainability criteria are respected. Evidence of the investigation shall be recorded and shall be made available to the independent auditor.

- **Verifier:** Records of verifications of suppliers (annual internal audits), and
- **Verifier:** Satellite images, site surveys, official maps or other registries of areas with 10 to 30% tree canopy cover (i.e. trees higher than five metres), unless the 1st gathering entity can demonstrate that the GHG impact, including any change since January 2008 in the carbon stock of the area concerned, (calculated according to the methodology laid down in part C of Annex V of Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III) and documents available on the European Commission transparency platform) meets the appropriate GHG saving threshold specified in Principle 2 above.
- **Verifier:** Information, report, satellite images or GIS system showing that the localization of each biomass producer has been compared to the identified forested areas with 10-30% canopy cover in the region of activity.

Indicator 5.2.4 (Critical Indicator): The 1st gathering entity shall ensure that biomass does not come from wetlands, land that is covered with or saturated by water permanently or for a significant part of the year. This should be checked following a risk analysis by the 1st gathering entity. If any risk has been identified, then the 1st gathering entity shall investigate to ensure that the sustainability criteria are respected. Evidence of the investigation shall be recorded and shall be made available to the independent auditor.

- **Verifier:** Records of verifications of suppliers (annual internal audits), and
- **Verifier:** Satellite images, site surveys, official maps or other registries of wetlands, or
- **Verifier:** Information, reports, satellite images or GIS system showing that the geographic position of each biomass producer has been compared to the identified wetlands in the region of activity, or
- **Verifier:** Evidence of verification should reflect seasonal changes within a year.

Principle 6: Peatland

Sustainable biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels produced from agricultural biomass shall not be made from raw material obtained from peatland. (Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III), Article 29 (5).

Criterion 6.1: The 1st gathering entity **shall** demonstrate that a system has been implemented to inform producers claiming sustainability of agricultural biomass that raw material for the production of sustainable biofuels and biomass fuels shall not come from land that was peatland in January 2008.

Indicator 6.1.1 (Major Indicator): The 1st gathering entity **shall** ensure that all its suppliers of agricultural biomass claiming sustainability have been informed and have completed a declaration that raw material for the production of sustainable biofuels and biomass fuels does not come from land that was peatland in January 2008.

- **Verifier:** Signed Scheme Declaration Form with specific clause

Indicator 6.1.2: The 1st gathering entity **shall, in collaboration with its suppliers, identify** land that was peatland in January 2008 within its region of activity. Records shall be kept.

- **Verifier:** Records of verifications of suppliers (annual internal audits), and
- **Verifier:** Maps or other registries of land identified previously as peatland according to the definition in section 4
- **Verifier:** Interview with suppliers

Criterion 6.2: The 1st gathering entity shall demonstrate that it has identified the land that was peatland in January 2008 within its region of activity.

Indicator 6.2.1: The 1st gathering entity **shall** have access to official documents from competent authorities identifying land that was peatland in January 2008 in its region of activity. The designated manager shall maintain access to all the relevant information for the region concerned. Access to such information and its relevance shall be checked by the independent auditor.

- **Verifier:** Satellite images, site surveys, official maps or a list of official documents from competent authorities, or
- **Verifier:** Access to relevant Websites.

Indicator 6.2.2 (Critical Indicator): The 1st gathering entity **shall** ensure that agricultural biomass does not come from areas that were peatland in January 2008 unless the soil was drained entirely in January 2008 or there has been no draining of the soil since January 2008. Where drainage was partial before January 2008, subsequent deeper drainage, affecting soil that was not fully drained, would be considered as drainage completed after January 2008. This should be checked following a risk analysis by the 1st gathering entity. If any risk has been identified, then the 1st gathering entity shall investigate to ensure that the sustainability criteria are respected. Evidence of the investigation shall be recorded and shall be made available to the independent auditor. If any drainage of the land has happened since January 2008, then the biomass coming from this land shall not be considered sustainable.

- **Verifier:** Records of verifications of suppliers (annual internal audits), and
- **Verifier:** Satellite images, site surveys, official maps or other registries of areas that were peatland in January 2008 with evidence that there has been no draining of the soil since January 2008. Acceptable evidence that no draining has taken place is; maps showing that area is still identified as peatland, land registry, satellite images showing that the area identified as peatland is not cultivated, and site visits. Any map used as evidence should comprehensively cover the entire region where the raw material is being produced and should be from an official land registry source.
- **Verifier:** Previous production and sales contract(s) with biomass producers before January 2008 covering the same production area, or
- **Verifier:** Information, reports, satellite images or GIS system showing that the localization of each biomass producer has been compared to the identified peatland areas in the activity region.
- **Verifier:** Soil analysis (mass of organic material)
As peatland soil is soil that, when analyzed up to a depth of 60 cm, exhibits organic material (peat substrate) in horizontal layers with a total thickness of at least 30 cm. The mass of the organic material in such circumstances is at least 20% organic carbon in the fine soil, and

Indicator 6.2.3: The 1st gathering entity **shall** use the official documents to identify the areas that were peatland in January 2008 in its activity region.

- **Verifier:** Satellite images, site surveys, official maps or other registries of land that was peatland in January 2008.
- **Verifier:** Information, reports, satellite images or GIS system showing that the localization of each biomass producer has been compared to the identified high biodiversity areas in the region of activity.
- **Verifier:** Onsite audits when the quality and lack of data (e.g. maps or other registries) do not enable a desk study by missing evidence.

Principle 7: Agro-environmental Practices

*Sustainable biofuels and biomass fuels **shall not** be made from raw materials produced within the Community that have not been cultivated following the requirements and standards under the provisions referred to under the heading 'Environment' in part A and point 9 of Annex II to Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 of January 2009 and with the minimum requirements for good agricultural and environmental condition established in Article 6(1) of that Regulation.*

While it is clear that agro-environmental practices have to be followed, verification of compliance is not addressed Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III), and voluntary schemes are not expected to cover the criteria related to agricultural and environmental requirements and standards for EU farmer.

This is the reason why this principle is indicated as a recommendation and is indicative only. It is the responsibility of the Member States to cover and monitor on their territory all farmers that supply raw material for and biomass fuels.



Criterion 7.1: The 1st gathering entity **should** ensure that all suppliers of agricultural biomass claiming sustainability based within the Community are committed to fulfilling the requirements of the applicable agro-environmental practices.

Indicator 7.1.1: The 1st gathering entity **should** ensure that all its suppliers of agricultural biomass based in the Community declare that they comply with the European Agro-Environmental Practices.

- **Verifier:** Signed Scheme Declaration Form with specific clause, or
- **Verifier:** Amendment to previous contract making reference to new requirements.

Indicator 7.1.2: The 1st gathering entity **should** keep track of new European Legislation and inform its suppliers of any change.

- **Verifier:** Information communicated to suppliers, or
- **Verifier:** Up-to-date information transmitted by other official organizations (e.g. Chamber of agriculture).

Criterion 7.2: The 1st gathering entity **should** inform, train and/or advise suppliers on best environmental and agricultural practices in conformity with the European Legislation.

Indicator 7.2.2: The 1st gathering entity **should** have appropriate resources to inform and/or train suppliers on best environmental and agricultural practices in conformity with the European Legislation.

- **Verifier:** Information/training plan and activities, or
- **Verifier:** Interviews with suppliers

Indicator 7.2.1: The 1st gathering entity **should** have appropriate resources to advise suppliers on best environmental and agricultural practices in conformity with the European Legislation.

- **Verifier:** Interview with suppliers

Principle 8: Soil, Water and Air Protection

*Sustainable biofuels and biomass fuels should not be made from raw material produced on land where soil, water and air have not been protected. This is not a requirement for the 1st gathering entity. **This principle is worded as a recommendation and is indicative only.***

Criterion 8.1: The 1st gathering entity **should** inform biomass producers that raw material for the production of sustainable biofuels and biomass fuels shall not come from land where soil, water and air have not been protected.

Indicator 8.1.1: The 1st gathering entity **should** inform all its suppliers that appropriate measures must be implemented to protect soil, water and air.

- **Verifier:** Information pack, or
- **Verifier:** Interview with suppliers.

Indicator 8.1.2: The 1st gathering entity **should** ensure that biomass comes from a land where the soil has been protected.

- **Verifier:** Agriculture practices to protect soils against erosion between 2 crops, or
- **Verifier:** Procedure regarding agriculture practices to protect soil against erosion between 2 crops.

Indicator 8.1.3: The 1st gathering entity **should** ensure that biomass does not come from the land where excessive water has been consumed in areas where and during the period when water is scarce.

- **Verifier:** Map of the area where water can be considered scarce, or
- **Verifier:** Records of rainfall for the region of activity, or
- **Verifier:** Official authorization,

Indicator 8.1.4: The 1st gathering entity **should** ensure that biomass comes from the land where the air has been protected.

- **Verifier:** Document indicating that burning is not authorized, or
- **Verifier:** Procedure indicating that burning is not carried out.

Principle 9: Social Sustainability

*For countries that are an important source of raw material for sustainable biofuels and biomass fuels, the 1st gathering entity should report whether the country of origin has ratified and implemented the ILO conventions No 29, 87, 98, 100, 105, 111, 138 and 182. This criterion is not a requirement for the 1st gathering entity. **This principle is worded as a recommendation and is indicative only.***

Criterion 9.1: The 1st gathering entity that imports raw material **should** have appropriate information on the countries that have ratified the relevant ILO Conventions.

Indicator 9.1.1: The 1st gathering entity **should** have access to a list of all the countries that have ratified the relevant ILO Conventions.

- **Verifier:** Access to the relevant Website
(<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/>)

Criterion 9.2: The 1st gathering entity that imports raw material **should** have appropriate information on the imported biomass's countries with a sustainability claim.

Indicator 9.2.1: The 1st gathering entity **should** establish and periodically update a list of all the countries of origin of the biomass that it has received.

- **Verifier:** List of all the countries of origin.

Indicator 9.2.2: The 1st gathering entity **should** maintain and keep up-to-date records of the volumes of biomass with a sustainability claim per country of origin.

- **Verifier:** records of the volumes of biomass with a sustainability claim per country of origin.



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Criterion 9.3: For each country of origin, the 1st gathering entity *should* have the appropriate information.

Indicator 9.3.1: For each country of origin, the 1st gathering entity *should* have a list of all its suppliers within the country.

- **Verifier:** List of suppliers for each country of origin.

Indicator .3.2: For each country of origin, the 1st gathering entity *should* have records of the volumes of produced and imported biomass with a sustainability claim.

Verifier: Records of volumes produced for each country of origin.

Annex 1 - Definitions

- **'Agricultural, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry residues'** means residues that are directly generated by agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry; they do not include residues from related industries or processing.
- **'Agricultural biomass'** means biomass produced from agriculture;
- **'Biofuels'** means liquid fuel for transport produced from biomass
- **'Biogas'** means gaseous fuels produced from biomass;
- **'Bioliquids'** means liquid fuel for energy purposes other than for transport, including electricity and heating and cooling, produced from biomass;
- **'Biomass'** means the biodegradable fraction of products, waste and residues of biological origin from agriculture, including vegetal and animal substances, from forestry and related industries, including fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the biodegradable fraction of waste, including industrial and municipal waste of biological origin;
- **'Biowaste'** means biowaste as defined in point (4) of Article 3 of Directive 2008/98/EC;
- **'Biomass fuels'** means gaseous and solid fuels produced from biomass;
- **'Degraded'** is land characterised by long-term loss of biodiversity due to for instance overgrazing, mechanical damage to the vegetation, soil erosion or loss of soil quality (Source: Commission Regulation (EU) No 1307/2014)
- **'Economic operator'** means a producer of raw material, a collector of waste and residues, an operator of installations processing raw material into final fuels or intermediate products, an operator of installations producing energy (electricity, heating or cooling) or any other operator, including of storage facilities or traders that are in physical possession of raw material or fuels, provided that they process the information on the sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving characteristics of those raw materials or fuels;
- **'First gathering point'** means a storage or processing facility managed directly by an economic operator or other counterparts under a contractual agreement that is sourcing raw material directly from producers of agricultural biomass, forest biomass, wastes and residues or, in the case of renewable fuels of non-biological origin, the plant producing such fuels;
- **'Food and feed crops'** means starch-rich crops, sugar crops or oil crops produced on agricultural land as the main crop, excluding residues, waste or lignocellulosic material and intermediate crops, such as catch crops and cover crops, provided that the use of such intermediate crops does not trigger demand for additional land.
- **'Forest biomass'** means biomass produced from forestry;
- **'Forest regeneration'** means the re-establishment of a forest stand by natural or artificial means following the removal of the previous stand by felling or as a result of natural causes, including fire or storm;
- **'Fuels'** means fuels ready to be supplied for consumption, including biofuels, bioliquids, biomass fuels, renewable fuels of non-biological origin and recycled carbon fuels.

- **'Grassland'** means terrestrial ecosystems dominated by herbaceous or shrub vegetation for at least 5 years continuously. It includes meadows or pasture that is cropped for hay but excludes land cultivated for other crop production and cropland lying temporarily fallow. It further excludes continuously forested areas as defined in Article 29(4)(b) of Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III) unless these are agroforestry systems which include land-use systems where trees are managed together with crops or animal production systems in agricultural settings. The dominance of herbaceous or shrub vegetation means that their combined ground cover is larger than the canopy cover of trees;
- **'Human intervention'** means managed grazing, mowing, cutting, harvesting or burning;
- **'Natural highly biodiverse grassland'** means grassland that:
 - (a) would remain grassland in the absence of human intervention; and
 - (b) maintains the natural species composition and ecological characteristics and processes;
- **'Non-natural highly biodiverse grassland'** means grassland that:
 - (a) would cease to be grassland **in the absence of human intervention**; and
 - (b) is **not degraded**, that is to say it is not characterised by long-term loss of biodiversity due to for instance overgrazing, mechanical damage to the vegetation, soil erosion or loss of soil quality; and
 - (c) is **species-rich**, that is to say it is:
 - (i) a **habitat** of significant importance to critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable species as classified by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species or other lists with a similar purpose for species or habitats laid down in national legislation or recognised by a competent national authority in the country of origin of the raw material; or
 - (ii) a **habitat** of significant importance to endemic or restricted-range species; or
 - (iii) a **habitat** of significant importance to intra-species genetic diversity; or
 - (iv) a **habitat** of significant importance to globally significant concentrations of migratory species or congregatory species; or
 - (v) a **regionally or nationally significant or highly threatened or unique ecosystem**.
- **"Group auditing"** may only be performed for:
 - Producers of raw material in particular for smallholder farmers, Producer organisations, and cooperatives, as well as waste collectors
 - Compliance with the scheme's land-related criteria, where the areas concerned are in proximity and have similar characteristics, such as climatic conditions.
 - The purpose of calculating GHG savings, where the units have similar production systems (inputs and soil management) and types of crops and pedoclimatic conditions
- **'Intermediate crops '** means crops, such as catch crops and cover crops that are grown in areas where due to a short vegetation period the production of food and feed crops is limited

to one harvest and provided their use does not trigger demand for additional land, and provided the soil organic matter content is maintained,. This definition is pending clarified guidelines from the EU Commission.

- **'Ligno-cellulosic material'** means material composed of lignin, cellulose and hemicellulose such as biomass sourced from forests, woody energy crops and forest-based industries' residues and wastes.
- **'Low indirect land-use change-risk biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels'** means biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels, the feedstock of which was produced within schemes which avoid displacement effects of food and feed-crop-based biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels through improved agricultural practices as well as through the cultivation of crops on areas which were previously not used for cultivation of crops, and which were produced in accordance with the sustainability criteria for biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels laid down in Article 29 of Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III).
.
- **'Mix of raw material for further processing'** means the physical mixing of raw material **at the fuel production plant** for the sole purpose of producing biofuels, bioliquids, or biomass fuels;
- **'Non-food cellulosic material'** means feedstock mainly composed of cellulose and hemicellulose and having a lower lignin content than lignocellulosic material, including food and feed crop residues, such as straw, stover, husks and shells; grassy energy crops with a low starch content, such as ryegrass, switchgrass, miscanthus, giant cane; cover crops before and after main crops; ley crops; industrial residues, including from food and feed crops after vegetal oils, sugars, starches and protein have been extracted; and material from biowaste, where ley and cover crops are understood to be temporary, short-term sown pastures comprising grass-legume mixture with a low starch content to obtain fodder for livestock and improve soil fertility for obtaining higher yields of arable main crops;
- **'Old growth forests'** means a forest stand or area consisting of native tree species that have developed, predominantly through natural processes, structures and dynamics normally associated with late-seral developmental phases in primary or undisturbed forests of the same type. Signs of former human activities may be visible, but they are gradually disappearing or too limited to significantly disturb natural processes, as set out in section 2.3 of SWD(2023) 62 final;
- **'Primary forest'** means a forest and other wooded land of native species, where there is no clearly visible indication of human activity and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed;
- **'Product group'** means raw materials, biofuels, bioliquids, non-gaseous biomass fuels with similar physical and chemical characteristics and similar heating values or gaseous biomass fuels, and LNG with similar chemical characteristics that all are subject to the same rules set out in Articles 7, 26 and 27 of Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III) for determining the contribution of biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels towards achieving the targets for renewable energy;

- **'Proof of sustainability'** means a declaration by an economic operator made on the basis of a certificate issued by a voluntary scheme certifying the compliance of that economic operator with the sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions savings criteria set out in Articles 25(2) and 29 of Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III) for a specific quantity of feedstock or fuels;
- **'Raw material'** means substances that have not yet been processed into fuels, including intermediate products;
- **'Residue'** means a substance that is not the end product(s) that a production process directly seeks to produce; it is not a primary aim of the production process, and the process has not been deliberately modified to make it;
- **'Site'** means a geographical location, logistical facilities, transmission or distribution infrastructures with precise boundaries within which products can be mixed;
- **'Sourcing area'** means the geographically defined area from which the forest biomass feedstock is sourced, from which reliable and independent information is available and where conditions are sufficiently homogeneous to evaluate the risk of the sustainability and legality characteristics of the forest biomass;
- **'Species -Rich'**, is a land that is:
 - a habitat of significant importance to critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable species as classified by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species or other lists with a similar purpose for species or habitats laid down in national legislation or recognised by a competent national authority in the country of origin of the raw material; or
 - a habitat of significant importance to endemic or restricted-range species; or
 - a habitat of significant importance to intra-species genetic diversity; or
 - a habitat of significant importance to globally significant concentrations of migratory species or congregatory species; or
 - a regionally or nationally significant or highly threatened or unique ecosystem.

(Source: Commission Regulation (EU) No 1307/2014)


- **'Union database'** means the database provided for in Article 31, point a of Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III);
- **'Waste'** means waste as defined in point (1) of Article 3 of Directive 2008/98/EC, excluding substances that have been intentionally modified or contaminated to meet this definition.
- **"Satellite images"** include satellite and aerial drone images, aerial mapping, aerial photography, etc.



2BS Voluntary Scheme
Revised RED EU/2018/2001 (RED III) - Audit
requirements for the Biomass Production

Doc : 2BS-STD-01
Version : 11
Approved on: 03/01/2024

Annex 2 – Required content of a self-declaration of a farmer to be addressed to the concerned FGP

	Self-declaration for producer of agricultural biomass	Version: 3 (en) Date: 04/08/2023
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Identity of the farmer

Company name: _____

Address of the holding: _____

Type of crops concerned (please list): _____

Overall area (ha): _____

CAP number¹: _____

Campaign year: _____

NUTS 2 regions (if GHG emissions related to regions): _____

I declare (check boxes):

		Yes	NA
1	That the biomass originates from cropland that was already classified as such prior to 01.01.2008. It also does not originate from protected areas (Article 29 of the Directive (EU) 2018/2001) that were converted to cropland after 01.01.2008. If permissible land-use changes were made after 01.01.2008, the respective areas were either explicitly excluded or the resulting emissions were included in GHG calculations (default values can then not be used).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	That the biomass originates from land within protected areas (nature conservation areas only – not water conservation areas) where farming is permitted. The requirements for protected areas have been complied with.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Meeting cross-compliance criteria ensuring more environmentally friendly agriculture ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Keeping available (for 5 years or longer where it is required by the relevant national authority), for contractual purposes, all the records to demonstrate the veracity of this declaration and therefore the sustainability of my agricultural production according to the RED II Directive (Directive (EU) 2018/2001)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Using NUTS 2 values for reporting GHG emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Providing the elements to enable actual calculation (eec) for reporting GHG emissions for my crop(s)/location	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Providing the elements to enable actual calculation (el) for reporting GHG emissions for my crop(s)/location	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Providing the elements to enable actual calculation (esca) for reporting GHG emissions for my crop(s)/location	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	To inform the first gathering point of any subsequent changes, concerning the evolutions of my plot and the different criteria of sustainability and identification of the GHG emissions of my crops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: With this declaration, the farmer acknowledges that auditors from certification bodies or 2BS or a Member State may come verify on-site whether the relevant requirements stipulated in Directive (EU) 2018/2001 have been satisfied. Evidence of the above requirements shall be made available and shall be provided during the audit and/or upon request.

In the situation where the requirements are indicated as not being met (e.g. documents not available or incomplete), the farmer expose himself to the unsustainable downgrading of his supplies.


Place, date

Signature

¹ Applicable only for European countries



Annex 3 – Required content of a self-declaration of a point of origin to be addressed to the concerned FGP

	Self-declaration for point of origin and supplier of agricultural residues for each feedstock supplied	Version: 4 (en) Date: 17/11/2023
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Identity of the point of origin

Company name: _____
Address of the holding: _____
Name and phone number of the responsible: _____
Material concerned: _____
The material is produced by the following process: _____
Amount of material generated by the process above: _____ t per months (average of last 12 months)

I declare that (check boxes):		Yes	NA
1	The supplied material only contains biomass that complies with Directive (EU) 2018/2001 ¹ .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	The supplied material complies with the waste hierarchy as described in Art 4 of Directive 2008/98/EC which means the material supplied could not be reused or recycled before being recovered into energy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	The supplied material is part of Annex IX of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (REDII) or Annex IV of the Implementing Regulation 2022/996. <i>If not, please enter the waste code if applicable and validate the status of this material with the 2BSvs decision tree (Annex 10.4 of 2BS-PRO-04). Waste code/name: _____</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	The waste or residual materials are originated from agriculture, forestry, and fishing or from aquacultures. <i>If yes, the material complies with the sustainability requirements set forth in Art. 29 of RED II.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	<i>In case of an agricultural residue,</i> a. The monitoring approach is ² : _____ b. The soil management practice is ³ : _____ c. The verification of level of compliance is - under the control of the national authority verified by delegation to a competent certification body - under the control of the first gathering point verified by a recognized certification body	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	The respective waste and residue originate exclusively from the contracted waste producer and have not been blended/contaminated with any other biomass.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	<i>In case the material is UCO (used cooking oil), the material derives (check only one box)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> totally from vegetable origin <input type="checkbox"/> totally or partially from animal origin (animal fat categorized C1 and C2)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Applicable national legislation regarding waste prevention and management (transport, supervision, etc.) is complied with. If there are veterinary certificates, these are kept with commercial documents.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	The regulations which apply to the identity and transport of the waste or residue, are respected and the appropriate transfer documentation (sales, customs, tonnage, transport) is provided for each delivery.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	I keep available (for 5 years or longer where it is required by the relevant national authority), for contractual purposes, all the elements to demonstrate the veracity of this declaration according to the RED II.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11	I inform the first gathering point of any subsequent changes, concerning the evolutions of my tonnages and the identification of my material.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: With this declaration, the point of origin acknowledges that auditors from certification bodies or 2BS or a Member State may come verify on-site whether the relevant requirements stipulated in Directive (EU) 2018/2001 have been satisfied. Evidence of the above requirements shall be made available and shall be provided during the audit and/or upon request.

Place, date

Signature

¹ 'Biomass' means the biodegradable fraction of products, waste and residues of biological origin from agriculture, including vegetal and animal substances, from forestry and related industries, including fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the biodegradable fraction of waste, including industrial and municipal waste of biological origin.

² Refer to section 10.6 of 2BS-PRO-04

³ Refer to Section 10.7 of 2BS-PRO-04



Annex 4 – Data to be transmitted through the whole supply chain and transaction data

1. Data to be transmitted through the whole supply chain:

- (a) **name of the voluntary** or national scheme;
- (b) **proof of sustainability number**;
- (c) **sustainability and GHG emission savings characteristics**, including:
 - (i) statement on whether the raw material or fuel complies with the criteria set out in Article 29(2) to (7) of the Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III);
 - (ii) GHG emission data calculated according to the methodology set out in Annexes V or VI to the Revised Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001 (RED III) or Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/807;
- (d) **name of raw material according to the nomenclature defined in UDB**;
- (e) waste or animal by-product **permit number**;
- (f) **country of origin** of raw material;

2. Transaction data

- (a) **supplier** company name and address;
- (b) **buyer** company name and address;
- (c) **date of (physical) loading**;
- (d) **place of (physical) loading** or logistical facility or distribution infrastructure **entry point**;
- (e) **location of (physical) delivery** or logistical facility or distribution infrastructure **exit point**;