



Compliance with the SBP Framework: Public Summary Report

SCS Global Services
Evaluation of SIA Avoti
Fourth Surveillance Audit

Sustainable Biomass Program
sbp-cert.org





Completed in accordance with the CB Public Summary Report Template Version 2.1 and SBP Bridging Requirements for Meeting the Directive EU/2023/2413 (REDIII)

For further information on the SBP Framework and to view the full set of documentation see www.sbp-cert.org

Document history

Version 2.0	Published 10 August 2023
Version 2.1	Published 21 May 2025

© Copyright Sustainable Biomass Program Limited 2025

Table of contents

1 Overview	3
2 Audit conclusions	4
2.1 Certification decision	4
2.2 Open non-conformities and observations	4
2.2 Closed non-conformities	5
2.3 Actions taken by Organisation Prior to Report Finalisation	5
2.4 Notes for the next Audit	5
3 Scope of the audit and SBP certificate	6
3.1 Description of the company	7
3.2 Site details	7
3.3 Detailed description of the Chain of Custody system and Product Groups	7
4 Specific objective of the audit	8
5 Evaluation process	9
5.1 Timing and duration of evaluation activities	9
5.2 Auditor team qualification	9
5.3 Description of evaluation activities	9
5.4 List of forest management units and feedstock suppliers visited	9
5.5 Describe audit sampling methodology used	10
5.6 CB stakeholder engagement	10
5.7 Stakeholder feedback and response	10
5.8 Main strengths and weaknesses of the management system and operations	10
5.9 Summary of evaluation activities for robustness of the Supply Base Evaluation	10
5.10 Summary of evaluation activities for Processing residues and/or Post-consumer feedstock requirements per Standard 2 and EU RED	10
5.11 Summary of evaluation activities for chain of custody system per Standard 4	11
5.12 Summary of evaluation activities for collection and communication of data per Standard 5	11
5.13 Summary of audit findings for competency of involved personnel	11
5.14 Summary of audit findings for GHG methodology per Standard 6 (if applicable)	11
6 Detailed evaluation of BP's Supply Base Evaluation (if applicable)	12
6.1 Overview of BP's risk assessments and mitigation measures including EU RED scope	12
6.2 CB evaluation of specified risk indicators and mitigation measures	12

1 Overview

Certification Body (CB) Name:	SCS Global Services
Primary CB contact for SBP:	Maggie Schwartz
Primary CB contact email:	mschwartz@scsglobalservices.com
Audit team leader:	Erlends Blekus
Audit team members:	-
Name of the Company:	SIA Avoti
Company legal address:	Avoti Lizuma pagasts, LV-4425 Gulbenes novads, Latvia
Company contact for SBP:	Armita Apine
Company contact email:	arnita.apine@avoti.lv
Company website:	www.avoti.lv
Date of installation:	23 Nov 2023
SBP Certificate Code:	SBP-04-35
Date of certificate issue:	31 Jan 2023
Date of certificate expiry:	30 Jan 2028
Audit closing meeting date:	10 Jul 2026
Audit cycle:	Fourth Surveillance Audit

2 Audit conclusions

2.1 Certification decision

Based on the auditor's recommendation and the Certification Body's technical review, the following certification decision is taken:

Certification decision:	Certification approved
Certification decision by (name of the person):	Tom Harlan
Date of decision:	27 Jul 2026
Other comments:	N/A

2.2 Open non-conformities and observations

NC number 9431	NC Grading: Minor
Standard:	SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody v2.0
Requirement:	1.14 The Organisation shall identify stakeholders, develop, implement, monitor, evaluate and adapt as necessary, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) appropriate for their business operations and scope of certification. N/A N/A N/A
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The documented Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) was not available during the audit.	
Timeline for Conformance:	By the next surveillance audit, but no later than 12 months from report finalisation date
Evidence Provided by Company to close NC:	N/A
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	N/A
NC Status:	Open

2.2 Closed non-conformities

NC number 5791		NC Grading: Minor
Standard:	SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody v2.0	
Requirement:	1.31 The agreement shall include at minimum: – Name, business identity, and contact details of the subcontractor, outsourced activities; – Confirmation of the subcontractor that the subcontractor shall: – comply with the relevant requirements of the SBP Standards within the scope of the certificate; – not make unauthorised claims and use of SBP trademarks; – not further outsource the activities; – allow the CB to audit the subcontractor; and – allow access of the CB to the subcontractor’s operations, systems, documents and records as deemed necessary by CB. N/A N/A	
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:		
Outsourcing agreement established, during the audit seen annex No.1 to the contract which was electronically signed on 22.04.2024. Annex No.1 includes only a reference to ENplus certification requirements. SBP standard No.4, clause 1.31 requirements are not included.		
Timeline for Conformance:	By the next surveillance audit, but no later than 12 months from report finalisation date	
Evidence Provided by Company to close NC:	Outsourcing agreement updated by adding SBP requirements.	
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	Outsourcing agreement with updated, date 17.12.2025, includes SBP standard No.4, clause 1.31 requirements. Previous year’s non-conformity has been addressed.	
NC Status:	Closed	

2.3 Actions taken by Organisation Prior to Report Finalisation

None.

2.4 Notes for the next Audit

None.

3 Scope of the audit and SBP certificate

Scope item	Check all that apply to the Certificate scope
Primary activity	Biomass Producer
Secondary activity	
Approved Standards	SBP Standard 1: Feedstock Compliance v2.0; SBP Standard 2: Feedstock Verification v2.0; SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody v2.0; SBP Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data v2.0; Instruction Document 1A: SBP Requirements for Primary Feedstock from Trees Outside Forests (TOF) v1.0; Instruction Document 5E: Collection and Communication of Energy and Carbon data. v2.1; Instruction Document EU RED: Bridging Requirements for Meeting the Directive EU/2023/2413 v2.0
Product Group IDs	☒ Forest feedstock (1A) ☒ Trees outside forest (TOF) - Urban and landscape feedstock (2A) ☐ Trees outside forest (TOF) - Agricultural land feedstock (3A) ☒ Processing residues feedstock (4A) ☐ Post-consumer feedstock (5A) ☐ Other (please specify)
SBP Feedstock types	☒ SBP Compliant; ☒ SBP Controlled
Includes Supply Base Evaluation (SBE)	Yes
Includes EU RED Scheme	Yes
Includes EU RED Supply Base Evaluation (SBE)	Yes
Products	WB 1.1 Wood pellets
Feedstock origin (countries):	Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania
SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessments used: Public link: https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/risk-assessments/	SBP-RRA-EU-LV-FOR_v2.0 RRA for Latvia FOR_Endorsed
Chain of custody system	☐ Physical separation ☒ Mass balance
Outsourcing	Yes
Changes in the scope	No changes in the scope.

3.1 Description of the company

Guidance: Please describe the type, structure and operations of the company including its role in the supply chain, its inputs and outputs as they related to SBP Standards.

SIA "Avoti" is a biomass producer with a production site and office located in Lizums, Gulbene region. The organization has approx. 370 employees and is a substantial economic actor in remote regions in Vidzeme and Latgale. BP is sourcing primary and secondary feedstock for its pellet production. Pellets are produced from primary feedstock (low quality round wood – both conifer and broadleaf); secondary feedstock (wood industry residues from local mills (sawmills, veneer production plants): wet sawdust, wood chips. Tertiary feedstock not sourced during the audit period. All feedstock types except tertiary are delivered to the pellet plant using road transport, biomass is transported to harbor by road transport as well. All inputs materials delivered to the pellet production plant are FSC or PEFC certified, FSC Controlled Wood or included in the Organization FSC Controlled Wood verification program. The BP is conducting origin verification program by visiting its secondary suppliers and verification of the origin confirmation documentation at the supplier premises. Implemented Mass Balance system according to SBP standards V2 and EU RED requirements. After the production, pellets are transported with trucks to the harbor temporary storage place in Riga. From warehouses pellets are loaded into the ship and sold to the customers on FOB Riga incoterm conditions or sold at the warehouse on DAP Riga incoterms.

3.2 Site details

Legal entity name	Address	Site Activity	Visited during the audit
SIA Avoti	"Avoti", Lizuma pag., Gulbenes nov., LV-4425	Pellet production	☒
B Port (outsourcer)	Traleru iela 2A, Rīga, LV-1030	Port warehouse	☒

3.3 Detailed description of the Chain of Custody system and Product Groups

Guidance: Please describe the operation of the CoC system including details of the mass balance management and a list of established Product Groups.

Avoti SIA maintains FSC and PEFC CoC certification. Secondary feedstock (wood chips and sawdust) is both - FSC and PEFC certified. Feedstock is kept segregated and used only for SBP pellet production. FSC Controlled Wood secondary feedstock is accounted in SBP-controlled biomass account. Primary feedstock is received with FSC and PEFC claim, source only from Latvia. During the audit period the organization has sourced primary feedstock only from Latvia state forest enterprise and related forest management company (FSC FM certified). No physical segregation. All feedstock volumes calculated to pellet credits. With the transition to standards V2 the organization has established Mass Balance accounts according to the standard and EU RED requirements. Biomass is transported to Riga port storage with internal waybills, weight is measured at the factory and entering the port. Biomass is sold at Riga port DAP incoterms or loaded into ships and sold in FOB incoterms.

4 Specific objective of the audit

The specific objective of this evaluation was to confirm that the Biomass Producer's management system is capable of ensuring that all requirements of specified SBP Standard 1,2,4,5 V2 and EU RED are implemented across the entire scope of certification.

5 Evaluation process

5.1 Timing and duration of evaluation activities

Audit Level of Effort (LoE)		
Activity	Auditors	Auditor hours
1. Preparation	Erlends Blekus	4.0
2. On-site (excl. travel time)	Erlends Blekus	10.0
3. Report writing	Erlends Blekus	8.0

5.2 Auditor team qualification

Auditor qualification		
Auditor name	Role	Qualification
Erlends Blekus	Lead Auditor	Bachelor's degree in Forest Science and Engineer of Forestry – studied in Latvia University of Agriculture. Worked in forestry sector and forestry-related industries since 2016. FSC CoC and FM lead auditor, PEFC CoC and SBP lead auditor.

5.3 Description of evaluation activities

The audit began with an opening meeting, lead auditor provided information about the audit plan, methodology, auditor qualification, confidentiality, and assessment methodology, and clarified the evaluation scope. The lead auditor explained the aim and objectives of the scope of the audit, informed about the process, underlined the need to collect objective evidence through a combination of document review, site visits, interviews, and discussions. Explained the essence and importance of the sampling aspect of the auditing. Observation, minor and major nonconformity grading, and procedure. The audit itinerary was discussed and confirmed. Further, the company procedures were reviewed and compared with actual company activities. Sampled the inputs and outputs and reviewed COC aspects. Evaluated GHG data collection, SBR, and any trademark uses. A walkthrough of the facility was done by visiting all CCPs and all relevant staff interviewed. Inspected physical feedstock receipt and storage process. Checked biomass production steps, sources of energy, and energy data collection. Also, staff interviewed as well as documents related to social and W&S aspects were reviewed. On the second day visited the port warehouse to check the pellet segregation process (contractor work according to procedures) and the audit closing meeting was conducted.

5.4 List of forest management units and feedstock suppliers visited

☒ N/A – No forest sites or suppliers visited during this evaluation

There are only 2 active primary feedstock suppliers - AS Latvijas valsts meži and related company Piebalgas Avoti SIA, which is FSC FM certified. FMUs are verified through the database OZOLS to avoid potential HCV risks. Forest field verification was not conducted.

5.5 Describe audit sampling methodology used

All procedures checked, relevant staff (identified in procedures) interviewed. All data in DTS was checked, sampled sufficient examples of invoices (covering different clients through the reporting period) for output verification. All Mass Balance accounts were crosschecked with sample of inputs (all type of feedstock inputs sampled) and outputs. SBR reviewed. Data provided in SAR compared with actual data from records, checked the source of data origin. The organization has sourced only material from state forests (considered as having lower risk) and a small portion of feedstock sourced from a related forest management company, thus FMUs were not sampled for on-site visits.

5.6 CB stakeholder engagement

☒ N/A – Certification Body stakeholder consultation not applicable for this evaluation

Guidance: Please specify the number and types of stakeholders engaged, method of engagement and its outcomes.

5.7 Stakeholder feedback and response

☒ N/A – Certification Body stakeholder consultation not applicable for this evaluation

5.8 Main strengths and weaknesses of the management system and operations

Avoti SIA has a strong work ethic and dedicates resources to the maintenance of its SBP certificate. Their operation employs over approx. 370 employees from the region in both their furniture manufacturing facility and their pellet plant. Their business was formed over 20 years ago and the owners have constantly adapted and been innovative. The facilities provided for staff were notable. The organization holds other forestry scheme certificates, main part of inputs are certified under SBP recognized/ benchmarked schemes and traceable. In the SBE involved local specialists (W&S and forestry).

The weaknesses of the SBP program are listed in the non-conformity section of this report.

5.9 Summary of evaluation activities for robustness of the Supply Base Evaluation

☐ N/A – Standard 1 not in the scope of the evaluation

Avoti SIA is implementing the SBE for primary originating from. Risk mitigation measures are implemented for feedstock sourced from forest land. The BP is using the SBP approved and endorsed Regional Risk Assessment for Latvia. The designated risks in both the organization's risk assessment and the SBP endorsed RRA do not differ.

In the process of SBE stakeholder engagement AS Latvijas valsts meži has provided comprehensive letter clarifying why the specified risk indicators shall be considered as having "Low risk" for deliveries from AS Latvijas valsts meži. The organization still gathers origin information and verifies all FMU through database OZOLS to meet the EU RED requirements.

During the audit period, the organization has not sourced non-certified or FSC Controlled Wood primary feedstock sourced from private forests.

5.10 Summary of evaluation activities for Processing residues and/or Post-consumer feedstock requirements per Standard 2 and EU RED

Processing residues received from 18 local producers. Supplier audits are performed for all producers. Supplier audits are documented by completing detailed checklists. Each delivery is visually inspected by independent

measurement specialists.

5.11 Summary of evaluation activities for chain of custody system per Standard 4

In addition to SBP certification, the organization maintains FSC and PEFC CoC certification. Overall robust and transparent system is established and maintained by the quality manager.

5.12 Summary of evaluation activities for collection and communication of data per Standard 5

The BP implements a system to collect and record data on Greenhouse Gas emissions. The BP has elaborated a detailed overview of the systems and databases to collect and record all GHG data related to the production of pellets and sourced feedstock characteristics. Data reported in SAR is supported by actual measurements and justified considerations.

5.13 Summary of audit findings for competency of involved personnel

The Supply Base Evaluation (SBE) system is implemented by existing company staff with help of external consultant. The responsible staff had partly undergone training and at the time of audit is implementing the SBE system, very much supported and supervised by external consultant. Risk mitigation measures and supplier verification program is conducted together by BP's staff and external consultant via the on the job training. Quality manager who is also responsible for FSC and PEFC chain of custody certification system holds the overall responsibility for SBP and SBE system, as well as procurement and supplier related issues, SBE system implementation, and supplier audits. The accountancy staff is responsible for recordkeeping, accounting, Mass Balance accounting. Material receptionists are responsible for incoming material reception, identification of material status, and subsequent classification of material in the accountancy system. Pellet production operators are responsible for moisture measurements and production recordkeeping. Qualification requirements for personnel involved in SBE system are provided in documented procedures of the BP. Involved personnel has demonstrated sufficient knowledge in relevant fields, including knowledge of critical aspects - recognition and identification of HC VF, health and safety requirements. Relevant certificates and diplomas were available upon request.

5.14 Summary of audit findings for GHG methodology per Standard 6 (if applicable)

☒ N/A – Standard 6 not in the scope

6 Detailed evaluation of BP's Supply Base Evaluation (if applicable)

☐ N/A – Supply Base Evaluation not in the scope of the evaluation

6.1 Overview of BP's risk assessments and mitigation measures including EU RED scope

Regional risk assessment for Latvia used. Level A EU RED risk assessment confirming low risk is available for Latvia.

6.2 CB evaluation of specified risk indicators and mitigation measures

Country
Latvia
Area/Sub-Scope
N/A
Indicator
2.1.1 Key species, habitats, ecosystems, and areas of high conservation value (HCV) pertaining to biodiversity in the Supply Base shall be identified.
Specified risk description
2.1.1 Key species, habitats, ecosystems, and areas of high conservation value (HCV) pertaining to biodiversity in the Supply Base shall be identified.
Detailed description of a mitigation measure
Identification of protected animal or plant habitat is carried out by using data base "OZOLS" and with field audits using "High Value Element Identification checklist". As part of the SBE stakeholder engagement, the organization has received a comprehensive letter from AS Latvijas valsts meži, document "LVM feedback regarding the revised SBP Regional Risk Assessment for Latvia", in which AS Latvijas valsts meži has provided data and justification on why specified risk indicators shall be considered as having "Low risk". The organization has adopted this into their procedures, however, feedstock origin information is still gathered for all deliveries, and each FMU is verified through the database OZOLS in order to comply with EU RED requirements.
Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions
The organization is sourcing almost all primary feedstock from AS Latvijas valsts meži. Stakeholder feedback letter reviewed during the audit. Based on the content of the letter and the fact that the organization still verifies each FMU through the database OZOLS, the risk mitigation measures evaluated as sufficient.

Country
Latvia
Area/Sub-Scope
N/A

Indicator
2.1.2 Threats to and impacts on the identified key species, habitats, ecosystems, and areas of high conservation value (HCV) pertaining to biodiversity in the Supply Base shall be identified and evaluated.
Specified risk description
Threats to and impacts on the identified key species, habitats, ecosystems, and areas of high conservation value (HCV) pertaining to biodiversity in the Supply Base shall be identified and evaluated.
Detailed description of a mitigation measure
Identification of protected animal or plant habitat is carried out by using data base “OZOLS” and with field audits using “High Value Element Identification checklist”. As part of the SBE stakeholder engagement, the organization has received a comprehensive letter from AS Latvijas valsts meži, document "LVM feedback regarding the revised SBP Regional Risk Assessment for Latvia", in which AS Latvijas valsts meži has provided data and justification on why specified risk indicators shall be considered as having "Low risk". The organization has adopted this into their procedures, however, feedstock origin information is still gathered for all deliveries, and each FMU is verified through the database OZOLS in order to comply with EU RED requirements.
Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions
The organization is sourcing almost all primary feedstock from AS Latvijas valsts meži. Stakeholder feedback letter reviewed during the audit. Based on the content of the letter and the fact that the organization still verifies each FMU through the database OZOLS, the risk mitigation measures evaluated as sufficient.

Country
Latvia
Area/Sub-Scope
N/A
Indicator
2.1.3 Key species, habitats, ecosystems, and areas of high conservation value (HCV) pertaining to biodiversity in the Supply Base shall be maintained or enhanced.
Specified risk description
2.1.3 Key species, habitats, ecosystems, and areas of high conservation value (HCV) pertaining to biodiversity in the Supply Base shall be maintained or enhanced.
Detailed description of a mitigation measure
Identification of high conservation biotopes, protected animal or plant habitat is carried out by using data base “OZOLS” and with field audits using “High Value Element Identification checklist”. Identification of high conservation biotopes, protected animal or plant habitat is carried out by using data base “OZOLS” and with field audits using “High Value Element Identification checklist”.

As part of the SBE stakeholder engagement, the organization has received a comprehensive letter from AS Latvijas valsts meži, document "LVM feedback regarding the revised SBP Regional Risk Assessment for Latvia", in which AS Latvijas valsts meži has provided data and justification on why specified risk indicators shall be considered as having "Low risk". The organization has adopted this into their procedures, however, feedstock origin information is still gathered for all deliveries, and each FMU is verified through the database OZOLS in order to comply with EU RED requirements.

Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions

The organization is sourcing almost all primary feedstock from AS Latvijas valsts meži. Stakeholder feedback letter reviewed during the audit. Based on the content of the letter and the fact that the organization still verifies each FMU through the database OZOLS, the risk mitigation measures evaluated as sufficient.

Country

Latvia

Area/Sub-Scope

N/A

Indicator

3.2.3 feedstock shall not be sourced from forest areas in the Supply Base which, according to local definitions or norms, are classified as having combined attributes of high carbon stocks and high conservation value (HCV).

Specified risk description

The organization is sourcing almost all primary feedstock from AS Latvijas valsts meži. Stakeholder feedback letter reviewed during the audit. Based on the content of the letter and the fact that the organization still verifies each FMU through the database OZOLS, the risk mitigation measures evaluated as sufficient.

Detailed description of a mitigation measure

Identification of protected animal or plant habitat is carried out by using data base "OZOLS" and with field audits using "High Value Element Identification checklist".

As part of the SBE stakeholder engagement, the organization has received a comprehensive letter from AS Latvijas valsts meži, document "LVM feedback regarding the revised SBP Regional Risk Assessment for Latvia", in which AS Latvijas valsts meži has provided data and justification on why specified risk indicators shall be considered as having "Low risk". The organization has adopted this into their procedures, however, feedstock origin information is still gathered for all deliveries, and each FMU is verified through the database OZOLS in order to comply with EU RED requirements.

Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions

The organization is sourcing almost all primary feedstock from AS Latvijas valsts meži. Stakeholder feedback letter reviewed during the audit. Based on the content of the letter and the fact that the organization still verifies each FMU through the database

OZOLS, the risk mitigation measures evaluated as sufficient.