Compliance with the SBP Framework: Public Summary Report

Preferred by Nature OÜ
Evaluation of CHALON'ENERGIE - EST

Second 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

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1 Overview

Certification Body (CB) Name:	Preferred by Nature OÜ
Primary CB contact for SBP:	Pilar Gorria Serrano
Primary CB contact email:	pgorria@preferredbynature.org
Audit team leader:	Yves Bouthillier
Audit team members:	None
Name of the Company:	CHALON'ENERGIE - EST
Company legal address:	2 Rue des Frères Lumière, 71100 Chalon-sur-Saône, France
Company contact for SBP:	Jean-Marc Cherel
Company contact email:	jean-marc.cherel@engie.com
Company website:	
Date of installation:	11 Jun 1999
SBP Certificate Code:	SBP-10-60
Date of certificate issue:	11 Apr 2024
Date of certificate expiry:	10 Apr 2029

Audit closing meeting date:	26 Feb 2026
Audit cycle:	Second 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):	Pilar Gorría
Date of decision:	18 May 2026
Other comments:	N/A

2.2 Open non-conformities and observations

NC number 8669	NC Grading: Minor
Standard:	SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody v2.0
Requirement:	1.18 The SEP shall be available upon request in a language(s) that is/are accessible for the identified affected stakeholders. N/A N/A N/A
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
Non-conformance The Organisation has not demonstrated how the stakeholder engagement plan is made available upon request. Since no major stakeholders' concerns are on-going, this is a minor NC.	
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 8664 copied from 5221	NC Grading: Minor
Standard:	SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody v2.0
Requirement:	1.4 The scope of the Organisation's CoC certification shall define the product types, the processes applied to these products (including subcontracting), the accounting methodology, and applicable SBP Standards. N/A N/A
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The Organisation has defined in its procedure the applicable standards, but the Version 1 of standards is still mentioned (see Exh. S01).	
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:	EXH 01 00 - MANUEL SBP-RED V2.pdf Discussions with staff
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	The Organisation updated its procedures following a thorough review to ensure its comprehensiveness and effectiveness, ensuring the use of V2 standards. This NC is closed.
NC Status:	Closed

NC number 8665 copied from 5222	NC Grading: Minor
Standard:	SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody v2.0
Requirement:	1.11 The Organisation shall ensure that: a. internal audits are conducted by personnel knowledgeable of the requirements of the Standard(s); b. internal auditors do not audit their own work; c. internal audit documentation includes at minimum the scope of the internal audit; names of the internal auditor(s), date, conclusion of the evaluation of the Organisation's conformance with SBP requirements, and any corrective actions and associated deadlines; and d. any non-conformances found during internal audits are recorded as corrective actions, and actions are taken in a timely and appropriate manner. N/A N/A
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The Organisation conducted an internal audit (see Exh. S03). The findings of the internal audit are recorded. However, the internal auditor, Jean-Marc Cherel has also responsibilities in the certification system of the Organisation (see Exh. S04) and therefore should not audit its own work, according to 1.11 b.	
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:	EXH 03 20250905 - Audit interne - RED2 - JM Chérel - CHALON EST.pptx EXH 04 Copie de CheckList documents RED II - Chalon.xlsx Discussions with staff
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	The Organisation conducted an internal audit. It was demonstrated that the internal auditor is not involved in the activities of the site. This NC is closed.
NC Status:	Closed

NC number 8666 copied from 5223	**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
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The Organisation was not able to provide to the auditor a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) tailored to their business activities and the scope of certification as required by SBP requirements. This plan should comply with requirements 1.14 to 1.18 of SBP Standard 4 V2.	
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:	EXH 05 LEI-STRA-V0- Enjeux et PIP.pdf EXH 06 SITES & ACTIVITES _ Societal action plan template LEI en France 2025.xlsx Discussions with staff
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	The Organisation created a SEP in conformance with requirements 1.14-1.1.7. This NC is closed. For 1.18, see new minor NC issued.
NC Status:	Closed

NC number 8667 copied from 5224	**NC Grading: Major**
Standard:	SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody v2.0
Requirement:	1.20 Where non-conforming products and/or associated claims are detected after they have been delivered, the Organisation shall undertake the following activities: a. notify its CB and all affected direct customers in writing within five (5) business days of the non-conforming product claim and maintain records of that notice; b. analysis of causes of the occurrence of non-conforming products claims, and implement measures to prevent their re-occurrence; and c. cooperate with its CB in order to allow them to confirm that appropriate actions were taken to correct the non-conformance. N/A N/A
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The Organisation does not document in its manual (Exh. S01) the steps required by SBP under requirement 1.20 for the management of non-conforming (deviant) products.	

Timeline for Conformance:	Other
Evidence Provided by Company to close NC:	2026-03-26 annual audit EXH 01 00 - MANUEL SBP-RED V2.pdf Discussions with staff 2026-03-22 CVA 00 - MANUEL SBP-RED V3.docx
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	2026-03-26 annual audit Updated procedures do not contain the mandatory instructions cited under requirement 1.20 of SBP Standard 4. Minor NC 2025-001442 is upgraded to Major NC with an April 29th, 2026, deadline (closing meeting date + 3 months). 2026-03-22 CVA The updated procedures 00 - MANUEL SBP-RED V3.docx now contain under Section 3.6 the mandatory instructions cited under requirement 1.20 of SBP Standard 4. This NC is closed.
NC Status:	Closed

NC number 8668 copied from 5225	**NC Grading: Minor**
Standard:	SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody v2.0
Requirement:	1.24 The Organisation shall maintain an up-to-date self-assessment covering the implementation of 1.21, 1.22 and 1.23. N/A N/A
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
Management committee meetings are held at regional, territorial and national level. Legal, regulatory and health and safety issues are dealt with at these meetings. However, the Organisation was not able to provide a documented and up-to-date self-assessment on the implementation of requirements 1.21 (compliance with laws and regulations), 1.22 (anti-corruption), and 1.23 (occupational health and safety).	
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:	EXH 09 Questionnaire SBP - ENGIE ESF.docx Discussions with staff
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	The Organisation created a self-assessment for requirements 1.21, 1.22 and 1.23. This NC is closed.
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	End User
Secondary activity	
Approved Standards	SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody v2.0; SBP Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data v2.0; SBP Standard 6: Energy and Carbon Balance Calculation v2.0; Instruction Document REDII: Bridging requirements of the SBP scheme for meeting REDII. v1.2; Instruction Document 5E: Collection and Communication of Energy and Carbon data. v2.1; Instruction Document 6D: Methodology for the Calculation and Certification of GHG Emissions Savings for EU RED 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)	No
Includes EU RED Scheme	Yes
Includes EU RED Supply Base Evaluation (SBE)	No
Products	WB 2.1 Wood chips
Feedstock origin (countries):	France
SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessments used: **Public link:** **https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/risk-assessments/**	Not applicable
Chain of custody system	☒ Physical separation ☐ Mass balance
Outsourcing	No
Changes in the scope	France has EU REDII grandfathering clause, which the Organization uses

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.

The end user is a district energy producer which is located in the city of Chalon-sur-Saône. It produces energy (heat and electricity) from biomass in the form of woodchips. The end user operates 1 boiler which can produce 12 mW of energy, distributed to delivery points in the city.

3.2 Site details

Legal entity name	Address	Site Activity	Visited during the audit
CHALON'ENERGIE Est	2 Rue des Frères Lumière Chalon-sur-Saône, 71100 France	End user	☐

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.

The End User accepts biomass in a form of wood pellets from the only supplier Engie SOVEN and uses it as biofuel to produce electricity and heat. Biomass is acceped with either SBP-compliant or SBP-controlled claims alongside the SBP-REDII compliant claim. Biomass is delivered by trucks and unloaded in the warehouse located next to the power plant. The deliveries are registered in the database DDS.

4 Specific objective of the audit

The specific objective of this evaluation was to confirm that the Energy Producer´s management system is capable of ensuring that all requirements of specified SBP Standards are implemented across the entire scope of certification. The scope of the evaluation covered:

- Review of the Organization’s management procedures;
- Review of chain of custody critical control points;
- Interviews with responsible staff;
- Review of the records and calculations;
- GHG data collection analysis;
- DTS transactions review;
- RED system implementation (REDII).

5 Evaluation process

5.1 Timing and duration of evaluation activities

Audit Level of Effort (LoE)		
Activity	**Auditors**	**Auditor hours**
1. Preparation	Yves Bouthillier	2.0
2. On-site (excl. travel time)	Yves Bouthillier	2.5
3. Report writing	Yves Bouthillier	4.0

5.2 Auditor team qualification

Auditor qualification		
Auditor name	**Role**	**Qualification**
Yves Bouthillier	Lead Auditor	Yves is a Senior Forestry Specialist - Team Leader with Preferred by Nature (PbN) and a biologist with a specialization in conservation and environment and a master's degree in Earth Sciences. He has been working in the field of environmental certifications since 2014. Yves is qualified to audit the following standards: - FSC FM, CoC, CW - SBP - CoC for PEFC, SFI and RA SC

5.3 Description of evaluation activities

Although audits of energy producers are typically conducted on-site, in Engie's case, SBP has approved a hybrid approach where some of the sites are assessed remotely and others on-site for Engie Energy Producers audits. This remote audit is justified based on:

- All sites managed by Engie operate in a similar manner and use the same management system.
- All sites have a single supplier, SOVEN.
- All sites will use default GHG, just one installation might use actual data and this will be audited separately
- No sourcing from far away (all material is from France, Spain or Germany depending on location of the site)
- The audit method alternates between remote and on-site audits, so that on-site audits take place during the certification cycle

A limited assurance level is implemented and the sampling approach for this year was 0.8 * Square root (x), where x was the total number of Engie sites classified as low profile. As result 4 sites were evaluated on site and 12 site remote.

CH ***Audit method***

SBP-10-17 Remote

SBP-10-26 Remote

SBP-10-68 On site

SBP-13-54 Remote

SBP-10-64 Remote

SBP-10-60 Remote

SBP-10-35 On site

SBP-10-40 Remote

SBP-10-36 On site

SBP-10-62 Remote

SBP-10-33 Remote

SBP-10-37 On site

SBP-10-30 Remote

SBP-10-28 On site

SBP-10-29 Remote

SBP-10-25 Remote

CHALON'ENERGIE was a remote audit, conducted on February 26, 2026, with a closing meeting on the same day.

The audit focused on the management system evaluation: a division of the responsibilities, record keeping, input material classification (reception and registration), energy and carbon data collection and communication and REDII sustainability criteria evaluation.

During the opening meeting, the audit team was introduced, the certification scope was clarified, information about the audit plan, methodology, auditor qualification, confidentiality issues, assessment methodology, and other applicable Preferred by Nature policies and procedures was provided.

The same date during interviews and documentation review all applicable requirements of the SBP standards 4 and 5 as well as accompanying instruction documents and the REDII bridging document were evaluated. During the process, the overall responsible person for the SBP system and other staff were interviewed.

Critical control points at the stage of biomass acceptance, dumping and storing were evaluated. Following evaluation of records and documents included observation of procedures, documents reflecting traceability and preparedness to work with the DTS system.

5.4 List of forest management units and feedstock suppliers visited

☒ N/A – No forest sites or suppliers visited during this evaluation
End user sourcing feedstock with SBP claims only

5.5 Describe audit sampling methodology used

When preparing the audit and during remote work, a sampling has been implemented, based on the following criteria: • full review of procedures; • a review of training records; • sample review of information related to suppliers; • interviews with staff to evaluate theoretical and practical experience of intended approaches implementation. Considering the nature of the audit, the sampling was focused on major standards requirements and management system implementation issues. The focus was key responsible staff and documentation.

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

Strength:

- One supplier and clear mutual communications
- A small number of management staff and clearly designated procedures
- Support of an umbrella company
- Robust recordkeeping system, ensuring transparency

See NCRs.

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

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

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

All feedstock is sourced as already SBP EU RED compliant through one supplier: SOVEN. The auditor verified the system implemented by the organization to ensure all deliveries are in conformance with the applicable requirements and sampled delivery documentation

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

Traceability documentation was reviewed, following a sampling by the auditor.

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

The End User collects information on energy and carbon from it's supplier via DTS and the internal database. These records include information on types of biomass, energy and carbon in the SAR and SREG documents, delivery records and other relevant data. The data is used to determine the option for the GHG criterion for biomass fuels and the methods of communication of savings

5.13 Summary of audit findings for competency of involved personnel

Key management staff shares responsibilities for maintaining the management system, ensure traceability and data communication. During the assessment the staff showed good knowledge of applicable requirements and effective management of the areas of responsibility was demonstrated, The End User uses the support of an umbrella company and the only supplier - Engie SOVEN.

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

The Organization decides to use default values for GHG emission savings (a). The level of saving may vary depending on the feedstock types used by the biomass producers upstream the supply chain. The Organization demonstrated and explained the decision-making system to determine the savings values using Annex VI of the REDII.
According to the EEA (European Environmental Agency) Net greenhouse gas emissions of Land use, Land use change and Forestry (LULUCF) from 1990 to 2021 has been less than zero for all years in the EU. See reference here. Projections for the next period are also negative.

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

N/A

6.2 CB evaluation of specified risk indicators and mitigation measures