



Compliance with the SBP Framework: Public Summary Report

SCS Global Services
Evaluation of Baltic Forest SIA
First 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

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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:	Modris Okmanis
Audit team members:	Modris Okmanis
Name of the Company:	Baltic Forest SIA
Company legal address:	Jūras iela 8, LV-4033 Salacgrīva, Latvia
Company contact for SBP:	Dana Ramba
Company contact email:	dana@balticforest.lv
Company website:	http://www.balticforest.lv
Date of installation:	
SBP Certificate Code:	SBP-04-82
Date of certificate issue:	18 Jun 2025
Date of certificate expiry:	17 Jun 2030
Audit closing meeting date:	22 May 2026
Audit cycle:	First 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:	31 Jul 2026
Other comments:	N/A

2.2 Open non-conformities and observations

2.2 Closed non-conformities

2.3 Actions taken by Organisation Prior to Report Finalisation

No actions required.

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	Trader
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 5E: Collection and Communication of Energy and Carbon data. v2.1; Instruction Document 1A: SBP Requirements for Primary Feedstock from Trees Outside Forests (TOF) v1.0; 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 2.1 Wood chips, WB 4.1 Roundwood
Feedstock origin (countries):	Latvia
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	No
Changes in the scope	Removed Estonia from SB, adapted EU RED requirements and Level A risk assessment for Latvia.

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 basic activities of the Company are timber and wood chips trade. The company also produces wood chips from branches, felling residues and low-quality wood. The company purchases low grade roundwood and wood chips at the port of Salacgrīva. Roundwood and wood chips are sold at local and EU markets. Description of the scope: Trading and production of biomass (wood chips) from logging residues, arboricultural arisings and low quality roundwood (fuelwood) as well as timber primary processing co-products, for use in energy production, wood chip storage at Salacgrīva port and sales at Salacgrīva port. The scope of the certificate includes Supply Base Evaluation for primary feedstock from Latvia.

3.2 Site details

Legal entity name	Address	Site Activity	Visited during the audit
Baltic Forest SIA	Jūras iela 18, Salacgrīva, Limbažu novads, Latvija	Office and storage	☒

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 BP holds FSC Chain of Custody certificate (SCS-COC-007811). The organization has integrated both systems SBP and FSC CoC into common registers and accounting files. Certification claims are controlled through integrated Mass Balance and Credit account. The primary feedstock (TOF landscape and forest) is delivered to storage site in Salacgrīva port with FSC 100% and FSC Controlled Wood claims, or verified according to organization's SBE and FSC Controlled Wood verification systems. Secondary feedstock may be accepted only with the FSC 100% or 100% PEFC Certified claims after supplier verification. As to non-certified (controlled material) or FSC Controlled Wood feedstock the BP collects information on origin and conducting additional risk mitigation measures according to SBP RRA for Latvia V2.0 to source SBP-Compliant feedstock. FSC Controlled Wood and certified feedstock, which is not verified through SBE is accepted as controlled and mixed together with compliant. Part of primary feedstock (roundwood) is chipped on-site at the log yard, part of it is sold as roundwood under the FSC CoC certification and as well with SBP claim. Other biomass (as per SBP definition) shall be segregated according to the BP's FSC CoC/CW procedures. The biomass is sourced from Latvia only. Other countries are not included in the FSC Controlled Wood verification system or SBE. When enough material is accumulated, the chips are loaded to the vessel. The feedstock is delivered either by external contractors' or supplier trucks. Chips are sold on FOB and CIF incoterm conditions from Salacgrīva harbour. Organization may act as trader without physical possession and implement physical separation method.

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 Standards 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	Modris Okmanis	2.0
2. On-site (excl. travel time)	Modris Okmanis	16.0
3. Report writing	Modris Okmanis	8.0

5.2 Auditor team qualification

Auditor qualification		
Auditor name	Role	Qualification
Modris Okmanis	Lead auditor	Master's degree in Forest science, more than 10 year experience in Forestry. ISO9001, SBP, FSC and PEFC COC and FM lead auditor qualification.

5.3 Description of evaluation activities

The aim of the audit is to evaluate the SBP system in place for compliance with SBP standard requirements, including the SBP SBE system applied by the organization in sourcing of primary feedstock and implementing supplier verification program and conducting mitigation measures. The audit began with a opening meeting attended by the responsible person at the organization – the accountant and chairman of the board. In the opening meeting auditor introduced himself, provided information about audit plan, methodology, auditor qualification, confidentiality issues, and assessment methodology and clarified verification scope. During the opening meeting the auditor explained and discussed the audit timetable and planned activities. After the opening meeting auditor reviewed all applicable requirements of the SBP standards No.1 and 2, and instruction documents with regard to sourcing primary and secondary feedstock and the overall management system. During the process the overall responsible person for the SBP system and other responsible staff having key responsibilities within the system were interviewed. Auditors also reviewed all applicable requirements of the SBP standards No.4, 5 and the instruction document 5E covering input clarification, reviewed existing chain of custody system, management system, CoC, recordkeeping/mass balance requirements, emission and energy data and categorisation of input and verification of SBP compliant and SBP Controlled feedstock/ biomass. Documentation related to the SBP, including SBP Procedures, GHG data calculations/ data sheet, and Supply Base Report. Auditor reviewed processes described in the documented procedures for primary feedstock supplies within the SBE system, including the provisions for specified risks according to SBP RRA for Latvia V2. In the next day auditor continued with document review, sampled several sites for field inspections in BP feedstock sourcing region Vidzeme, conducted secondary feedstock supplier audit and forest field visits. Auditor reviewed the feedstock purchasing and sourcing documents, sales documents as well as risk mitigation records. For field evaluations auditors selected primary suppliers (logging sites) and evaluated risk mitigation actions undertaken by the organization (BP) in relation to specified risks related to High Conservation Values. CB evaluated how the risk

mitigation measures were implemented by the BP and at the same time doing own independent evaluation. The results of 2-day assessment was summarised and audit findings were presented to the CH during the audit closing meeting.

5.4 List of forest management units and feedstock suppliers visited

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

Site name
Cad. 66250030309
Site location
Cad. 66250030309 compartment No.2 and 4
Site description
Completed final felling, where the feedstock was sourced.
Rationale and focus of visit
Site was included in field verification sample of organization according to procedures.
Description of audit activity
Sites cross-checked and situation compared with the completed checklists.

Site name
Cad. 66600050007
Site location
Cad. 66600050007, compartment.7
Site description
Completed final felling, where the feedstock was sourced.
Rationale and focus of visit
Site was included in field verification sample of organization according to procedures.
Description of audit activity
Sites cross-checked and situation compared with the completed checklists.

5.5 Describe audit sampling methodology used

The following considerations have been taken into account to determine the sampling intensity: 1) Geographical area; 2) Type of the operations and activities; 3) Risk mitigation measures related to feedstock origin. Geographical area: The BP sources the primary feedstock within the Supply Base Evaluation process from Latvia, so there is one geographical area within the SBE; Type of the operations and activities: The SBE covers sourcing of primary feedstock (logging residues, branch wood, low quality roundwood etc.) from forest land. In the case of BP, no sub-sets of sampling pools are used, all FMUs are considered in one pool. Risks related to feedstock origin according to the SBP Regional Risk Assessment for Latvia V2: 2.1.1 Key species, habitats, ecosystems, and areas of high conservation value (HCV) pertaining to biodiversity in the Supply Base shall be

identified. 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. 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. 3.2.3 Primary feedstock shall not be sourced from forest areas in the Supply Base which, according to local definitions or norms, are classified as having combined attributes of high carbon stocks and high conservation value (HCV). All 4 specified indicators have common risk mitigation measures. Mainly mature sites were sampled to evaluate adequacy of risk mitigation measures. Decision of FMU sampling: Taking into account all considerations mentioned above, it was decided to visit several completed logging sites to evaluate conformance with high conservation values identification and preservation (if applicable). In total 3 separate forest properties (7 forest compartments) were visited to cross-check the CH field verification checklist information with actual sites. Secondary feedstock is supplied by 1 supplier, thus the sampling was not necessary. The secondary feedstock supplier was visited during the evaluation.

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

Strengths: Own biomass production capacities as well as biomass transport and storage site in Salacgrīva harbour. Long term experience in biomass production and sales. Small number of staff involved in management of the SBP system with clearly designated responsibilities. SBE processes are well documented. Experienced and knowledgeable responsible personnell. The BP staff had participated in the training for High Conservation Value identification.

Weaknesses: Weaknesses related to capacity of the staff. Only 2 employees working at the company.

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

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

SIA Baltic Forest is implementing the Supply Base Evaluation process for primary feedstock originating from Latvia. Risk mitigation measures have been elaborated and are being implemented for feedstock originating from forest land as well as non-forest land (arboriculture arisings on overgrown agriculture land, wood growing along the road, rails and other).

The BP is applying the SBP endorsed regional risk assessment for feedstock supply base covering SBE – the Republic of Latvia. Based on the “specified risks” in the risk assessment the organization has implemented several mitigation measures which were consulted with relevant stakeholders prior to implementing. Risk mitigation measures are relevant in addressing risks. It was evaluated at the time of the assessment audit that BP has evaluated options for risk mitigation measures and selected the appropriate and effective risk mitigation measures out of those referenced in the risk assessment. In fact, the most risk mitigation measures outlined in the RRA are used by the BP.

The BP had undertaken implementation of the mitigation measures for individual SBP standard indicators. This mitigation measures were designed in cooperation with external experts/ consultants.

The stakeholder consultation process has been conducted through notification of stakeholders and distributing the summary of risk mitigation measures to stakeholders. Stakeholders were also contacted directly. The BP is keeping records of communication with stakeholders.

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

There is one secondary feedstock (processing residues) supplier. The supplier has been audited by the CH, detailed checklist was available. Supplier was also audited during the re-evaluation audit. No violations identified.

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

Verified management system and feedstock examples, no violations noted.

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

The organization has compiled emission data as a part of preparation process for the SBP assessment. The BP has implemented a system to collect and record data on Greenhouse Gas emissions. Systems and databases (internal registers and sources of information) to collect and record Greenhouse Gas data were reviewed during the re-assessment audit. All related evidence with regard to GHG calculation and assumptions were provided to auditors.

The following primary sources of information are used by the BP: transport distance of the feedstock, distance of the biomass transportation to customer. Diesel consumption data on chipping operation and transport of biomass is based on actual refuelling data obtained from the suppliers of fuel and compiled by the accountant.

5.13 Summary of audit findings for competency of involved personnel

The SBP and Supply Base Evaluation system is implemented by the organization staff, that have undergone external training and are supervised by the overall responsible person at the organization. The chief accountant is also responsible for the FSC Chain of Custody certification system and also holds the responsibility for the SBP system. The chief accountant has more than 10 years of work experience in organizing and performing accounting in forestry, including experience in wood chipping, timber procurement and sales processes, maintenance of FSC certification systems and accounting of certified material. Member of the board is responsible for actual implementation of the SBE processes and conducting risk mitigation measures. He has knowledge of the SBP requirements especially in chain of custody or and sourcing of raw material and has experience in forestry/wood processing industry.

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

The organization has implemented the SBP Regional Risk assessment for Latvia V2 into their procedures. "Specified risk" in the Regional Risk assessment have been assigned to indicators 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, and 3.2.3. In the process of procedure update the CH CH has invited external consultant. The risk mitigation procedure includes integrated risk mitigation measures which are used to mitigate risk of all 4 specified indicators.

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
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
The organization verifies each site through database OZOLS for potential HCVs (Forest habitats, EU Importance habitats, grasslands, species habitats, etc.). The organization has outsourced forester who conducts field visits for sites which are reached defined age threshold, e.g., pine stands above 111 years, birch stands above 81 year, etc. Field verification checklists include criteria for potential key species, habitats, ecosystems and areas of HCV.
Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions
Verified examples of sourced feedstock (supplier documents, origin documents), checked Ozols data base for any HCV presence, conducted field verification. Applied risk mitigation measures are commonly used in Latvia. To define the age threshold of sites for the field visits the consultant has referred to publications of State Forest Service and AS Latvijas valsts meži. Risk mitigation measures evaluated as adequate.

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

The organization verifies each site through database OZOLS for potential HCVs (Forest habitats, EU Importance habitats, grasslands, species habitats, etc.). The organization has outsourced forester who conducts field visits for sites which are reached defined age threshold, e.g., pine stands above 111 years, birch stands above 81 year, etc. Field verification checklists include criteria for potential key species, habitats, ecosystems and areas of HCV.

Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions

Verified examples of sourced feedstock (supplier documents, origin documents), checked Ozols data base for any HCV presence, conducted field verification. Applied risk mitigation measures are commonly used in Latvia. To define the age threshold of sites for the field visits the consultant has referred to publications of State Forest Service and AS Latvijas valsts meži. Risk mitigation measures evaluated as adequate.

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

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

The organization verifies each site through database OZOLS for potential HCVs (Forest habitats, EU Importance habitats, grasslands, species habitats, etc.). The organization has outsourced forester who conducts field visits for sites which are reached defined age threshold, e.g., pine stands above 111 years, birch stands above 81 year, etc. Field verification checklists include criteria for potential key species, habitats, ecosystems and areas of HCV.

Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions

Verified examples of sourced feedstock (supplier documents, origin documents), checked Ozols data base for any HCV presence, conducted field verification. Applied risk mitigation measures are commonly used in Latvia. To define the age threshold of sites for the field visits the consultant has referred to publications of State Forest Service and AS Latvijas valsts meži. Risk mitigation measures evaluated as adequate.

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
Primary feedstock shall not be sourced from forest areas in the Supply Base which, according to local definitions or norms, are classified as having combined attributes of high carbon stocks and high conservation value (HCV).
Detailed description of a mitigation measure
The organization verifies each site through database OZOLS for potential HCVs (Forest habitats, EU Importance habitats, grasslands, species habitats, etc.). The organization has outsourced forester who conducts field visits for sites which are reached defined age threshold, e.g., pine stands above 111 years, birch stands above 81 year, etc. Field verification checklists include criteria for potential key species, habitats, ecosystems and areas of HCV.
Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions
Verified examples of sourced feedstock (supplier documents, origin documents), checked Ozols data base for any HCV presence, conducted field verification. Applied risk mitigation measures are commonly used in Latvia. To define the age threshold of sites for the field visits the consultant has referred to publications of State Forest Service and AS Latvijas valsts meži. Risk mitigation measures evaluated as adequate.