Compliance with the SBP Framework: Public Summary Report

SCS Global Services
Evaluation of Varn Wood Products LLC

Re-assessment

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:	Kyle Meister
Audit team members:	Kyle Meister
Name of the Company:	Varn Wood Products LLC
Company legal address:	11873 Brantley Ave N., 31542 Hoboken, United States
Company contact for SBP:	William F. Varn, Jr
Company contact email:	wfvarn1@gmail.com
Company website:	http://varnwood.com/
Date of installation:	
SBP Certificate Code:	SBP-04-20
Date of certificate issue:	14 Apr 2026
Date of certificate expiry:	13 Apr 2031
Audit closing meeting date:	05 Aug 2025
Audit cycle:	Re-assessment

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:	03 Nov 2025
Other comments:	N/A

2.2 Open non-conformities and observations

NC number 6028	NC Grading: Minor
Standard:	SBP Standard 2: Feedstock Verification v2.0
Requirement:	7.1 The Organisation shall develop a Risk Management Plan (RMP) which includes Risk Management Measures (RMMs) for each Indicator rated as specified risk within its SBE per the Organisation's Risk Assessment or an SBP-endorsed RRA with the objective to mitigate the risk and reduce the risk rating to low risk. N/A N/A N/A
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The organization cites all possible mitigation measures for specified risk indicators in the US SE Private Lands RRA. However, in practice it only uses a subset of those as described in the monitoring and outcomes section. Since this is the first year of implementation, monitoring and outcomes should be reported on next year based on the results of the mitigation measure monitoring variables.	
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
Original Due Date:	2026-11-03
Closing Date:	N/A
Upgrade Date:	N/A
Update Date:	N/A

NC number 6029	NC Grading: Minor
Standard:	SBP Standard 2: Feedstock Verification v2.0

Requirement:	Annex 1; 3.6 The Organisation shall consider a declaration from the supplier, even if part of the contractual agreement, as not sufficient proof of origin and feedstock category. N/A N/A N/A
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
A broker-hauler does not have a contract or self-declaration; however, it delivers from a feedstock supplier that have a signed contract and self-declaration, as well as a completed supplier questionnaire. The broker-hauler delivers directly from the feedstock producing mill to the organization's pellet mill per scale tickets reviewed that have the producing mill's information. Hence, this is graded as minor.	
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
Original Due Date:	2026-11-03
Closing Date:	N/A
Upgrade Date:	N/A
Update Date:	N/A

2.2 Closed non-conformities

NC number 6027	NC Grading: Minor
Standard:	SBP Standard 2: Feedstock Verification v2.0
Requirement:	3.1 The Organisation shall develop, implement, and maintain an SBE unless exempted per the table in 3.2 below. N/A N/A
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
There are at least 3 USFS in supply base - Apalachicola NF, Ocala NF, and Osceola NF. The organization does not cite the USFS RRA; however, the current risk assessment includes all areas in the SB and the USFS RRA concludes low risk for all SBP ST1 indicators. Hence, this is graded as minor.	
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:	The organization added the USFS RRA to its SBP-related procedures during the audit.
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	Confirmed via review of updated procedures and risk assessment summary document.
NC Status:	Closed
Original Due Date:	2026-11-03
Closing Date:	2025-11-03
Upgrade Date:	N/A
Update Date:	N/A

NC number 6030	NC Grading: Minor
Standard:	SBP Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data v2.0
Requirement:	1.1 All data submissions shall be supported by appropriate evidence. N/A N/A
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The upper NCV value from lab reports was used to create the average NCV in the SAR instead of the lower NCV values.	
Timeline for Conformance:	Other
Evidence Provided by Company to close NC:	The organization updated the average NCV value based on the lower NCV value included on independent lab tests.
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	The audit team confirmed that the SAR was updated with the new value based on the lower of the two NCV values included in lab reports.
NC Status:	Closed

Original Due Date:	N/A
Closing Date:	2025-11-03
Upgrade Date:	N/A
Update Date:	N/A

NC number 6031	**NC Grading: Minor**
Standard:	Instruction Document 5E: Collection and Communication of Energy and Carbon Data v2.0
Requirement:	1.5.7 Any missing data and any estimates shall be explicitly reported in the SAR N/A N/A
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The BP uses constant values for distance and weighted average vehicle load for shavings sourced from its adjacent sawmill. The BP bases its green chips and shavings quantities on a combination of scale tickets from suppliers and revolutions per shift on conveyor belts for chips and shavings. The methods are described in the SAR Excel files, hence this is graded as Minor. An explanation for these methods is not included in the SAR table 2.3	
Timeline for Conformance:	Other
Evidence Provided by Company to close NC:	An explanation was added to SAR table 2.3 to address this issue.
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	The audit team confirmed that the explanation was added to table 2.3.
NC Status:	Closed
Original Due Date:	N/A
Closing Date:	2025-11-03
Upgrade Date:	N/A
Update Date:	N/A

2.3 Actions taken by Organisation Prior to Report Finalisation

The organization addressed NCRs related to the applicable RRAs and the SAR prior to report finalization.

2.4 Notes for the next Audit

N/A

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 5E: Collection and Communication of Energy and Carbon data. v2.1; Instruction Document EU RED: Bridging Requirements for Meeting the Directive EU/2023/2413
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):	United States
SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessments used: **Public link:** https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/risk-assessments/	SBP-RRA-US-NF-FOR_v1.0 RRA for US National FOR_Interim, SBP-RRA-US-PF-FOR_v1.0 RRA for US Private FOR_Interim
Chain of custody system	☐ Physical separation ☒ Mass balance
Outsourcing	No
Changes in the scope	This is the organization's first audit to SBP V2.0.

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.

Varn Wood Products LLC is a pellet mill located in Hoboken, GA. This facility purchases processing residues feedstock from its sister pine sawmill located adjacent to the wood pellet mill and two other pine sawmills. The supply base includes hundred thirty-five (135) counties (18,557,462 hectares) in Alabama (3 counties), Georgia (84 counties) and Florida (48 counties) within the United States.

3.2 Site details

Legal entity name	Address	Site Activity	Visited during the audit
Varn Wood Products	11873 Brantley Ave, Hoboken, GA 31542	Sawmill	☒

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 organization uses SBP's COC requirements and maintains a Mass Balance system. All inputs have been scoped in the organization's supply base using the two applicable RRAs for the region. All inputs and outputs are tracked in the organization's scaling database.

4 Specific objective of the audit

The objective was to evaluate the organization's control systems for ensuring conformance to applicable SBP V2 requirements, including ST1, ST2, ST4, ST5, ID5E, and EU RED.

5 Evaluation process

5.1 Timing and duration of evaluation activities

Audit Level of Effort (LoE)		
Activity	**Auditors**	**Auditor hours**
1. Preparation	Kyle Meister	15.0
2. On-site (excl. travel time)	Kyle Meister	8.0
3. Report writing	Kyle Meister	8.0
4. Other	Kyle Meister	10.0

5.2 Auditor team qualification

Auditor qualification		
Auditor name	**Role**	**Qualification**
Kyle Meister	SBP Lead Auditor	Qualified SBP Lead auditor per V2.0.

5.3 Description of evaluation activities

Audit schedule: ST 1, 2, 4, 5, and EU RED

Activity	Location	Auditor name	Date	Time	Notes
Opening meeting (incl. review of previous non-conformities)	Varn Wood Products	Kyle Meister	4/Aug	8:00	Introductions, auditor review of audit scope, audit plan and intro/update to SBP and SCS standards and protocols, client description of organization
Review of trademarks				8:15	SBP TMLA and trademarks
Inspection: verification of COC and GHG control points, OHS measures, scope end points; and Interviews with staff				8:30	Review of physical inputs and outputs, material receipt, storage, processing, sale, and overall control [remove if not applicable, e.g. desk audit]
			Training, OSH, responsibilities, etc.		

Review of procedures	9:30	Written procedures, work instructions, feedstock description, accounting system (transfer, percentage or credit; physical separation, percentage method)
Review of SBR, SBR Annex I (SBE), Determination of Origin, and associated evidence (e.g., internal audit reports)	10:30	Review of ST 1 and ST 2 requirements
ST 4: Business integrity, social, health & safety	11:30	Overlaps with ST 1 and general COC requirements
ST 4: review of inputs, outputs, traceability, training, etc.	13:00	Auditor-selected sample of the following: material tracking system, summary of purchases and sales, invoices, shipping documents, training records, outsourcing agreements, other applicable SBP systems, tracebacks from certified outputs to eligible inputs, verification of calculations for conversion factors, percentage claims, and credit accounts, as applicable Review of sampled primary, secondary, and tertiary supplier records.
ST 5: Review of SAR and GHG data collection/ calculations	14:00	Review of GHG data, record-keeping, calculations, etc.
Closing meeting preparation	16:30	Auditor takes time to consolidate notes and review audit findings for presentation at closing meeting
Closing meeting	16:45	Convene with all relevant staff to summarize audit findings, review identified nonconformities, and discuss next steps
END	17:00	

5.4 List of forest management units and feedstock suppliers visited

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

Site name
Varn Wood Products

Site location
Hoboken, GA
Site description
The organization has a sawmill adjacent to its pellet mill. Green mill chips and dry shavings are sourced from this location.
Rationale and focus of visit
Adjacent to pellet mill
Description of audit activity
PEFC COC audit

5.5 Describe audit sampling methodology used

Supplier sampling is determined using SBP sampling formulas described or cited in SBP Standard 3. Audit teams ensure to sample across the variety of forest ecosystems and/or feedstocks from which the organization sources, including by selecting different land ownership/management (e.g., small, public, private, etc.), harvesting types (thinning, final harvest), and feedstock type (primary, processing residues, hardwood, softwood, etc.). The sample required a minimum of one supplier to be reviewed. The audit team reviewed records for at least three suppliers during the course of the audit to evaluate aspects of conformance to ST 1-4.

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.

SCS relies on its Master Stakeholder List, which contains interested parties such as stakeholders and/or rightsholders that are identified by type (e.g. ENGO, Government/regulatory, Educational/Academic, Industry, Indigenous/Aboriginal/Tribal, etc.) This list is categorized by country and state/province/territory at the very least, and for this consultation was filtered to omit any interested parties that were not geographically relevant to the certificate holder/applicant's supply base. A notification is sent out to all identified interested parties after the BP's consultation period has ended. Comments from interested parties that are received outside of regular consultation periods are fully considered. Methods used to communicate with interested parties may include, but are not limited to, public, private or semi-private meetings, email, telephone, written correspondence, and/or messaging application.

Consultation that may have been conducted by the BP during the audit period may be described in the BP's SBR. Sometimes, formal and informal consultation may not be documented in the BP's SBR due to confidentiality concerns of interested parties.

The following consultation activities occurred as a part of this audit:
☒ Consultation has been conducted by SCS Global Services.
☐ Consultation has been conducted by SCS Global Services, but interested parties did not respond to any communications and/or did not provide permission to include comments in the report.

☐ No consultation has been conducted by SCS Global Services.

5.7 Stakeholder feedback and response

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

Stakeholders did not provided any feedback to the CB.

5.8 Main strengths and weaknesses of the management system and operations

The organization's data collection and management systems for sourcing, tracking, and tracing feedstock remain strong. All material is sourced from within the defined Supply Base. Systems for collecting and calculating information for the SAR have been in place for several years, only requiring incremental improvements. Staff interviewed are well-qualified for their role in the SBP control system.
For weaknesses, refer to nonconformities issued.

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

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

The organization uses the two interim RRAs applicable to the USA (US SE Private Forest and USFS lands). There are specified risk indicators only for SE Private lands for which the organization implements a subset of recommended mitigation measures.

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

The audit team confirmed via review of supplier records (e.g., agreements, load tickets, etc.) and observation onsite that the organization only uses processing residues (green mill chips and dry shavings). The audit team reviewed maps of the location of feedstock suppliers that included aerial imagery to confirm that these sites can produce processing residues.

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

The audit team reviewed a sample of supplier agreements, load and scale tickets, the mass balance account, conversion factors, and sales records vis-a-vis DTS.

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

The audit team reviewed a sample of utility records, load and scale tickets, lab data, quality reports, and calculations maintained in Excel files. The audit team inspected facilities to confirm the location of utility meters, fuel tanks, and the quality lab.

5.13 Summary of audit findings for competency of involved personnel

The organization's staff have experience and qualifications relevant for their positions, as confirmed via interviews.
The organization contracts Greener Options Inc., a sustainable consulting company that specializes in sustainable forestry certification. The principal has is a SAF Certified Forester, a Georgia Registered Forester, and an ISO 14001 Environmental Management Lead Auditor with over 35 years of work experience in the forest products industry including forest management, fiber procurement, wildlife & biodiversity management, and environmental management systems.

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

N/A

6.2 CB evaluation of specified risk indicators and mitigation measures