Preferred by Nature OÜ Evaluation of Södra Wood A/S Compliance with the SBP Framework: Public Summary Report

Fourth Surveillance Audit

www.sbp-cert.org

The promise of good biomass

Completed in accordance with the CB Public Summary Report Template Version 1.8

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

Document history

Version 1.0: published 26 March 2015

Version 1.1: published 30 January 2018

Version 1.2: published 4 April 2018

Version 1.3: published 10 May 2018

Version 1.4: published 16 August 2018

Version 1.5: published 22 October 2020

Version 1.7: published 12 November 2022

Version 1.8: published 26 April 2023

Table of Contents

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:	Christian Jürgensen
Audit team members:	Christian Jürgensen
Name of the Company:	Södra Wood A/S
Company legal address:	Frydenborgvej 27N 1. sal, 3400 Hillerød, Denmark
Company contact for SBP:	N/A
Company contact email:	N/A
Company website:	www.sodra.dk
Installation date:	N/A

(production of heat, cooling or electricity from biomass has started)

SBP Certificate Code:	SBP-01-48
Date of certificate issue:	02 Nov 2021
Date of certificate expiry:	01 Nov 2026

Audit closing meeting date:	25 Apr 2025
Audit cycle:	Fourth Surveillance Audit

2 Scope of the evaluation and SBP certificate

Scope Item	Check all that apply to the Certificate Scope	Change in scope (N/A for Assessments)
Primary Activity:	Trader	☐
Approved Standards:	SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody; SBP Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data Instruction; Instruction Document 5E: Collection and Communication of Energy and Carbon Data 1.5	☐
Includes Supply Base Evaluation (SBE):	No	☐
Includes REDII scheme	No	☐
Includes REDII SBE	No	☐
Includes communication of Dynamic Batch Sustainability Data (DBSD)	Yes	☐
Includes Group Scheme	No	☐
Products	Chips, Pellets	☐

Feedstock types:		☐
Feedstock origin (countries):		☐
SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessments used: **Public link:** https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/risk-assessments/	Not applicable	☐
Chain of custody system implemented:	FSC: NC-COC-011838 PBN-PEFC-COC-000130	☐
	Transfer	☐

2.1 Description of the company

Södra Wood A/S is trader in wood pellets and wood chips with its SBP scope covering trading activities only. The purchase and sales are usually made under the INCOTERM FOB terms for both purchases and sales, but could also be CIF depending on the customer's facilities. The Organisation is not in physical possession of claimed material.

2.2 Detailed description of the Chain of Custody system

The Organisation implements a FSC CoC transfer system although it is never in physical possession of claimed material.

3 Specific objective

The specific objective of this surveillance audit was to confirm that the Organisation's management system is being implemented in accordance with SBP standard requirements applicable to traders, including the use of outsourced storage functions, and maintaining conformance with SBP CoC and FSC CoC requirements, including activities handled by subcontractors.
This report documents the fourth annual surveillance audit.

The Organisation holds valid FSC and PEFC certificates with transfer systems implemented. The point of purchase varies, and can be FOB, at storage facilities in several ports or EXW at the biomass production facility, and the point of sale scan be FOB at export harbour, CIF at harbour or at customer's facilities.

The scope of the evaluation covered:
- Review of the BP's documented procedures;
- Review of the storage / logistics processes,
- Review of FSC system control points, analysis of the existing FSC CoC system;
- Interviews with responsible staff;
- Review of the records on-site.

4 Evaluation process

4.1 Timing of evaluation activities

Audit Level of Effort (LoE)		
Activity	***Auditors***	**Auditor hours**
1. Preparation	Christian Jürgensen	3.0
2. On-site (excl. travel time)	Christian Jürgensen, Katarina Steneke	7.0
3. Report writing	Christian Jürgensen	4.0
4. Other	N/A	4.0

Audit Schedule			
Activity	**Location**	**Auditor name**	**Date/time**
Opening meeting	Main site	Christian Jürgensen	26 Feb 2025/09:00
Interview with the FSC, PEFC and SBP responsible personnel; review of procedures	Main site	Christian Jürgensen	26 Feb 2025/09:30
Purchase department	Main site	Christian Jürgensen	26 Feb 2025/12:30

SBP transactions DTS	Main site	Christian Jürgensen	26 Feb 2025/13:00
Review of training records, H&S safety records & trademarks	Main site	Christian Jürgensen	26 Feb 2025/14:00
Round-up and auditor's own time	Main site	Christian Jürgensen	26 Feb 2025/15:30
Preliminary closing meeting	Main site	Christian Jürgensen	26 Feb 2025/16:00
Reviewing handling of gods, health and safety aspects	Outsourced location	Katarina Steneke	25 Apr 2025/09:00
Final closing meeting/wrap-up	Phone	Christian Jürgensen	25 Apr 2025/15:00

Auditor qualification		
Auditor name	**Role**	**Qualification**
Christian Jürgensen	Lead Auditor	Christian holds a master's degree in Forestry and Nature Management from Copenhagen University and has more than 12 years of experience within state administration, the UN system and the NGO field. At Preferred by Nature he functions as a senior biomass auditor and coordinates and conducts evaluations against the SBP and RBP biomass standards, the Danish biomass legislation, PEFC and FSC forest standards and PEFC and FSC chain-of-custody (CoC) standards.

Katarina Steneke	Team member	Katarina university degree in Pedagogy. She studied logistics and economics at the University of Gothenburg. 13 years of experience from a global trading house in paper, pulp and bioenergy. Katarina has undergone Lead Auditor training for PEFC and FSC certification.

4.2 Description of evaluation activities

This audit was done concurrently with the FSC and PEFC CoC audit of the organization and verification of EU RED II +Danish ad-on requirements compliance of the company's wood pellets imports.

The auditor convened with representatives of the Organisation for the opening meeting for the combined audit of all schemes on 26 February 2025. The audit kicked off with an introduction round of all participants. This included a rundown of the audit plan, sample-based methodology description and explanation of the aim of the audit. This also included a brief on the CB's internal audit report approval and confidentiality confirmation among of the auditor.
With this covered, the auditor proceeded to cover all applicable requirements of the Standards, including management system, CoC, recordkeeping requirements, emission and energy data. This was followed with an audit of the purchasing and sales functions. During the process, the overall responsible person for the SBP system and responsible staff with key responsibilities within the system were interviewed.
The preliminary closing meeting was held in the afternoon. During the closing meeting, auditor explained the results of the audit and further actions were discussed.
Present during the opening meeting and the closing meeting were Frank Lund Larsen, Managing Director, Rasmus Vadmand, Certification manager and Rufus Larsen, Logistik og transport, together with Preferred by Nature's auditor Christian Jürgensen.

The audit then proceeded on 25 April when a member of the audit team (Katarina Steneke) visited a remotely located outsourced location to audit and verify how the organization implements the management and CoC system and adhere to occupation health and safety standards followed up by a final closing meeting the same day by phone between the lead auditor and vertification manager Rasmus Vadmand.

The organization will be audited again on 4 July 2025 by the same audit team under SBP standards version 2 for the purpose of transitioning the organization to these.

4.3 Sampling methodology

A sample of purchase and sales documents were reviewed

4.4 CB stakeholder engagement

N/A - trader only

4.5 Stakeholder feedback

N/A - trader only

5 Results

5.1 Main strengths and weaknesses

The Organisation is a trader of biomass and has simple scope and a simple management system with only limited trading of SBP claimed material. This produces good visibility in all operations going on at the company and easy to implement the CoC and SBP procedures.
Weaknesses: No weaknesses related to the Organisation's performance and its adherence to SBP requirements were found during the audit.

5.2 Rigour of Supply Base Evaluation

Not applicable

5.3 Collection and communication of data

The Organisation generally transfer all data via the RADIX Tree platform, but is also able to conduct trades organised with SREGs should this be necessary.

5.4 Competency of involved personnel

The Organisation has appointed competent personnel to handle to its SBP certificate and associated activities. The main responsible person is Managing Director Frank Lund Larsen supported by Rasmus Vadmand and Rufus Larsen. Other interviewed staff showed good competence, good awareness of standard requirements and own responsibilities.

6 Review of company's risk assessments

6.1 Overview of company's risk assessments and mitigation measures

Not applicable

6.2 Specified risk indicators and mitigation measures

Country:
N/A

Indicator:
N/A

Specific risk description:
N/A

Mitigation measure:
N/A

7 Non-conformities and observations

8 Certification decision

Based on the auditor's recommendation and the Certification Body's quality review, the following certification decision is taken:	
Certification decision:	Certification approved
Certification decision by (name of the person):	Mikhail Rai
Date of decision:	12 Jun 2025
Other comments:	N/A