



Compliance with the SBP Framework: Public Summary Report

SCS Global Services
Evaluation of Grand River Pellets, Limited
Second Surveillance Audit

Sustainable Biomass Program
sbp-cert.org





Completed in accordance with the CB Public Summary Report Template Version 2.0

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

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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:	ERROR: Works only for SBR or PSR form. Please alter the function by adding more tables, or by dynamic sql
Name of the Company:	Grand River Pellets, Limited
Company legal address:	75 ch. Grande Rivière, E2E 2K3 Saint-Léonard, Canada
Company contact for SBP:	Katherine Carrier
Company contact email:	carrier.katherine@jdirving.com
Company website:	https://www.grandriverpellets.com/en/
Date of installation:	
SBP Certificate Code:	SBP-04-41
Date of certificate issue:	29 Jul 2024
Date of certificate expiry:	28 Jul 2029
Audit closing meeting date:	24 Jun 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):	Kresimir Colic
Date of decision:	11 Sep 2026
Other comments:	N/A

2.2 Open non-conformities and observations

2.3 Closed non-conformities

NC number 9103		NC Grading: Minor
Standard:	Instruction Document 5E: Collection and Communication of Energy and Carbon data. v2.1	
Requirement:	3.7.1 Different types of fuels may be used in the plant. Either fossil fuels, such as: diesel oil; – gasoline; – natural gas; – propane; – LPG; – butane; and – other (to be specified). Or biomass fuels, such as: – sawmill residues; – forest residues; – imported bark; – bark from onsite debarking of roundwood; – diverted biomass product (e.g. material exiting the dryer); – non-wood biomass to be specified; – biodiesel; – bioethanol; and – other (to be specified). For every type of fuel used, specify fuel consumption during the reporting period in: – litres; – kg; or – Nm³ / metric tonne biomass. For every type of fuel used, specify the process: – chipping / crushing; – handling; – burner for drying, – boiler; – onsite CHP; – third-party CHP; – emission control; – offsite chipping; or – multiple or other use (to be specified) N/A N/A	
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:		
One date was missing from the diesel calculation for diesel equipment.		
Timeline for Conformance:	Other	
Evidence Provided by Company to close NC:	The Excel file was corrected and the value updated in the SAR.	
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	The updated value was confirmed via review of the SAR.	
NC Status:	Closed	

NC number 9104	NC Grading: Minor
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Standard:	Instruction Document 5E: Collection and Communication of Energy and Carbon data. v2.1
Requirement:	3.8.2 If feedstock is dried, then the following data shall be recorded in the corresponding Tables 3.5.2 of the SAR. Initial moisture of the feedstock, as received on wet basis, and method for its evaluation: – weighted average of moisture measurements performed on all Feedstock Groups; – typical value based on some measurements (frequency of measurements, supplier / process specifications); or – standard value, e.g. for round wood, when justification is provided. Type of dryer: – drum dryer; – belt dryer; or – other (to be specified). Energy carrier: – steam; – hot water; – hot air / flue gases; or – other (to be specified). Heat consumption if a meter is installed Origin of the heat: – burner; – conventional burner; or – CHP. N/A N/A
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
The initial MC of the feedstock value recorded in the SAR could not be replicated using the current reporting period's data. Per review of the previous SAR, the old value was reported.	
Timeline for Conformance:	Other
Evidence Provided by Company to close NC:	The correct value from our spreadsheet was entered into the dryer table in the SAR.
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	The updated value was confirmed in the SAR.
NC Status:	Closed

2.4 Actions taken by Organisation Prior to Report Finalisation

The organization corrected data entry errors in the SAR.

2.5 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 EU RED: Bridging Requirements for Meeting the Directive EU/2023/2413 v2.0; Instruction Document 5E: Collection and Communication of Energy and Carbon data. v2.1
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 RED II Scheme	Yes
Includes RED II Supply Base Evaluation (SBE)	Yes
Products	WB 1.1 Wood pellets
Feedstock origin (countries):	Canada, United States
SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessments used: Public link: https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/risk-assessments/	SBP-RRA-CA-NB-FOR_v1.0 RRA for New Brunswick FOR_Interim
Chain of custody system	☐ Physical separation ☒ Mass balance
Outsourcing	No
Changes in the scope	None.

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 BP, Grand River Pellet, LTD., is a subsidiary of J.D. Irving, LTD., based in New Brunswick, Canada and is registered in the province under reference number 698486. The BP was formed specifically to produce pellets from secondary and tertiary material from regional saw and lumber mills. The BP procures a small amount of primary feedstock in the form of in-woods chips.

3.2 Site details

Legal entity name	Address	Site Activity	Visited during the audit
Grand River Pellets LTD	48 Chem. de la Grande Rivière, Saint Leonard, NB E7E 2M7, Canada	Pellet production	☒
JD Irving Sawmill - Scierie Grande-Riviere	48 Chem. de la Grande Rivière, Saint Leonard, NB E7E 2M7, Canada	Processing residue supplier; scaling	☒

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.

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 over 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	Kyle Meister	8.0
2. On-site (excl. travel time)	Kyle Meister	11.0
3. Report writing	Kyle Meister	6.0
4. Other	Kyle Meister	10.0

5.2 Auditor team qualification

Auditor qualification		
Auditor name	Role	Qualification
Kyle Meister	Lead Auditor	SBP Lead Auditor

5.3 Description of evaluation activities

Audit schedule: ST 1, 2, 4, and 5 (SBE/RRR and/or certified sourcing)

Activity	Location	Auditor name	Date	Time	Notes
Opening meeting (incl. review of previous non-conformities)	Grand River Pellets, Saint-Léonard, NB, Canada	K. Meister	23 June	8:00	Introductions, auditor review of audit scope, audit plan and intro/update to SBP and SCS standards and protocols, client description of organization
ST 4/ EU RED: inspection of processing residue				8:30	Inspection of processing residue suppliers.

supplier					
ST 1: field inspections				9:30	Inspections of sampled primary tracts.
Review of trademarks				13:00	SBP TMLA and trademarks
					Written procedures, work instructions, feedstock
Review of procedures				13:15	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)				14:00	Review of ST 1 and ST 2 requirements
ST 4: Business integrity, social, health & safety				15:00	Overlaps with ST 1 and general COC requirements
					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
ST 4: review of inputs, outputs, traceability, training, etc.				16:00	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	Grand River Pellets	K. Meister	24 June	8:00	Review of GHG data, record-keeping, calculations, etc.
Inspection: verification of COC and GHG control points, OHS measures, scope end points				10:00	Review of physical inputs and outputs, material receipt, storage, processing, sale, and overall control [remove if not applicable, e.g. desk audit]
Interviews with staff					Training, OSH, responsibilities, etc.
Closing meeting preparation				11:00	Auditor takes time to consolidate notes and review audit findings for presentation at closing meeting
Closing meeting				11:30-12:00	Convene with all relevant staff to summarize audit findings, review identified nonconformities, and discuss next steps

5.4 List of forest management units and feedstock suppliers visited

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

Site name
Yellow Brook/ BH01800B
Site location
Black Brook - Irving Woodlands
Site description
Tolerant hardwood stand, thinning completed March 2026
Rationale and focus of visit
Random selection; access; special site (raptor nest buffer zone)
Description of audit activity
Inspection of site; review of raptor nest buffered around Yellow birch and vernal pool. Unoccupied during harvest, 100 m buffer after March 1 for nesting season. Inspection of skid trails. Observation of snags and downed woody debris and tip-ups. Inspection of top piles and landing. No issues detected. Evidence of low-pressure, tracked equipment used for harvest.

5.5 Describe audit sampling methodology used

The organization has two types of feedstock organized into 7-20 categories depending on the annual number of suppliers and type. The minimum sample size for processing residues was one, and two were reviewed. Supplier audits Primary supplier FMUs visited: 1. Interviews: interviewed a sample of the organization's employees. No stakeholders responded to inquiries. 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, secondary, hardwood, softwood, etc.). Associated sales and shipping documentation were reviewed for DTS transactions sampled. Staff interview sampling was based on responsibilities for SBP.

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

Comments received by the organization's consultation program may be addressed in its SBR. Refer to the SBR for details. No stakeholder comments by SCS were received before, during or after the evaluation.

5.8 Main strengths and weaknesses of the management system and operations

Strengths: Data collection systems are strong. All information could be readily gathered and analyzed via the BP's data collection and management systems.

Weaknesses: Refer to any 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 SBP-approved RRA for New Brunswick, Canada was used for the Risk Assessment for primary feedstock received from New Brunswick. The EU RED RRA for Canada was used for primary feedstock sourced from New Brunswick under EU RED. All processing residue feedstock is sourced using an SBP-recognized certification scheme and thus qualifies as low risk.

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

- ☐ N/A – processing residues and/or post-consumer feedstock not used.
{{_PSR20_summary_standard2_-1}}

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

The auditor reviewed the Chain of Custody Procedure (5.3.3 SBP) that includes the process for maintaining the chain of custody for the feedstock. The personnel interviewed had knowledge of the requirements for chain of custody. All delivery tickets had the name and address of the buyer, date, product, quantity and certificate number (if applicable) for each delivery.

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

The organization has a comprehensive set of records in which all Standard 5 data is compiled and maintained. All compilation and calculations are conducted by organization's staff through use of IT platforms, logbooks, and/or spreadsheets.

5.13 Summary of audit findings for competency of involved personnel

The BP maintains several sustainable forestry certifications in two countries and thus has competent personnel to ensure long-term conformance.

BP staff involved in the audit were knowledgeable of forest management, wood products, engineering, and manufacturing. REDIII compliance is based on feedstock types and mass balance requirements.

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 REDII scope

N/A

6.2 CB evaluation of specified risk indicators and mitigation measures

Country
Canada
Area/Sub-Scope
N/A
Indicator
2.2.3 Soil quality in the Supply Base shall be maintained or enhanced
Specified risk description
On industrial private land, there are no regulatory requirements to manage or maintain soil quality. As of March 2024, there is no publicly available information describing implementation mechanisms to manage or maintain soil quality. On industrial private land, owners are responsible for the oversight of operations. As of March 2024, there is no publicly available information describing an oversight framework to manage or maintain soil quality on industrial private land.
Detailed description of a mitigation measure
It is fully covered by the SFI forest management certification. Evaluation of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) scheme using the Framework for benchmarking and recognition of certification schemes relevant to the scope of SBP certification.
Detailed description of CB evaluation of mitigation measure and its conclusions
Review of the SFI and PEFC certification requirements meet the mitigation measure requirements for this specified risk. The organization is certified to both program and audited against these requirements. Interviews with staff indicated knowledge of the mitigation measures needed to meet the indicator.