

Control Union Certifications B.V. Evaluation of Alameda Torrent S.L.U. Compliance with the SBP Framework: Public Summary Report

Main (Initial) Audit

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Completed in accordance with the CB Public Summary Report Template Version 1.4

*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

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Primary contact for SBP: Andrea Ferrazzo, +31 (0)657312287

Current report completion date: 01/Apr/2019

Report authors: Mr. L. Holm (Lead Auditor)

Name of the Company: Alameda Torrent S.L.U.

Company contact for SBP: Rosa Lloveras

Certified Supply Base: Catalunya

SBP Certificate Code: SBP-06-27

Date of certificate issue: 18/Apr/2019

Date of certificate expiry: 17/Apr/2024

This report relates to the Main (Initial) Audit

2 Scope of the evaluation and SBP certificate

Scope of evaluation: Main assessment audit to assess Alameda's conformance to SBP standards 2, 4, and 5 and respective Instruction Notes and Documents for use in woodchips production, at ALAMEDA TORRENT plant on VEINAT DE MONT-ROIG 37, 17244, GIRONA, SPAIN. The evaluation includes on-site visits to the office in Girona. The Organisation has been audited against PEFC Chain of Custody and holds a valid certificate. The scope of the certificate does not include a Supply Base Evaluation.

Scope of certificate: SBP standards 2, 4 and 5 are applicable and form the scope of the evaluation and thus, the SBP certificate. This certificate covers production and sales of woodchips for use in energy production. The scope of the certificate does not include a Supply Base Evaluation

3 Specific objective

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

The scope of the evaluation covered:

- Review of Alameda's management procedures;
- Review of PEFC system control points and an analysis of the existing PEFC system;
- Interviews with responsible staff;
- Review of the records, calculations and conversion coefficients;
- SAR data collection analysis.

4 SBP Standards utilised

4.1 SBP Standards utilised

Please select all SBP Standards used during this evaluation. All Standards can be accessed and downloaded from <https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/standards>

- ☐ SBP Framework Standard 1: Feedstock Compliance Standard (Version 1.0, 26 March 2015)
- ☒ SBP Framework Standard 2: Verification of SBP-compliant Feedstock (Version 1.0, 26 March 2015)
- ☒ SBP Framework Standard 4: Chain of Custody (Version 1.0, 26 March 2015)
- ☒ SBP Framework Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data (Version 1.0, 26 March 2015)

4.2 SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessment

Not applicable - No SBP endorsed Regional Risk Assessment was used for this assessment

5 Description of Company, Supply Base and Forest Management

5.1 Description of Company

Alameda Torrent S.L.U. is a small size company specialized in the production and delivery of wood chips. It has its own harvesting team that annually harvests more than 800 hectares of forests of all kinds, doing all kinds of forestry work: pruning, clearing, selective cutting and regeneration. The company adapts to each forest type using the proper machinery and necessary work techniques. The company performs opening and maintenance of fire protection strips at the perimeters of urban areas, industrial areas in order to minimize the risk of forest fires, electric lines cleanings, maintenance cutting and clear cuts for restoration of the land use to pastures. Forest work is performed using manual cutting as well as forwarders, skidders, forestry tractors, crawler and chipping machines. In total it harvests more than 30.000 t of wood per year. Regionally, Alameda Torrent S.L.U. is not a big company in terms of harvesting volumes. There are bigger companies harvesting more wood for biomass purposes, mainly in conifer forests.

5.2 Description of Company's Supply Base

Catalunya is located within the Mediterranean forest region. Forest types range from coastal forests dominated by Aleppo pine, Maritime pine and cork oak forests, to the continental formations of Scots and black pine and other types of oaks, beech forests in some humid massifs, to the alpine-type of ecosystems in the Pyrenees. The main challenge forests faces here are wildfires, followed by damages caused by wind or snow storms, as well as pests. These forests have been managed traditionally promoting timber and fuel wood extraction, but in the last 40 years forest management has considerably decreased.

5.3 Detailed description of Supply Base

The high diversity of Catalan forests implies many different products; not only timber and firewood, but also non-wood forest products such as mushrooms, truffles, pine cones and cork. Some of these present irregular productions, but all of them have an associated economic value, trade and specific industry. The estimated annual value of forest products coming from Catalan forests is 58,8 million €.

The primary forest sector (silviculture, exploitations and other supporting surveys) represent 0,03% of the Catalan GDP. All the economic activities included in the forest chain represent 1,6% of the total Catalan GDP. Nevertheless, it has to be considered that most of the wood used in the second transformation does not come from local forests. Main destinations of local wood are: biomass, saw timber, firewood, pulpwood. Biomass industry is the biggest in the region due to increased energy demands.

1,8% of the Catalan workers are within the forest chain. The forest sector presents around 1 700 workers affiliated to social security.

Alameda does harvesting mostly in pine forests. The silviculture of this species is generalized by rotation length about 100 years and thinings should be done every 20-25 years. Most of these forests have been

abandoned and the relevant thinings have not been made. Due to the fact that most of forests have not been managed during the last decades, the main purpose of cuts will be stand improvement, reduction of forest fire risk, pasture restoration. Stand improvement cutting consists of practices designed to produce more and better quality wood products by improving the quality and species of the stand and by increasing the rate of growth of the residual trees in the stand. Artificial or natural regeneration is ensured. There are the following species that could be met in Catalan forest:

- Mountain pine - *Pinus Uncinata*;
- Maritime pine - *Pinus pinaster*;
- Skots pine - *Pinus sylvestris*;
- Black pine - *Pinus nigra*;
- Aleppo pine - *Pinus halepensis*;
- Umbrella pine - *Pinus pinea*;
- Radiata pine - *Pinus radiata*;
- Spanish juniper - *Juniperus thunifera*;
- Holm oak - *Quercus ilex*;
- Downy oak - *Quercus pubescens*;
- Cork oak - *Quercus suber*;
- Sweet chestnut – *Castanea sativa*;
- Hybrid plane – *Platanus x hispanica*;
- Black poplar – *Populus nigra*;
- Narrow-leafed ash – *Fraxinus angustifolia*;
- Strawberry tree – *Arbutus unedo*;
- Black locust – *Robinia pseudoacacia*;
- Black alder – *Alnus glutinosa*;
- Eucaliptus - *Eucaliptus* spp.

Introduced species, such as *Eucaliptus* spp. and *Populus* spp. are allowed to use for short rotation forestry, but on a very limited scale.

Alameda Torrens S.L.U. does not harvest or purchase any tree species included in CITES list or IUCN. CITES list does not include any tree species from Spain. IUCN list includes Common Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) under “Near Threatened” status and Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) as “Vulnerable”. Alameda Torrens S.L.U. does not harvest, purchase or sell these species.

Feedstock used by Alameda Torrens S.L.U. for SBP certification is only SBP-compliant Primary Feedstock. It is coming mainly from two PEFC certified properties (2 suppliers, Ajuntament de Llanars and Ajuntament Vilallonga de Ter). Only Skots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Mountain pine (*Pinus uncinata*) are harvested in these forests for the scope of SBP deliveries.

5.4 Chain of Custody system

All feedstock sourced is covered by Alameda’s PEFC Chain of Custody system which, which is third party certified. The PEFC physical separation is applied and cover wood chips as a product group. All input

feedstock chipped and sold as SBP-compliant biomass is PEFC certified. Valid PEFC system description and other documents exist.

6 Evaluation process

6.1 Timing of evaluation activities

The audit occurred on March 27 and 28, 2019 by the above mentioned audit team. This report is the result of the findings of a certification evaluation carried out by an independent lead auditor representing Control Union Certifications. The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate the compliance of the client with respect to the standards used within the scope of the certificate.

Activity	Date/time	Location	Executed by (role)
Preparation (telephone/email on scope and planning)	01/03/2019 1,5 hours	Remote	Hubert Jurczyszyn (certifier)
Audit			
Opening meeting	27/03/2019 09:00-09:15	Alameda	Lennart Holm (lead auditor)
Review of documents and records, Supply Base Report	09:15 – 12:00	Alameda	Lennart Holm
Review of COC system/procedures, interview responsible personnel	13:00 – 15:00	Alameda	Lennart Holm
Interviews key personnel purchase and sales	15:00 – 18:00	Alameda	Lennart Holm
GHG paper audit and evidence review	28/03/2019 09:00 – 10:00	Alameda	Lennart Holm
Business integrity, social, health and safety requirements. Logo/Trademark use	10:00 – 12:00	Alameda	Lennart Holm
Closing Meeting	12:00 – 13:00	Alameda	Lennart Holm
Report writing	01/04/2019	Remote	Lennart Holm

6.2 Description of evaluation activities

The audit consisted of an opening meeting, during which the scope was confirmed. The auditor also explained the methods to be employed during the audit.

After this introduction, all relevant requirements of the applicable SBP standard(s) were verified on compliance through the use of a report template and checklists.

The audit was completed by filling in the audit report and discussing the audit results. During this closing meeting it was also discussed how evidence can be submitted of corrective action with respect to non-conformities that were identified during the audit.

Critical Control points were evaluated and found to be sufficiently managed and a closing meeting performed.

1. Names and affiliations of people interviewed	
Name:	Affiliation:
Rosa Lloveras	SBP Manager, Alameda
Francesc Alameda	CEO
Tatiana Savelyeva	Consultant
David Caler	Quality Manager, Alameda

2. Critical control points, summary	
<i>Identified CCP</i>	<i>Evaluation CCP</i>
Sourcing and input check	Check prior to sending the material by supplier and check upon request
Reception and storage	Reception and storage of material based on PEFC physical separation system.
Volume control	Physical separation but with 100% certified input material
Invoicing and shipping	All output materials will be SBP Compliant

6.3 Process for consultation with stakeholders

As the company does not have an SBE, they had no obligation to approach stakeholders themselves.

Consultation with stakeholders' was conducted by Control Union on 26/02/2019.

The process for stakeholder consultation consisted of sending direct email to different stakeholder categories: state institutions, local NGOs, authorities, government bodies, forest owners associations, academic and research institutions. All stakeholders are recorded on the stakeholder list.xls.

No comments received.

7 Results

7.1 Main strengths and weaknesses

The audit of Alameda demonstrated a good level of compliance with the required criteria of Standards 2, 4 and 5. There was reasonable evidence provided to support compliance where a Non-Conformity was not detected. The existence of a PEFC Chain of Custody system is considered a main strength with respect to Alamedas overall conformity with the relevant SBP standards.

For weaknesses, refer to the Non-Conformity registry.

7.2 Rigour of Supply Base Evaluation

N/A, no SBE in the scope of the certificate.

7.3 Collection and Communication of Data

The organization has in depth procedures for this in depth procedures for this. The company supplied the audit team actual data on Greenhouse Gas emissions, except for forest operations; including planting, harvesting, use of pesticides and fertilizers, where they used Biograce II default values.

7.4 Competency of involved personnel

The company has one person who has the main responsibility related to the SBP system. All personnel that is involved with SBP have received appropriate training whereby all relevant procedures and requirements have been covered. All training and instructions are based on the procedures as identified in company manuals, and training is provided by internal resources and recorded accordingly. Key personnel showed good knowledge of SBP requirements.

7.5 Stakeholder feedback

See 6.3 above

7.6 Preconditions

N/A, no preconditions.

8 Review of Company's Risk Assessments

Describe how the Certification Body assessed risk for the Indicators. Summarise the CB's final risk ratings in Table 1, together with the Company's final risk ratings. Default for each indicator is 'Low', click on the rating to change. Note: this summary should show the risk ratings before AND after the SVP has been performed and after any mitigation measures have been implemented.

Not applicable, the company is not having SBE in the scope of the certificate.

9 Review of Company's mitigation measures

Not applicable. No SBE in the scope of the certificate.

10 Non-conformities and observations

Identify all non-conformities and observations raised/closed during the evaluation (a tabular format below may be used here). Please use as many copies of the table as needed. For each, give details to include at least the following:

applicable requirement(s)

grading of the non-conformity (major or minor) or observation with supporting rationale

timeframe for resolution of the non-conformity

a statement as to whether the non-conformity is likely to impact upon the integrity of the affected SBP-certified products and the credibility of the SBP trademarks.

NC number 01	NC Grading: Minor
Standard & Requirement: Std 2, 7.1	The BP shall prepare a Supply Base Report (SBR) which shall be made readily accessible on the BP's website. Commercially sensitive and confidential information may be excluded from the SBR.
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:	
Supply base report is made in English and Spanish but is not yet uploaded and available on the company's website.	
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:	Click or tap here to enter description provided by Company to close the NC.
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	Click or tap here to enter description provided by Company to close the NC.
NC Status:	Open

11 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):	Hubert Jurczyszyn
Date of decision:	25/Apr/2019
Other comments:	No further comments