



BIOMASS AND BIOFUELS SUSTAINABILITY

Demonstrating the sustainability and compliance of biomass and biofuels with EU legal requirements

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Biofuels and biomass have been heavily promoted as being part of the solution to mitigate climate change, as well as anticipate the scarcity of fossil fuels in the future. Governments in Europe, the USA and other countries such as Brazil are setting high targets for the use of biofuels in the coming years through fiscal incentives and promote actively the use of these sources of renewable energy. This favourable context results in many new market opportunities for companies within the biofuels and biomass value chains, from the growers of biomass to the biofuels producers and final distributors.

Nevertheless, the use of biofuels can also indirectly result in environmental and social negative impacts that need to be controlled and managed throughout the supply chain to ensure that biomass and biofuels remain a sustainable source of energy.

The European Renewable Energy Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources sets clear requirements to ensure that the following potential negative environmental and social impacts are actively managed and monitored through independent verification; GHG emissions in the production of biofuels, impacts on lands with high biodiversity values, impacts on lands with high carbon stocks, and impacts on peatlands.

WHAT IS BIOMASS AND BIOFUELS SUSTAINABILITY VERIFICATION?

The sustainability of the biomass used for the production of the different types of biofuels can be evaluated against specific requirements included in voluntary certification schemes recognized by the EU and through audits performed by independent certification bodies. Independent verification needs to cover the entire supply chain, from the biomass producer to the final biofuels distributor in the EU market.

WHAT ARE THE KEY BENEFITS OF BIOMASS AND BIOFUELS VERIFICATION?

- Verification of the sustainability of biomass and biofuels is a requirement to access the European Markets and for biofuels distributors to benefit from tax incentives delivered by EU member states.
- Verification of sustainability under approved schemes such as 2BSvs, ISCC EU, REDcert EU, SURE and KZR INiG provides an independent guarantee that your products are in conformity with the requirements of the relevant European Legislation.
- Certified biomass can also be used for other type of applications such as in the food industry.

WHAT IS RED II?

RED is the European Union's Renewable Energy Directive, which first came into force in 2009. It established sustainability criteria for biofuels, biomass fuels including renewable fuels of non-biological origin, and recycled carbon fuels. RED II came into force on July 1, 2021. It introduced extra criteria regarding, for example, sustainability for forestry feedstocks and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for solid and gaseous biomass fuels. It also defined a series of sustainability and GHG emission criteria for bioliquids used in transport. Several voluntary programs exist to help companies ensure full compliance.

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WHAT ARE THE SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA THAT MUST BE MET UNDER THE EUROPEAN DIRECTIVE 2018/2001/EU?

In order to ensure the sustainability of the biomass and biofuels, the European Union requires verification of the following sustainability characteristics:

- A reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Avoid any impact on lands with high biodiversity values (primary forests, protected areas and ecosystems, and highly biodiverse grassland)
- Protection of land with high carbon stock (forested land, wetlands, peatland)
- Soil, water and air protection is promoted as well as a respect of environmental and social international agreements

Operators are required to provide member states with evidence that these criteria have been respected during the production of biomass and biofuels. Such official evidence is provided through verification against the EU approved 2BSvs scheme requirements (http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/biofuels/sustainability_schemes_en.htm) and verified through independent third party audits.

BUREAU VERITAS APPROACH

With Bureau Veritas expertise in all the main certification schemes currently available globally, we are committed to helping you in choosing the most appropriate certification scheme. Depending on the specific constraints of your activities and supply chain, we can perform independent audits against the certification standard that best fits your needs and guarantees the sustainability of your activities to your clients and stakeholders. Bureau Veritas can also provide your organisation with relevant support to facilitate a better understanding of the certification requirements.

Bureau Veritas Certification is currently approved and can propose to your organisation the following biomass and biofuels certification services;

- 2BSvs – Global scope and covers all types of feedstocks
- ISCC DE & EU – Global scope and covers all types of feedstocks
- REDCert – Scope limited to EU member states for biofuels distributed in Germany only. Covers all types of feedstocks
- SURE - Sustainable Resources voluntary scheme for heat and electricity supply chain. Scope limited to EU member states

Bureau Veritas certification process will follow all the necessary requirements of the specific scheme you need to implement, with the guarantee of a service to the highest professional standards.

After conformity with the scheme requirements has been independently verified by Bureau Veritas Certification, you will receive a certificate and will be registered on the relevant database such as the 2BSvs website (<http://en.2bsvs.org/economic-operators.html>). The Bureau Veritas certificate of sustainability will allow you to promote your products worldwide and demonstrate conformity with the European requirements for sustainable biomass and biofuels.

WHY CHOOSE BUREAU VERITAS?



NETWORK

A global presence and a network of more than 60 qualified auditors, an in-depth knowledge of the industry and expertise in global supply chains, together with a clear understanding of local situations and local challenges.



EXPERTISE

Expertise in Sustainability Certification – Together with the verification of conformity against the sustainability requirements for biomass and biofuels, Bureau Veritas Certification can provide your organization with a number of global certification services: Carbon verification, corporate social responsibility, sustainable agriculture and forestry management.



RECOGNITION

A leader in the verification of biomass and biofuels – Bureau Veritas developed the 2BSvs voluntary certification scheme with all the main actors in the French biofuels industry, and has a thorough knowledge of the needs of the biofuels industry and of the specific European regulations.

For more information:

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