



Revision of the RSB Standard for end-of-life products, by-products and residues

Public Summary of the process

April 2016

1. Introduction

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB) is an international coalition bringing together farmers, companies, non-governmental organizations, experts, governments, and inter-governmental agencies concerned with ensuring the sustainability of biomass, biofuel and biomaterial production. The *RSB Standard for end-of-life products, by-products and residues* defines how operators may use end-of-life-products, by-products and residues as a feedstock for biofuel or biomaterial production.

As a full member of the *ISEAL Alliance*, RSB reviews standards at least every five years to ensure their continued relevance and effectiveness in meeting the stated objectives. The review process is fully in line with the ISEAL requirements on standard-setting and includes consultation with the public and RSB members, followed by the approval from the RSB Assembly of Delegates. Timelines and opportunities for contributing to the process can be found in section 6.

2. Scope of the Standard and geographic application

The scope of the *RSB Standard for end-of-life products, by-products and residues* is global and covers the full supply chain. It is important to note however, that operators who intend to market biofuels within the European Union need to use the RSB EU RED Standard in order to produce biofuels eligible to be accounted towards EU member states' energy quotas.

3. Justification of need for the Standard

The main benefit of using *end-of-life-products, by-products and residues* as biofuel or biomaterial feedstock is to reduce the pressure on lands and resources compared to feedstocks that are purposefully grown to produce biofuels (e.g. agricultural crops).

A certification standard for the certification of biomaterials and biofuels from these material types needs to:

1. Define the specific terminology in the context of the selected feedstock types and pathways
2. Define feedstocks eligible to be certified under the standard
3. Define sustainability requirements
4. Define the approach towards GHG calculation
5. Define traceability requirements

The RSB Standard covers all aspects as listed above.

Note: Auditing requirements are not part of this standard as they are defined in the *RSB Procedure for Certification Bodies and Auditors*. However, the requirements that are specific for this supply chain will be reviewed as part of this standard revision process.

In the context of the EU Renewable Energy Directive, other voluntary schemes are available for the certification of biofuels from waste or residues. However, other standards also available for this purpose do not fully cover the aspects described above as no other standard is available that looks at the sustainability aspects of waste or residue based feedstocks and processing pathways.

Sustainability issues related to waste related supply chains include:

- Risk that soil organic matter diminishes as a consequence of using harvesting residues from agriculture (e.g. straw, husks, cobs, leaves and stems).
- Risk of deforestation and unsustainably managed forests when using harvesting residues from forestry.
- Unsustainable origin of palm residues and by-products.
- Environmental impacts and animal welfare in supply chains using animal fat.
- Environmental and social impacts of processing units.

4. Description of the Standard Setting Procedure

The revision process follows the *RSB Procedure for Development and Modification of Standards* (RSB-STD-15-001), which is aligned with the ISEAL Standard-Setting Code. The opportunities for stakeholder consultation are in bold.

- Draft version 2.0 of the Standard prepared by the Secretariat
- **Public Consultation on Version 2.0 (draft): May 1st – June 30th 2016**
- Revision of the Draft prepared by the Secretariat based on the public consultation
- **RSB Chamber Consultation: September 2016**
- Revision of the draft prepared by the Secretariat based on the chambers` comments
- RSB Board of Directors review of the Standard revision process
- RSB Assembly of Delegates Approval of the Standard: November 2016

For any comment or suggestion regarding these Terms of Reference or to participate in the ongoing revision of the RSB Standard, please contact:

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