Introduction

The objective of RSB-STD-15-003, Standard for adaptation to biomass production standards, is to ensure that the RSB Principles, RSB Criteria and RSB Indicators applicable to feedstock producers can be adapted in order to integrate relevant and compatible existing biomass production standards in the scope of certification of conformity with the RSB Principles & Criteria. Corresponding adaptations are defined in RSB Interface Standards. If the requirements of relevant and compatible existing biomass production standards are equivalent to or more stringent than the requirements of the RSB Principles & Criteria, these standards can be recognized by RSB as technically equivalent.

Figure 1: Schematic overview of the RSB standard for adaptation to biomass production standards

The objective of these procedures is to ensure that the adaptations will be conducted in efficient, consistent, transparent and standardized manner. In addition to this document all relevant responsibilities will be defined for conducting the adaptation, evaluation and approval process.
The formal decision to develop a new *RSB Interface Standard* or to recognize an *existing biomass production standard* as technically equivalent to *RSB Principles & Criteria* is taken by RSB, based on a need assessment and proposal submitted by an entity with a demonstrated interest in the adaptation of the *RSB Principles, RSB Criteria* and/or the *RSB Indicators* to the *existing biomass production standard*. Until a *RSB Interface Standard* is approved or an existing biomass production standard recognized as technically equivalent by the RSB, the *RSB Principles & Criteria* are applicable.

When the *RSB Principles & Criteria* are amended, appropriate changes to the *RSB Interface Standard* must be made within 12 months.

The users of this standard are legal entities or natural persons proposing the *development of a RSB Interface Standard* or the recognition of technical equivalence of a *existing biomass production standard* and the RSB.
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ANNEX A  
Requirements for the written proposal for development of a RSB Interface Standard  

ANNEX B  
Requirements for the written proposal for recognition of an existing biomass production standard
A. Intent of this standard

This standard is intended to ensure that RSB Principles, RSB Criteria and RSB Indicators can be adapted to integrate existing biomass production standards in the scope of certification of conformance with RSB Principles & Criteria. To this end the standard defines the requirements for the analysis of gaps between RSB Principles & Criteria and existing biomass production standards, for the development of RSB Interface Standards where necessary and for the process from application to decision on approval by RSB. The process shall be undertaken under the following conditions:

i. The existing biomass production standard is already used widely and facilitates the certification of substantial quantities of sustainable biomass production.

ii. Implementation of the existing biomass production standard is verified through independent certification systems which are equivalent in systems, rigor and outcome to the RSB certification systems.

iii. The standard setting and certification processes of the existing biomass production standard meets international norms and best practices.

The requirements for the process for the development of the RSB Interface Standard listed below are intended to ensure that any entity or person initiating a process for development of a RSB Regional Standard is fully able to successfully complete the development process and maintain the resulting RSB Interface Standard in the long term. Constituents and stakeholder who feel that the development of a RSB Interface Standard is necessary, but who do not have the ability to initiate such a development process (e.g. for lack of available resources, etc.) should approach the RSB for guidance on the possibilities to address their respective concerns with respect to the RSB Principles & Criteria and corresponding indicators.

B. Scope of this standard

This standard is an international standard and valid worldwide, and specifies the requirements for the adaptation RSB Principles, RSB Criteria and RSB Indicators to existing biomass production standards and the development of RSB Interface Standards and the recognition of technical equivalence of existing biomass production standards.

C. Status and effective date

The version 2.0 of the RSB Standard for adaptation to biomass production standards shall be effective on 1 March 2011.
D. **Note on the use of this standard**

All aspects of this standard are considered to be normative, including the intent scope, standard *effective date*, references, terms and definitions, tables and annexes, unless otherwise stated.

Users implementing this standard shall ensure that the intent of this standard is met. To ensure that the intent of this standard is met users shall implement all of the requirements specified in this standard, and any and all additional measures necessary to achieve the intent of this standard.

These procedures are designed to comply with the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards (2006), and thereby to demonstrate compliance with the applicable requirements of ISO/IEC Guide 59 Code of good practice for standardization, and the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement Annex 3 Code of good practice for the preparation, adoption and application of standards. Excerpts from the TBT Second Triennial Review Annex 4, Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations with Relation to Articles 2, 5 and Annex 3 of the Agreement have also been drawn upon where appropriate.

E. **References**


WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement. Annex 3: Code of good practice for the preparation, adoption and application of standards

WTO TBT Second Triennial Review Annex 4, Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations with Relation to Articles 2, 5 and Annex 3 of the Agreement

RSB Principles & Criteria, RSB-STD-01-001

F. **Terms and definitions**

The Terms and definitions listed below refer to the use of terms in this *RSB Standard for adaptation to biomass production standards* (RSB-STD-15-003). While the terms listed below may be used differently in other documents and contexts, the definitions listed below are binding for this document. Terms used in the text of this standard, for which a definition is provided below, are written in italics. A full list of definitions can be found in *RSB-DOC-10-002 RSB Glossary of terms*. 
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>approval by RSB</td>
<td>decision of acceptance duly taken by the RSB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comments</td>
<td>suggestions, concerns and issues raised by stakeholders during the consultation process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>constituent</td>
<td>see stakeholder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crop</td>
<td>plant used for biomass production and the biomass produced based on this plant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>draft for approval</td>
<td>final draft of an RSB Standard ready for submission to the RSB for decision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>effective date</td>
<td>the date when a standard becomes effective and binding for the RSB, its members and constituents and the RSB Certification Systems and its constituents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>external standards</td>
<td>standards set by another independent standard setting organization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>existing biomass production standards</td>
<td>biomass production standards set by another independent standard setting organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>facilitator</td>
<td>the entity technically, legally, financially and politically accountable, responsible and liable for the transparent, comprehensive and consistent implementation of the proposed process for geographic adaptation of the RSB Criteria and corresponding RSB Indicators and the development of a RSB Crop Specific Standard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>geographic scope</td>
<td>specifies in detail to the political, legal, customary and/or technical social, environmental, cultural, ethical and/or economic conditions which differentiate the particular geographic region from neighboring regions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>particular geographic region</td>
<td>geographic region defined by its particular geographic scope.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prejudice</td>
<td>uneven access to or distribution of social, environmental and/or economic advantages and benefits, of disadvantages and burdens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public draft</td>
<td>draft of an RSB Standard published for consultation with stakeholders.</td>
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**Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels**

RSB - Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels  
EPFL - Ecole Polytechnique Federale De Lausanne  
Energy Center  
Château de Bassenges, Station 5  
CH - 1015 Lausanne  
Switzerland  
web: http://rsb.epfl.ch
RSB certification systems

institutions, constituents, governance mechanisms, processes and relationships which interact systematically to ensure comprehensive and consistent implementation of the RSB Criteria and corresponding RSB Indicators and RSB Standards.

RSB Criterion

objective of performance which is specifically and measurably operationalizing an RSB Principle.

RSB Indicator

outcome specifying a single aspect of performance which is specifically, measurably and achievabley operationalizing an RSB Criterion.

RSB member

Legal entity or natural person participating in the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels.

RSB Principle

description of the general intent of performance defined by the RSB.

RSB Crop Specific Standard

Standard developed through implementation of this RSB Standard for adaptation to crop specific conditions (RSB-STD-20-003). Standard resulting from adaptation of RSB Criteria and corresponding RSB Indicators to legal, technical, social, environmental, ethical and/or economic conditions specific to the cultivation of a specific crop.

RSB Interface Standard

standard developed through implementation of this RSB Standard for adaptation to biomass production standards (RSB-STD-20-005). Standard resulting from adaptation of RSB Principles, Criteria and Indicators to cover the gap between existing biomass production standard and RSB Principles & Criteria

RSB Regional Standard

standard developed through implementation of this RSB Standard for adaptation to geographic conditions. Standard resulting from adaptation of RSB Criteria and corresponding RSB Indicators to political, legal, customary and/or technical social, environmental, cultural, ethical and/or economic conditions in a particular geographic region.

RSB Steering Board

elected governing body of the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels consisting of representatives of the RSB members.

stakeholder

persons, groups or organizations who are directly or indirectly affected by or who can affect an activity, but also includes people and organizations who have concerns about the activity, or who might be responsible agents.

email: rsb@epfl.ch
**systematic effect**

an effect which occurs regularly due to a specific set of conditions and not incidentally or randomly.
G. Requirements

PART 1: PROCESS

1. General requirements for the adaptation to existing biomass production standards

   1. 1. The development of a RSB Interface Standard or the recognition of technical equivalence of a existing biomass production standard may be proposed to RSB if all of the following conditions are fulfilled:

      1. The existing biomass production standard can facilitate the certification of substantial quantities of sustainable biomass production;
      2. The existing biomass production standard meets the intent of the RSB Principles & Requirements;
      3. The existing biomass production standard has been developed in accordance with ISO Guide 59;
      4. The standard setting body of the existing biomass production standard is governed by a multi-stakeholder board;
      5. The certification system of the biomass production standard is being operated in accordance with ISO Guide 65.

   1. 2. The process for development of a RSB Interface Standard may be initiated by any entity and/or natural person with a demonstrated political, legal, customary and/or technical social, environmental, cultural, ethical and/or economic interest in the crop specific adaptation of the RSB Criteria and Indicators and the development of the RSB Interface Standard.

      Note: It is recommended that any entity and/or natural person intending to initiate the development a RSB Interface Standard contact the RSB for necessary guidance and support.

   1. 3. If all of the conditions listed under point 1.1 above are fulfilled the facilitator shall assess the need for the development of a RSB Interface Standard as defined in section 5.1 Need assessment for the development of a RSB Interface Standard.

   1. 4. Based on the outcome of the needs assessment the facilitator may propose:

      1. the development of a RSB Interface Standard if significant gaps between the requirements of the existing biomass production standard and the RSB Principles & Criteria have been identified;
      2. the recognition of the existing biomass production standard as technically equivalent to the RSB Principles & Criteria if the needs assessment
demonstrates that the existing biomass production standard is equally or more rigorous than the RSB Principles & Criteria.

1.5. Proposals to develop a RSB Interface Standard may be presented by any legal entity or natural person with a demonstrated political, legal, customary and/or technical social, environmental, cultural, ethical and/or economic interest in the development of a RSB Interface Standard (the facilitator).

1.6. Proposals to recognize existing biomass production standards as technically equivalent to the RSB Principles & Criteria applicable to feedstock producers may be presented by any legal entity or natural person with a demonstrated political, legal, customary and/or technical social, environmental, cultural, ethical and/or economic interest in the recognition of the specific biomass production standard (the facilitator).

1.7. The adaptation to existing biomass production standards and all associated processes (e.g. needs assessment, proposal development, proposal decision by RSB, standard development, consultation, approval by RSB, etc.) and results (e.g. new interface standards, revised standards, recognition of technical equivalence of existing standards, associated documents and guidance, etc.) shall meet the intent of the RSB Principles & Criteria.

1.8. Upon full and unconditional approval of the RSB Interface Standard through the RSB it shall be effective in conjunction with the existing biomass production standard as technically equivalent to the RSB Principles & Criteria as of the effective date.

1.9. Upon recognition of the existing biomass production standard as technically equivalent to the RSB Principles & Criteria applicable to feedstock producers through the RSB, valid certificates of compliance with the existing biomass production standard shall be accepted as proof of conformity with the RSB Principles & Criteria applicable to feedstock producers as of the date of publication of the decision by RSB.

1.10. For participating operators, which have already successfully implemented the RSB Principles & Criteria as well as the recognized existing biomass production standard, only verification of compliance with the RSB Interface Standard is necessary, starting with the effective date of the existing biomass recognition and the RSB Interface Standard.
2. Process for the development and approval of a RSB Interface Standard

2.1. The facilitator shall submit a written proposal, which meets the requirements specified in Annex A (Requirements for the proposal for the development of a RSB Interface Standard).

2.2. The formal decision to authorize the development of a RSB Interface Standard shall be taken by RSB.

2.3. Prior to the decision on the development of a RSB Interface Standard the written proposal shall be circulated to the RSB and the RSB members for review and comments.

2.4. Subject to compliance with the requirements specified in this standard, the decision on adopting or rejecting the proposal to develop a RSB Interface Standard shall be formally taken by the RSB and be publicly announced, e.g. through publication in the RSB Newsletter and on the RSB website.

2.5. The facilitator which submitted the proposal for development of a RSB Interface Standard will serve as the contact point between the RSB and the process for development of a RSB Interface Standard. The facilitator will be held technically, legally, financially and politically accountable, responsible and liable for the transparent implementation of the proposed process for the development of a RSB Interface Standard. The RSB shall at its sole discretion accept or reject delegation of the technical, legal, financial and political accountability and responsibility for the transparent implementation of the proposed process to another independent third party.

2.6. The facilitator shall:

1. enter into an agreement with the RSB (e.g. memorandum of understanding, contract, etc.) detailing the technical, legal, financial and political accountabilities, responsibilities and liabilities for the transparent implementation of the proposed process for the development of a RSB Interface Standard;

2. implement the agreement with the RSB and the proposed process for the development of a RSB Interface Standard as outlined in the proposal approved by the RSB;
3. report to the RSB periodically on the progress of the process for the development of a RSB Interface Standard;

4. present to the RSB for decision any changes to the process for the development of a RSB Interface Standard;

5. report to the RSB successful completion, suspension and/or termination of the process for the development of a RSB Interface Standard;

6. present to the RSB for decision the draft for approval of the Interface Standard including a comprehensive documentation of the process of development of the RSB Interface Standard and all other relevant documentation.

This documentation shall in particular include detailed reference

1. to comprehensive consultation of the RSB Interface Standard,

2. to any and all experience, knowledge, concerns and inputs provided by relevant and affected stakeholders and constituents, and

3. to an updated comprehensive and detailed strategy and program for long term maintenance of the RSB Interface Standard with specific reference to the long term viability and stability of the strategy and program for long term maintenance.

2. 7. Prior to the decision of approval of the RSB Interface Standard the RSB shall publish the draft for approval of the RSB Interface Standard for consultation with RSB member, RSB constituents and other interested parties and collect all comments and inputs provided.

2. 8. The RSB shall evaluate:

1. the draft of the RSB Interface Standard and related documentation for compliance with this standard, comprehensiveness, consistency and feasibility;

2. the process for developing the RSB Interface Standard and related documentation for compliance with this standard;

3. all inputs and comments provided to the proposal for development of a RSB Interface Standard and the names and affiliations of the stakeholders that provided the input and comment;

4. the draft of the RSB Interface Standard for any conflict or potential conflict with:

   1. the RSB Principles & Criteria including their respective indicators and the intent of the RSB Principles & Criteria,
2. other RSB Interface Standards,
3. RSB Interface Standards to existing Biomass/Biofuels schemes RSB Regional Standards,
4. RSB Crop Specific Standards,
5. other RSB standards, and/or
6. other international standards;
5. the strategy and program for long term maintenance of the RSB Interface Standard including in particular its long term viability and stability.

2. 9. RSB shall at its sole discretion either:
1 approve the RSB Interface Standard and recognize the existing biomass production standard in conjunction with the RSB Interface Standard as technically equivalent to the RSB Principles & Criteria applicable to feedstock producers; or
2 approve the RSB Interface Standard, with amendments; or
3 reject the RSB Interface Standard.

2. 10. If RSB approves the RSB Interface Standard and recognizes the existing biomass production standard in conjunction with the RSB Interface Standard as technically equivalent to the RSB Principles & Criteria applicable to feedstock producers, it shall make the RSB Interface Standard publicly available. The RSB Interface Standard shall then be binding for and be implemented by all participating operators and constituents who have implemented the existing biomass production standard.

2. 11. If RSB approves the RSB Interface Standard with minor amendments, it shall advise the Facilitator on the amendments required. The Facilitator shall implement these amendments directly or submit to the RSB a proposal on how the amendments will be addressed.

2. 12. If RSB rejects the RSB Interface Standard, it shall state the reasons for the rejection, and may suggest what steps it considers necessary in order to address its concerns. The Facilitator shall consider these reasons and submit to the RSB a proposal on how to address these reasons for rejection.
2. **RSB shall keep the following records for each process of development of a RSB Interface Standard:**

   1. written proposal for development of the RSB Interface Standard or recognition of technical equivalence;
   2. copies of all inputs and comments provided to the proposal for development of a RSB Interface Standard and the names and affiliations of the stakeholders that provided the input and comment;
   3. documentation of the approval by the RSB of the proposal for development of the RSB Interface Standard;
   4. agreement with the Facilitator;
   5. copies of all draft standards compiled in the process for development of the RSB Interface Standard;
   6. a description of all departures from this standard and all other RSB standards;
   7. the draft for approval of the RSB Interface Standard and accompanying documentation as it was submitted to the RSB for approval;
   8. copies of all inputs and comments provided to the draft for approval of the RSB Interface Standard and the names and affiliations of the stakeholders that provided the input and comment;
   9. documentation of the decisions by the RSB.

3. **Process for the recognition of technical equivalence of existing biomass production standards**

   3. 1. The Facilitator shall submit a written proposal, which meets the requirements specified in Annex B (Requirements for the proposal for recognition of technical equivalence of existing biomass production standard to RSB Principles & Criteria).

   3. 2. The formal decision to recognize the technical equivalence of an existing biomass production standard to RSB Principles & Criteria shall be taken by RSB.

   3. 3. Prior to the decision of technical equivalence the written proposal shall be published by RSB for consultation with RSB members, RSB Constituents and other interested parties and collect all inputs and comments provided.

   3. 4. The facilitator which submitted the proposal for recognition of technical equivalence of an existing biomass production standard will serve as the contact point between the RSB and the process for development of a RSB Interface
The facilitator will be held technically, legally, financially and politically accountable, responsible and liable for the comprehensiveness and truthfulness of the results of the need assessment and all other information submitted in the proposal.

3.5 The RSB shall evaluate:

1. the proposal, need assessment and related documentation for compliance with this standard, comprehensiveness and consistency;

2. copies of all inputs and comments provided to the proposal for recognition of technical equivalence of the existing biomass production standard and the names and affiliations of the stakeholders that provided the input and comment;

3. the existing biomass production standard for any conflict or potential conflict with

   1. the RSB Principles & Criteria including their respective indicators and the intent of the RSB Principles & Criteria;
   2. other RSB Interface Standards;
   3. RSB Interface Standards to existing Biomass / Biofuels schemes;
   4. RSB Regional Standards;

5. RSB Crop Specific Standards;

6. other RSB standards; and/or

7. other international standards.

4. the strategy and program for long term monitoring of technical equivalence of the existing biomass production standard, in particular in case revisions of the RSB Standards or the existing biomass production standard.

3.6 RSB shall at its sole discretion either:

1. recognize the existing biomass production standard as technically equivalent to the RSB Principles & Criteria applicable to feedstock producers; or

2. recognize the existing biomass production standard as technically equivalent to the RSB Principles & Criteria applicable to feedstock producers, under the condition of development of a RSB Interface Standard; or
3. refuse the recognition of technical equivalence of the existing biomass production standard to the RSB Principles & Criteria applicable to feedstock producers.

3. 7. If RSB recognizes the existing biomass production standard as technically equivalent to the RSB Principles & Criteria applicable to feedstock producers, it shall publicly communicate its decision. Certificates of conformity with the existing biomass production standard shall be recognized as certification of conformity with the RSB Principles & Criteria applicable to feedstock producers.

3. 8. If RSB recognizes the existing biomass production standard as technically equivalent to the RSB Principles & Criteria applicable to feedstock producers under the conditions of the development of a RSB Interface Standard, it shall advise the Facilitator on the amendments required. The Facilitator can then submit to the RSB a proposal for the development of a RSB Interface Standard as defined in Annex A.

3. 9. If RSB refuses to recognize the existing biomass production standard as technically equivalent to the RSB Principles & Criteria applicable to feedstock producers, it shall state the reasons for the rejection, and may suggest what steps it considers necessary in order to address its concerns. The Facilitator can consider these reasons and submit to the RSB a proposal on how to address these reasons for refusal.

3. 10. RSB shall keep the following records for each process of recognition of existing biomass production standards:

1. written proposal for the recognition of the existing biomass production standard as technically equivalent to the RSB Principles & Criteria applicable to feedstock producers;
2. copies of all inputs and comments provided to the proposal for the recognition of technical equivalence of the existing biomass production standard to the RSB Principles & Criteria applicable to feedstock producers and the names and affiliations of the stakeholders that provided the input and comment;
3. copies of all responses to stakeholder input and comment;
4. a description of all departures from this standard and all other RSB standards;
5. documentation of the decisions by the RSB.
PART 2: CONTENT

4. Reference to scope and conditions
   4. 1. The RSB Interface Standard shall, in its introduction, make reference to the existing biomass production standard to which it relates, including governance structures, development process and verification system.

   4. 2. The RSB Interface Standard shall specify in its intent that the intent of the RSB Principles & Criteria shall be met.

   4. 3. The RSB Interface Standard shall specify the scope to which it applies.

5. Adaptation of RSB Principles, Criteria and Indicators to existing biomass production standards
   5. 1. Needs assessment for the development of a RSB Interface Standard

   5.1.1. The needs assessment for the development of a RSB Interface Standard shall be conducted as outlined in Figure 2 and specified in the following binding requirements. The documentation of the need assessment shall be part of the proposal for the development of a RSB Interface Standard or for recognition of the technical equivalence of the existing biomass production standard.
5.1.2. The Facilitator shall identify the principle(s), criterion/a and indicator(s) of the existing biomass production standard that correspond to each RSB Principle, Criterion, Indicator applicable to feedstock producers.

5.1.3. The Facilitator shall analyze the equivalence of each indicator of the existing biomass production standard to the RSB Indicator. The analysis of the equivalence shall include a detailed evaluation whether the indicator of the existing biomass production standard fully meets the literal meaning and the intent of the RSB Indicator.

5.1.4. If an indicator of an existing biomass production standard is found to not meet the literal meaning and the intent of the RSB Indicator:

1. The corresponding analysis and rationale shall be provided in the documentation of the needs assessment.

2. The equivalence of the corresponding RSB Criterion with the criterion of the existing biomass production standard shall be analyzed.
3. If the criterion of the existing biomass production standard is found to be equivalent with the RSB Criterion, the RSB Indicator which was analyzed shall be introduced in the RSB Interface Standard.

5.1.5. If a criterion of an existing biomass production standard is found to not meet the literal meaning and the intent of the RSB Criterion:

1. The corresponding analysis and rationale shall be provided in the documentation of the needs assessment.

2. The equivalence of the corresponding RSB Principle with the principle of the existing biomass production standard shall be analyzed.

3. If the principle of the existing biomass production standard is found to be equivalent with the RSB Principle the RSB Criterion which was analyzed, shall be introduced in the RSB Interface Standard together with all corresponding RSB Indicators.

5.1.6. If a principle of an existing biomass production standard is found to not meet the literal meaning and the intent of the RSB Principle:

1. The corresponding analysis and rationale shall be provided in the documentation of the need assessment.

2. The RSB Principle which was analyzed, together with all corresponding RSB Criteria and all corresponding RSB Indicators shall be introduced in the RSB Interface Standard.

5.1.7. If a RSB Principle, RSB Criterion or RSB Indicator applicable to feedstock producers is less stringent than the corresponding principle(s), criterion/a or indicator(s) of the existing biomass production standard, the gap identified shall be described but no further action is needed.

5.1.8. If a RSB Principle, RSB Criterion or RSB Indicator applicable to feedstock producers is equally stringent than the corresponding principle(s), criterion/a or indicator(s) of the existing biomass production standard no further action is needed.

5.2. Adaptation of the RSB Principles, Criteria and Indicators to existing biomass production standards

5.2.1. The adaptation of the RSB Principles, Criterion, Indicators to an existing biomass production standard and the development of a RSB Interface Standard shall be conducted as outlined in Figure 3 and specified in the following binding requirements.
Figure 3: Schematic overview of the adaptation of the RSB Principles, Criteria and Indicators and development of the RSB Interface Standard

5.2.2. The RSB Interface Standard shall be limited to those RSB Principles, RSB Criteria and RSB Indicators that, as documented in the needs assessment, are not fully met by the requirements of the existing biomass production standard.

5.2.3. If the gap identified is limited to one or more indicators, the corresponding RSB Indicator(s) shall be integrated in the RSB Interface Standard.

5.2.4. If the gap identified is limited to one or more criteria, the corresponding RSB Criteria and all related RSB Indicators shall be integrated in the RSB Interface Standard.

5.2.5. If the gap identified is concerns one or more principles the corresponding RSB Principle and all related RSB Criteria as well as all related RSB Indicators shall integrated in the RSB Interface Standard.

5.2.6. The RSB Interface Standard shall include the full wording of all RSB Principles, RSB Criteria and RSB Indicators necessary to cover the gap identified in the same order as they are prescribed in the RSB Principles & Criteria and the RSB Indicators.
5.2.7. *RSB Principles, Criteria and/or Indicators* may include guidance notes to help participating operators, accreditation bodies, certification bodies, auditors or others in using the *RSB Interface Standard*. In all cases the *RSB Interface Standard* shall state that guidance or applicability notes shall not be normative.

5.2.8. *RSB Principles, Criteria and/or Indicators* may include references to supplementary standards or documents (e.g. best practice guidelines) developed by external third parties. Such references shall specify clearly whether compliance with any additional requirements is normative.

5.2.9. *RSB Principles, Criteria and/or Indicators* shall comply with the latest versions of all approved *RSB Standards*. 
Annex A

Requirements for the written proposal for development of a RSB Interface Standard

The written proposal for the development of a RSB Interface Standard shall:

1. Specify the aims and objectives of the RSB Interface Standard, including the benefits related to credibility, integrity and efficiency.

2. Define the existing biomass production standard in relation to which the RSB Interface Standard is proposed. The scope of the existing standard as well as the scope of the RSB Interface Standard shall be outlined.

3. Describe the existing biomass production standard, covering at least the following information:
   1. Name of the standard, version, year of development and effective date,
   2. Intent and scope of the standard,
   3. Name of the standard setting organization,
   4. Governance structure of the standard setting organization,
   5. Standard setting process, especially stakeholder consultation,
   6. Standard maintenance and revision process,
   7. Name of accreditation bodies,
   8. Names of certification bodies,
   9. Certification process,
   10. Number of certificates,
   11. Volume of biomass produced under certificate.

4. Include the documentation of the needs assessment (see section 5.1 Needs assessment for the development of a RSB Interface Standard).

5. State that the proposed RSB Interface Standard will be developed in compliance with the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Environmental and Social Standards.

6. Demonstrate that technical expertise and experience required for setting international standards are available to be engaged.

7. Detail the process for development of a RSB Interface Standard. The detailed description of the process shall include specific results and milestones as well as indicators to measure progress towards achievement of the results and milestones, and how these results, milestones and indicators will address the necessity for the development of a RSB Interface Standard.
8. Detail how the *RSB Interface Standard* will be maintained in the long term, if they are formally adopted by the RSB. This maintenance in the long term shall include:

1. monitoring whether the *RSB Interface Standard* achieves the intended objectives,
2. monitoring the development of the *existing biomass production standard* in terms of relevance, integrity and credibility,
3. monitoring of the political, legal, customary and/or technical social, environmental, cultural, ethical and/or economic effects of the *RSB Interface Standard* on stakeholders and constituents,
4. conduct of periodic revision of the *RSB Interface Standard* in intervals of no more than 5 years,
5. responding to requests for clarification and additional information (e.g. guidance and advice) related to the implementation of the *RSB Interface Standard*.

9. Detail the governance and management structures which will be formally responsible for implementing the process for the development of the *RSB Interface Standard*.

10. Specify a tentative financial plan for the process for the development of the *RSB Interface Standard*. The tentative financial plan shall include an estimation of the overall costs and an estimation of the costs which will need to be incurred by the RSB for accompanying the process.

11. Include in the tentative financial plan tentative/prospective sources and commitments for providing the necessary financial resources.
Annex B

Requirements for the written proposal for recognition of an existing biomass production standard

The written proposal for the recognition of an existing biomass production standard as technically equivalent to the requirements of the RSB Principles & Criteria applicable to feedstock producers shall:

1. Specify the aims and objectives of the recognition of the existing standards, including the benefits related to credibility, integrity and efficiency.

2. Describe the existing biomass production standard, covering at least the following information:
   1. Name of the standard, version, year of development and effective date,
   2. Intent and scope of the standard,
   3. Name of the standard setting organization,
   4. Governance structure of the standard setting organization,
   5. Standard setting process, especially stakeholder consultation,
   6. Standard maintenance and revision process,
   7. Name of accreditation bodies,
   8. Names of certification bodies,
   9. Certification process,
   10. Number of certificates,
   11. Volume of biomass produced under certificate.

3. Include the documentation of the needs assessment (see section 5.1 Needs assessment for a RSB Interface Standard).

4. Detail how the technical equivalence of the existing biomass production standard will be monitored in the long term, if it is recognized by RSB. This monitoring in the long term shall include:
   1. monitoring the development of the existing biomass production standard in terms of relevance, integrity and credibility,
   2. monitoring of the political, legal, customary and/or technical social, environmental, cultural, ethical and/or economic effects of the existing biomass production standard on stakeholders and constituents,
   3. conduct of periodic re-assessment of the existing biomass production standard against the RSB Principles & Criteria applicable to feedstock producers in intervals of no more than 5 years.
5. Specify a tentative financial plan for the continuous monitoring of technical equivalence. The tentative financial plan shall include an estimation of the overall costs and an estimation of the costs which will need to be incurred by the RSB for accompanying the process.

6. Include in the tentative financial plan tentative/prospective sources and commitments for providing the necessary financial resources.