

RSB – ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE BIOMATERIALS

**RSB Reactive Guidance on
Advanced Products Claims**

RSB Standard for Advanced Products

RSB-STD-02-001

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1. Objective

The objective of this document is to provide guidance to auditors, certification bodies and participating operators on additional claims for certified Advanced Products.

2. Relevant standard references

RSB Standard for Advanced Products (RSB-STD-02-001), section F.6 Communication and Claims

- F.6.1. Operators shall use the short claim *RSB compliant Advanced Product*. An equivalent claim may be used upon written approval by the RSB Secretariat.
- F.6.8.1. On-product claims shall refer to e.g. the amount of primary fossil resources saved, or the amount of primary fossil carbon saved by the input of eligible feedstock in the production system, for example:

“This RSB compliant product leads to a x% substitution of fossil with RSB certified biomass in the production system.

Deviating claims may be used after verification by the certification body and approval by RSB Secretariat.

3. Guidance

- In addition to the claim *RSB compliant Advanced Product* certified operators may use the claim *RSB compliant bio-attributed product* whenever they produce RSB certified products of the categories IIIa and IIIb:
 - Category IIIa: Products that may not have a physical bio-based content but have been produced in a production system that uses feedstock derived from agricultural, forestry, marine or aquatic biomass in combination with fossil feedstock;
 - Category IIIb: Products that may not have a physical bio-based content but have been produced in a production system that uses feedstock derived from biogenic end-of-life products, by-products or residues in combination with fossil feedstock.

Please note: The claim *RSB compliant bio-attributed product* is not allowed for products that have been produced in a production system that uses non-biogenic end-of-life products, by-products or residues in combination with virgin fossil feedstock (i.e. RSB category IIIc)

- In addition to the on-product claim outlined in F.6.8.1., RSB certified operators may use the following claim:
 - *This RSB compliant product leads to a x% substitution of fossil source material with an RSB-certified bio-attributed feedstock.*

Please note: Editorial changes to this claim may be done without further approval by the RSB secretariat. Editorial changes include changes such as

- Changing *leads to* into *supports, comes with*, etc.
- Changing *feedstock* into *material*, etc.

Operators may also use specific material or feedstock names in the claim in line with the certificate scope, for example:

This RSB compliant product leads to a x% substitution of fossil source PVC with an RSB-certified bio-attributed PVC.

4. Rationale

The *RSB Standard for Advanced Products* certifies, inter alia, products produced in a production system that processes bio-based feedstock in combination with virgin fossil feedstock.

While the standard does not allow operators who produce these type of products to make any reference to a bio-based content in their claims (as these products may not have a physical bio-based content), the standard does allow to refer to the amount of fossil resources substituted by the use of eligible bio or recycled input.

The claims that are allowed by the standard are therefore based on an assessment of the fossil feedstock needed for the production of a certified product and the positive impact that is created by substituting the fossil feedstock by alternative feedstock.

By being compliant with the *RSB Standard for Advanced Products* operators who produce certified category III products ensure that at least 25% of the fossil feedstock needed for the production are substituted by alternative feedstock. This is based on a documented book-keeping system to monitor the balance of alternative feedstock added to the system and the feedstock that is needed to produce certified products sold to customers.

The term attribution can be described as the action of a virtual transfer of a quality or feature of the process input (feedstock) as characteristic to the process output (product). In the context of the RSB certification, by the means of a documented book-keeping system, a specific quality (i.e. replacing fossil with bio-based feedstock) is attributed to a specific product batch.

As the term attribution correctly describes the approach of the RSB Standard for Category III products, it can be used in claims for certified Category III products.