

**RSB – ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE BIOMATERIALS**

**RSB Reactive Guidance on  
RSB accreditation scope**

**RSB Procedure for Certification Bodies and Auditors**

*RSB-PRO-70-001*

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Approved

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## 1. Objective

The objective of this document is to provide guidance to certification bodies and the RSB accreditation body on the RSB accreditation scope.

## 2. Relevant standard references

- RSB Procedure for Certification Bodies and Auditors (RSB-PRO-70-001, version 3.5), section F.2 on accreditation, G. on auditor qualification and H.1 on audit planning
- RSB Procedure Requirements for accreditation bodies (RSB-PRO-75-001, version 3.2), section G.10 on accreditation evaluation

## 3. Guidance

The following amendments will be implemented in the upcoming revision of RSB-PRO-70-001 and RSB-PRO-75-001:

3.1. The following terms and definitions apply:

*Accreditation scope:* Specific certification activities for which accreditation is sought or has been granted (Source: Adapted from ISO/IEC 17011:2017).

### *Certification scheme*

Certification system related to specified products, to which the same specified requirements, specific rules and procedures apply (Source: ISO/IEC 17065:2012).

Please note: RSB operates the following certification schemes:

- RSB Global
- RSB EU RED
- RSB ICAO CORSIA

*Certification scope* refers to the identification of

- the product(s) for which the certification is granted,
  - the sites and facilities that the certification is covering,
  - the applicable certification scheme, and
  - the standards and other normative document(s), including their date of publication, to which it is judged that the product(s) comply
- (Source: adapted from ISO/IEC 17065:2012).

*Technical area* refers to a sub-sector or a group of sub-sectors defined based on the difference or similarities in technical processes, methodologies, certification requirements and environmental impacts that lead to a specific competence requirement to undertake auditing activities.

3.2. The following changes will be made to the requirements in RSB-PRO-70-001 and RSB-PRO-75-001

- RSB-PRO-70-001, F.2.1. The CB shall undergo and successfully complete the RSB accreditation process for the scope “RSB certification” and enter into an accreditation agreement with the RSB AB before offering any RSB certification services.

*Note: The accreditation scope “RSB Certification” includes a variety of potential certification scopes*

- RSB-PRO-70-001, G.2.4 Two (2) years professional experience in one or more of the following technical areas, either as an auditor or in the relevant industry:
  - Perennial or non-perennial crop production;
  - Silviculture and other forestry activities;
  - Industrial processes, such as manufacture of vegetable or animal oils and fats, refined petroleum products, industrial gases, chemicals and chemical products (including fuels, fibers, etc.), pharmaceuticals, rubber and plastic products;
  - Wholesale, retail and other trade.
  
- RSB-PRO-70-001, H.1.1.2 The CB shall determine the certification scope based on the application submitted by the PO by identifying:
  - the product(s) for which the certification is granted;
  - the sites and facilities that the certification is covering;
  - the applicable certification scheme; and
  - the standards and other normative document(s), including their date of publication, to which it is judged that the product(s) comply (See Annex).
  
- RSB-PRO-70-001, H.1.1.4 The CB shall implement and maintain a documented procedure that identifies which of the following technical areas need to be covered for the certification scope:
  - TA 1: Perennial or non-perennial crop production;
  - TA 2: Silviculture and other forestry activities;
  - TA 3: Industrial processes, such as manufacture of vegetable or animal oils and fats, refined petroleum products, industrial gases, chemicals and chemical products (including fuels, fibers, etc.), pharmaceuticals, rubber and plastic products;
  - TA 4: Wholesale, retail and other trade.

and

ensure that

- the lead auditor fulfils the requirements as described in sections G.1 and G.2,
  - the audit team covers technical areas as identified and
  - the audit team fulfils all requires as described in section G.
- RSB-PRO-70-001, H.1.1.4 For additional technical areas (for example manufacture of textiles or footwear; electricity, gas and steam production) not listed in the above, that require additional distinct technical expertise, the CB shall ensure that experts that cover those technical areas are part of the audit team.

- RSB-PRO-75-001, 8.3.1-3. (new requirements)
  - 8.3.1. Before an accreditation certificate can be issued, the accreditation body shall verify the competence of the certification body by conducting (a) witness audit(s).
  - 8.3.2. For certification bodies to be active in technical areas 1-3, the witness audit shall be conducted in one of the technical areas 1-3.
  - 8.3.3. For certification bodies to be active in technical area 4, the witness audit may be conducted in one of the technical areas 1-4.
  
- RSB-PRO-75-001, G.10.7.4.4 (new requirement): The accreditation body shall ensure over the course of the accreditation cycle that for witness and compliance audits a sample is selected that is representative for the technical areas that the certification body is working in.

#### **4. Rationale**

As certification system, RSB covers a variety of feedstocks (such as perennial and non-perennial, waste and residues, biobased and recycled carbon), a variety of products (non-energy and energy products) and multiple sectors including aviation, road transport, shipping, chemical industry, construction, textiles, consumer good, etc. Being a developing standard system with standard setting targeted at innovative markets, it would create a barrier for CBs to become accredited and subsequently also a barrier for RSB to further expand to align accreditation scopes with the potential certification scopes. Therefore, the accreditation scope “RSB certification” covers all certificate scopes. Once the market has matured and RSB has grown into a developed standard system the accreditation scope will be reviewed.

To ensure that the CB selects an audit team that is competent for the technical sector of a specific assessment, additional specifications for technical areas have been included as well as additional requirements for CBs to implement and maintain a documented procedure to select lead auditors and audit teams in a way that covers the technical areas required.