

A GUIDE TO RSB CERTIFICATION FOR ADVANCED PRODUCTS

Getting your operation certified to the RSB Standard



This booklet is intended to provide operators with answers to some of the most frequently asked questions relating to RSB certification for advanced products. For full requirements, please see the RSB Standard documents available online or contact RSB.

Why RSB Certification for Advanced Products

RSB's unique approach to Advanced Products enables companies to demonstrate that their products are produced more sustainably, with fewer fossil resources and less greenhouse gas emissions.

Key benefits of achieving RSB Certification for Advanced Products:

- Can be applied to any feedstock, material and supply chain, globally
- Fits in with your existing infrastructure, building on highly efficient supply chains
- One standard for all: bio-based, recycled fossil carbon and attributed systems
- RSB Advanced Products standard is approved through multi-stakeholder consensus-based process, compliant with ISEAL
- Robust sustainability criteria recognised and trusted by global NGOs like WWF, IUCN and NRDC
- GHG calculation and tracking along the whole supply chain – ensuring a GHG emission reduction and enabling a GHG claim on the final product
- Enables calculation of fossil displacement benefit



Positive Impacts

RSB Certification for Advanced Products provides businesses with three powerful 'Positive Impacts' claims.

RSB Certified Advanced Products...

are sustainably produced

mitigate climate change

reduce the risk of fossil depletion

Powerful Claims



This RSB compliant product leads to a x% substitution of fossil resources through waste recycling in the production system.



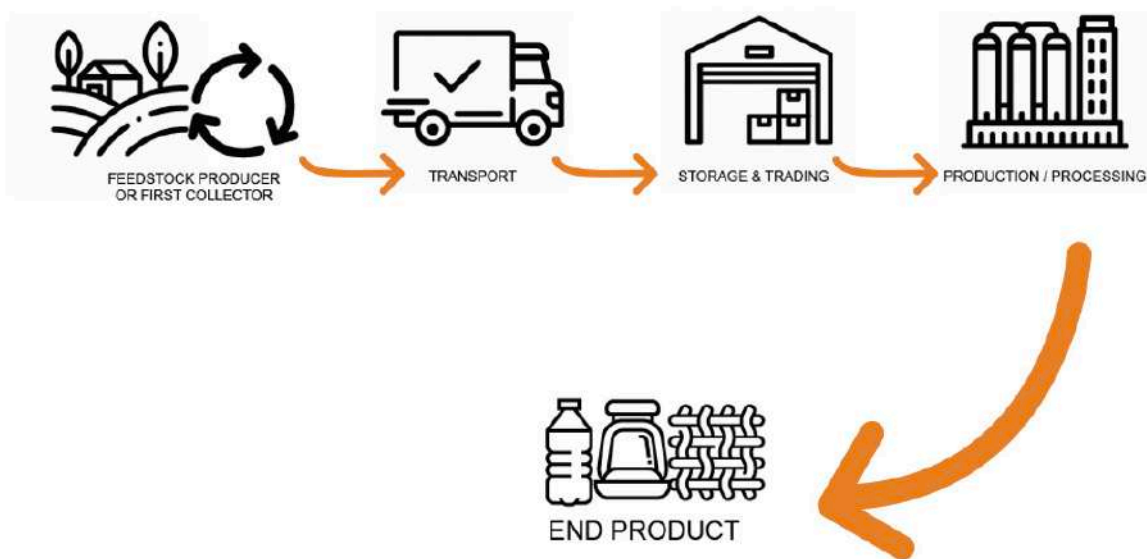
Over its production lifecycle, this material provides x% greenhouse gas savings compared to a fossil fuel equivalent.



WHAT CAN BE CERTIFIED?

RSB's user-friendly certification scheme is a little different from other schemes. Rather than being devised for specific commodities or markets, RSB advanced product certification is global and applicable to diverse supply chains and feedstocks.

The RSB Standard is uniquely positioned to cover any bio-based or recycled fossil feedstock and any end-product, as well as complete supply-chains and novel technologies. Composed of a group of standards, procedures and guidance documents, the RSB Standard has been designed and continuously developed to support certification in all circumstances, anywhere in the world.



RSB certified advanced products are split into three distinct categories:

Category I

Products that are bio-based

Category I feedstocks are agricultural, forestry, marine or aquatic products, by-products, end-of-life products or residues.

Category II

Products produced with recycled content

Category II feedstocks include non-biogenic end-of-life products, by-products, or residues, as well as recycled biogenic materials

Category III

Products from bio-based or recycled fossil feedstock, produced in combination with virgin fossil feedstock

Under the RSB Advanced Products standard, we allow the mixing of RSB certified material with virgin fossil material, and attribution of the RSB-certified sustainability characteristic to your output of choice. These are known as Category III products. Therefore Category III feedstocks may be either bio-based or non-bio-based.

Advanced Products: sustainability

RSB's robust sustainability principles and criteria are applied using a risk-based approach, by primary biomass producers (e.g. farm, forest) and industrial operators carrying out chemical processing. Sustainability requirements also apply to some specific higher-risk residues, such as forestry harvest residues¹.

RSB's 12 Principles & Criteria

 Principle 1 Legality	 Principle 2 Planning, Monitoring & Continuous Improvement	 Principle 3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions	 Principle 4 Human & Labour Rights
 Principle 5 Rural and Social Development	 Principle 6 Local Food Security	 Principle 7 Conservation	 Principle 8 Soil
 Principle 9 Water	 Principle 10 Air Quality	 Principle 11 Use of Technology, Inputs & Management of Waste	 Principle 12 Land Rights

¹ For the full list of feedstock-specific requirements, please see Section 3 of the RSB Standard for Advanced Fuels, RSB-STD-01-010.

Is there a minimum certified content?

For Category I (bio-based) products:

The bio-based content of the certified product or product component is not less than 25%. The RSB Standard for Advanced Products details the methods for determination of the bio-based content.

For Category II (recycled content) products:

The recycled carbon content of the certified product or product component is not less than 25% relative to the carbon content of the product.

The RSB standard for advanced products details the methods for determination of the recycled carbon content.

For Category III (bio-based or recycled fossil carbon mixed with fossil carbon) products:

The operator shall demonstrate that the advanced product reduces the risk of fossil depletion compared to the fossil reference product.

Whilst you may choose the amount of non virgin-fossil (RSB certified) material to input to your product, the requirement for Category III is that at least 25% of the fossil feedstock equivalents needed for the production of the output material are substituted with the alternative material.

Therefore the 'minimum content' is related to the replacement of fossil material in the product batch which the RSB claim is made on. You can choose which batches carry the RSB claim. Importantly, note that for a final product, the claim could for example be related to a single product component, in which case the minimum 25% fossil replacement would relate only to that product component.

For example, if the final product is a PE-coated jacket and the claim is on "replacement of fossil source PE with RSB-certified attributed PE", then the claim relates only to the PE (and not to other product materials such as cotton), thus the requirement is that 25% of the fossil feedstock equivalents needed for PE production must be replaced.

How does this affect the on-product claim?

The RSB advanced products standard sets requirements for each product category and defines category-specific on-product claims that are allowed to be used by operators to avoid confusion in the market. For example, the claim “bio-based product” may only be used for Category I products.

Example:

If the RSB certified component of a product comprises less than 50% of the total product mass, then the claim has to relate specifically to the RSB certified component. In the previous example of a PE-coated jacket, if PE represents less than 50% of the total mass of the jacket product, then the RSB on-product claim has to relate to the PE component. For example "this product replaces 100% of fossil-source PE with bio-attributed PE".

Is there a GHG reduction requirement?

All operators should calculate the GHG emissions per unit product for their operation, including transport. Final products should achieve at least 10% lower lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions calculated on a cradle-to-grave basis relative to the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions of a comparable (fossil) product. Please contact RSB for further information on GHG calculation.

Does the final product manufacturer need to be certified?

Yes the final product manufacturer needs to be RSB certified if they wish the final product to carry an RSB claim (e.g. having the RSB logo on-product and in marketing materials).

Certified materials are often transformed and travel great distances before reaching consumers. So RSB's standards ensure that good sustainability practices can be accounted for right along the supply chain from primary production through conversion, processing, and trade.

How do I become RSB certified?

There are four steps to certification.

1.

Apply Online

<http://rsb.org/certification/apply-for-certification/>

You will be asked to complete the RSB Participating Operator Application Form. At the point of application there is a one-off fee of US\$ 500.

All applications are posted on RSB's website for 14 days for public comment.

2.

Contact the Certification Bodies to request a quote and arrange an independent, 3rd party audit

Currently RSB works with two certification bodies. You will choose which certification body to work with and make arrangements for your audit directly with them. Your audit must have started within twelve months of your application being accepted by RSB, but you are encouraged to reach out to an auditing body as early as possible. The auditor will need time to prepare for the audit and carry out a stakeholder consultation. In the meantime, you can complete your audit preparation as outlined below.

Contact details for Certification Bodies:

SCS Global Services: Inna Kitaychik - IKitaychik@scsglobalservices.com

Control Union: Tom Twilhaar - twilhaar@controlunion.com

3.

Prepare for your Audit

The requirements for RSB certification are explained on the next page.

4.

Audit

If a major non-compliance is indicated, your auditor will work with you to set a schedule to resolve the issue within 90 days so that your certificate can be issued. Minor non-compliances do not prevent the certificate from being issued but need to be addressed before your next audit.

Subsequent audits will need to be carried out periodically, at a frequency determined by your risk score.

As soon as your certificate is issued, you can start using your certification to promote and grow your business.

Preparing for your third party audit

The requirements for RSB certification depend on the type of operator, as follows:

Traders: Operators carrying out buying and selling of materials or products, including raw materials, intermediates and final products. Traders do not carry out any processing activities.

Industrial Operators: Feedstock processors, intermediary producers, advanced product producers.

Mechanical Operators: Subgroup of industrial operators only conducting mechanical or physical processing, i.e. mixing, assembling, sorting, moulding, cutting. For further mechanical processes to be added to the list, please consult with the RSB Secretariat.



Preparing for your third party audit

According to your operator type, you will be required to prepare the following elements for certification:

Document	Description	Industrial Operator	Mechanical Operator	Trader
<i>Self-risk assessment</i>	Excel-based tool to assess your risk class. This determines your audit frequency and validity period of your certificate.	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Screening exercise</i>	PDF-based tool to help identify specific areas of elevated risk and/or low risk, which will inform the development of your ESMP (see below).	Yes	n/a	n/a
<i>Self-evaluation</i>	Excel-based tool to evaluate your operation against all applicable requirements of the RSB standards (you may request this in checklist form from your Certification Body).	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Greenhouse Gas Calculation</i>	Final products are required to demonstrate a 10% GHG reduction compared with the fossil-based alternative. RSB has a free Excel-based calculator for participating operators. Alternatively, you can use other options to calculate GHG emissions – please see the Advanced Products standard.	Yes	Yes*	Yes, for transport and storage
<i>ESMP</i>	The ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan) is a central document that describes how you will adhere to the environmental and social objectives of the RSB Principles & Criteria and all activities currently being undertaken to ensure such compliance. RSB provides a template within its Impact Assessment Guidelines for operators to use.	Yes	n/a	n/a
<i>Chain of Custody</i>	A chain of custody procedure describes how you track material through your facilities. It includes the documentation and monitoring of incoming material, conversion (processing) and out-going. There are specific requirements on the balancing of material in the Advanced Products standard.	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>RSB Claims</i>	You may work with your CB to develop product-related claims as per the requirements of the RSB Standards and Procedures.	Yes	Yes	Yes

* Mechanical Operators downstream of polymer producers may voluntarily exclude GHG calculation from their certification scope

Certification Costs

There are three elements that make up the total cost of achieving RSB certification.

1

Application Fee

A one-off fee of US\$ 500, paid to RSB at the time of application

2

Auditor Fees

These fees are contracted by and payable to the certification body, and are independent of RSB. This is the cost of the auditor visiting your site and carrying out the 3rd party audit.

3

Licence Fees

This is the fee payable to RSB for being certified and using the RSB label.

Licence Fee Structure

Industrial Operator (all types)

For all industrial operators a volume-based fee is applicable. A minimum annual fee is applied where fees payable are below US\$1,000.

- Volume-based fee of 0.05% of price of sold RSB-certified product by weight based on spot price in country of production, or price of comparable product. Participating Operators can also provide pricing data.
- Minimum annual fee of US\$1,000 per production site (applicable where volume-based fee is less than US\$1,000 per annum).

Trader

For traders a licensing fee is charged for each office and/or site. Volume-based fees are not applied.

- Independent Trader: US\$1,000 per office and/or site.
- Traders associated exclusively with production sites: US\$100 per office and/or site.

Retailer of Finished Products

Retailers pay fees when they repackage or relabel finished RSB-certified products. These fees are calculated based on the volume and value of the product and are capped at a maximum, based on the company size (annual turnover).



The Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB) is an independent and global multi-stakeholder coalition which works to promote the sustainability of biomaterials. RSB's user-friendly certification scheme is the strongest and most trusted of its kind. It verifies that biomaterials are ethical, sustainable and credibly-sourced. The certification is approved by RSB's members, including leading NGOs and UN agencies. RSB members work across sectors to set global best practice for sustainable biomaterial production. Choosing RSB-certified biomaterials helps build trust and credibility in the bio-based sector and supports a healthy biobased community.



www.rsb.org

For more information:

Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials
Impact Hub Geneva, Rue Fendt 1,
1201 Geneva
SWITZERLAND

info@rsb.org

Call +41 22 534 90 50

Nicola Noponen, RSB Technical Advisor nicola.noponen@rsb.org
Elena Schmidt, RSB Standards Director elena.schmidt@rsb.org