A nighttime aerial view of a dense urban area, likely Tokyo, with numerous illuminated skyscrapers and a complex network of elevated highways and roads. The lights create a vibrant, blue and orange glow against the dark sky.

JAPAN FIT STANDARD A GUIDE TO RSB CERTIFICATION

Getting your operation certified to the RSB Standard



RSB
Roundtable on
Sustainable Biomaterials
www.rsb.org

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

Introduction

The RSB Japan FIT Scheme certification has been developed to enable biomass producers and traders to demonstrate compliance with the sustainability requirements of RSB and to unlock access to Japan's Feed in Tariff (FIT) system.

FIT sets out a system of incentives for the production of renewable electricity in Japan which includes subsidies for the procurement of biomass which includes vegetable oils as well as various agricultural and industrial residues and end-of-life products.

RSB's approach ensures that certified operators are compliant with both RSB's rigorous criteria and the requirements of Japan's Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry (METI) for access to the Japanese biomass for power market.

The multi-stakeholder approach and nature of RSB mean that this approach is able to incorporate all relevant stakeholders' perspectives, from large businesses to NGOs and smallholders. The RSB Standard is acknowledged as a best in-class approach for the bioeconomy and, by using its internationally accredited sustainability standard, organisations can prove their credentials on the global market.





How do I get certified to the RSB Japan FIT Standard?

Understanding Your Scope

What materials can be certified?

Palm kernel shell (PKS) and palm trunk (originating from old palm plantations) are currently the only feedstocks covered by the RSB Japan FIT Scheme.

As METI provides new details on other eligible biomass, RSB will update the feedstock coverage within the Standard.

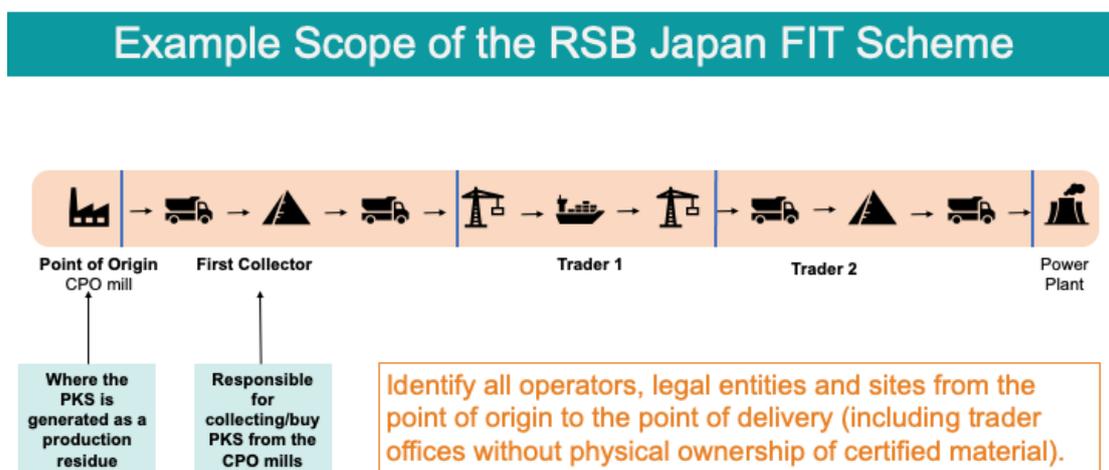
Who needs RSB certification along the supply chain?

Certification to RSB's Japan FIT Scheme ensures that only certified biomass is delivered to power plants in Japan. To achieve this, the following operators need to be certified:

- Points of Origin: The generator, such as old palm plantations where the palm trunks originate from or palm oil mills, where PKS is generated as a production residue.
- First Collectors: Operator that receives or collects the palm trunks or PKS from points of origin.
- Trader: Organisation that buys and sells biomass, without any transformation or conversion to another type of product.
- Industrial Operators (when applicable): Operator that processes feedstock or produces intermediary or final products (e.g., pellets producer).
- End Users: Organisation that uses the final product and is interested in making claims regarding sourcing RSB-certified biomass. For example, power plants in Japan using biomass to generate energy.

Example scope:

In this example, we can see the entire PKS supply chain from the CPO mill and First Collector in Indonesia or Malaysia through the transportation to the end-user Power Plant in Japan.



Scheme Documents

The RSB Japan FIT Scheme requires verification against RSB’s sustainability Principles and Criteria for all Points of Origin as well as the use of ‘Identify Preserved’, or ‘Product Segregation’ chain of custody models for our Chain of Custody requirements (detailed later).

The full RSB Scheme for Japan FIT is composed of 7 different Standard documents, that are applicable to the different types of operator in the supply chain.

RSB’s Japan FIT Scheme uses the same framework as RSB Global, with common requirements including general management, risk assessment, traceability and GHG calculation. This enables operators that are already certified to the RSB Global Scheme, or interested in the global market, to demonstrate compliance with both sets of requirements easily and efficiently.

Applicability of the different RSB requirements to different operator types is as follows:

Type of Operator	RSB Japan FIT Standard [RSB-STD-12-001]	RSB Procedure for Participating Operators [RSB-PRO-30-001]	RSB Risk Management Procedure [RSB-PRO-60-001]	RSB Principles & Criteria [RSB-STD-01-001]	RSB Advanced Fuels Standard [RSB-STD-01-010]	RSB Chain of Custody Procedure [RSB-PRO-20-001]	RSB Procedure for Communication & Claims [RSB-PRO-50-001]	RSB GHG Calculation Methodology [RSB-STD-01-003-01]
Point of Origin	√			√	√			
First Collector	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
Industrial Operators	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Mechanical Operator	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
Trader	√	√	√		√	√	√	√

Figure 1: Scheme documents for RSB Japan FIT and their applicability

What are the different Standard Documents for?

- [RSB Procedure for Participating Operators \[RSB-PRO-30-001\]](#) – General management of RSB certification scope and compliance.
- [RSB Risk Management Procedure \[RSB-PRO-60-001\]](#) – Risk Management of the RSB certification scope and identification of operator risk class.
- [RSB Principles & Criteria \[RSB-STD-01-001\]](#) – Social and environmental sustainability requirements, applicable to CPO mills and palm plantations.
- [RSB Advanced Fuels Standard \[RSB-STD-20-001\]](#) – Terms, definitions, and general requirements for waste-based supply chains.
- [RSB Chain of Custody Procedure \[RSB-PRO-20-001\]](#) – Traceability of certified products along the supply chain.
- [RSB Procedure for Communications and Claims \[RSB-PRO-50-001\]](#) – Use of RSB claims and trademarks by certified operators.
- [RSB GHG Calculation Methodology \[RSB-STD-01-003-01\]](#) – Calculation of GHG emissions along the supply chain. The methodology is embedded in the RSB GHG calculator tool, available for free for RSB members and operators applying for RSB certification.



RSB's Sustainability Requirements

12 Principles & Criteria

Points of Origin (e.g., CPO mills) and Industrial Operators (e.g., pellet producers) are required to adhere to RSB's 12 Principles and Criteria* for the sustainable production of biomass.

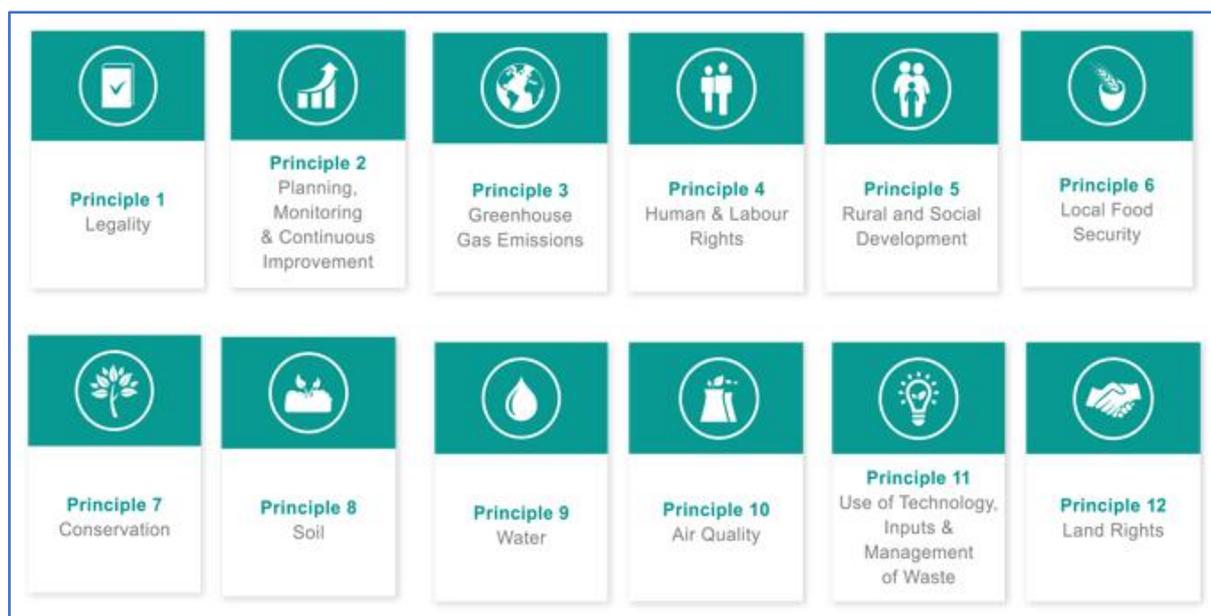


Figure 2: RSB's 12 Principles & Criteria for the Sustainable Production of Biomass

*Principle 6 is not applicable for residues supply chain; Principle 8 is not applicable to industrial operators.

To support the certification of groups of Points of Origin to demonstrate compliance with the RSB Japan FIT Scheme, RSB has developed specific guidance that lays out how to apply RSB's requirements using a group management approach. The guidance is available [here](#).



Chain of Custody

The process that tracks the movement of biomass along the supply chain from its collection, processing, trading to final use by documenting each operator that has handled and made changes to the materials is known as ‘Chain of Custody’.

The Japan FIT regulation allows two methods for ensuring traceability of the Chain of Custody: Identity Preserved and Product Segregation.

Chain of Custody Type	Description	Requirements
Identity preserved (IP)	The RSB certified product delivered is uniquely identifiable and can be related directly back to the identity of the producer and resource base.	Each lot, batch or quantity of RSB compliant product is treated separately and clearly separated, both physically and in associated documentation , from non-certified equivalents at each stage of the supply chain, as well as from certified equivalents from other resource bases. For example, if there are two certified palm mills delivering PKS, the certified biomass supplied by each mill must not be mixed.
Product Segregation	From the production of the raw material to the final product, the information on sustainability remains attached to the physical product.	At every step certified product is kept physically separate from non-certified product. Unlike “Identity preserved”, certified products from different origins can be mixed, so it is no longer possible to trace the final product to a single initial producer or site.

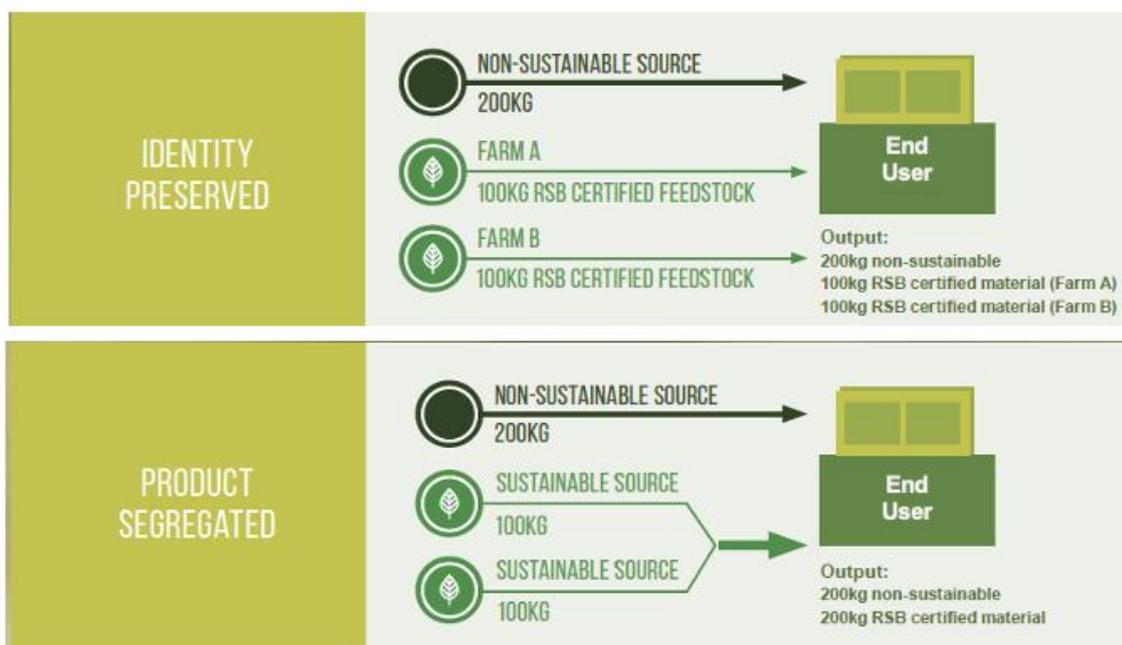


Figure 3: Chain of Custody options for RSB Japan FIT
RSB Japan FIT Standard – A Guide to Certification



Greenhouse Gas (GHG) calculations

RSB requires identification and calculation of GHG emissions along the supply chain, covering emissions related to the collection, transport and processing of biomass from the Point of Origin to the point of delivery. The GHG emission calculations results in a GHG value of the biomass being carried over to the next step of the supply chain.

Some important information regarding RSB's requirements for GHG calculations for Japan FIT certification:

- Residues are considered as “zero emissions” at the point of origin and do not need to be calculated.
- Each batch of RSB Japan FIT certified biomass has a GHG emission value associated with it for making RSB Claims.
- Operators getting certified to RSB Japan FIT have two options for how they carry out their calculation: they may either use the RSB GHG Calculation Tool (selecting the option “RSB Global”) or carry out an individual calculation based on the RSB methodology [RSB-STD-01-003-01].
- The RSB Japan FIT Standard currently does not include the generation of electricity within its scope, so RSB does not require a specific GHG emissions reduction for the certified biomass.





RSB Certification Process

Applying for certification is straight-forward, simply follow the steps below:

1. Fill in the RSB Certification Application form, remembering to select “RSB Japan FIT” as the ‘certificate type’, details of the feedstock your organisation uses and selecting the correct operator type (if you are unsure what your operator type is then please get in contact with a member of the RSB team).
2. Go through the initial application process – the public comments process on your application and due diligence carried out by RSB and pay your application fee (\$500 USD).
3. Contact one of our two certification bodies (Control Union or SCS Global) and arrange your audit:

Control Union: Tom Twilhaar (ttwilhaar@controlunion.com)

SCS Global Services: Robert Earley (REarley@scsglobalservices.com)

4. Conduct a self-evaluation of your systems using our guidance documents to ensure your company meets our standards, making changes as needed. RSB has detailed tools online to help you.
5. The audit is conducted.
6. Corrections to the organisation’s process and procedures are made based on the auditors findings.
7. Your company is issued a certificate and becomes an RSB certificate holder. From that point, you can start to sell biomass with RSB claims!

To get started on your RSB journey please either apply here or get in contact with our Energy sector lead Yitatek Yitbarek (yitatek.yitbarek@rsb.org).

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: *Why should I choose RSB certification?*

A: Choosing an RSB Certification demonstrates genuine commitment to the future of ethical, sustainable, and credibly-sourced biomaterials, while ensuring that your production meets global challenges including biodiversity, poverty, hunger and climate change. The chain of custody ensures traceability and transparency to your operations. RSB's is widely recognised the strongest and most trusted of its kind, according to independent studies by leading global NGOs, including the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF), Blue Angel, and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

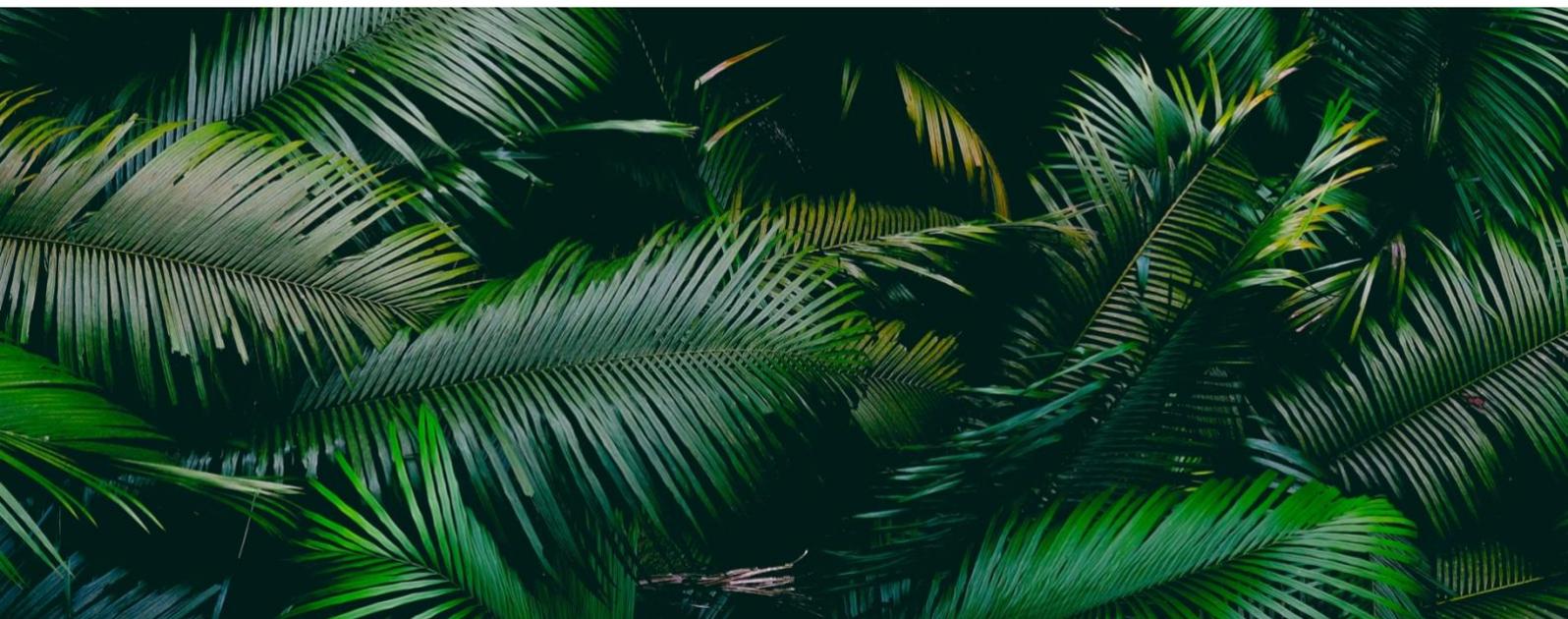
Q: *How long does the certification process take and what is the certificate validity?*

A: The process takes 3 to 6 months on average from application through to certification. After the initial application, operators have 12 months in which to finalise their certification. The validity of RSB certificate depends on the risk class of the operator. It can be 2 years (high risk), 3 years (medium risk) and 5 years (low risk). In all cases, annual surveillance audits are necessary.

Q: *What other fees are involved with RSB certification other than the \$500 application fee?*

A: There are two other costs involved with certification:

- 1) The first is the audit fee. This is something you arrange with the Certification Body (audit firm) you choose and will differ depending on the size of your organisation and complexity of the audit.
- 2) The second is the certification licence fee which is payable to RSB and is determined by factors like the type of operator, size, and volume of certified material – more information on these fees can be found on our [website here](#).





Q: *Does the palm oil plantation need to apply for RSB Japan FIT?*

A: The palm oil plantation is considered as the "point of origin" of palm trunks so if your supply chain includes palm trunks the plantation shall be included within the RSB certification scope. The palm oil plantations can be organised as a group of farms, under the management system of the first collector or trader, instead of applying individually to the RSB.

If the palm oil plantation - generating palm trunks as residues - is already certified by RSPO, then RSB considers this certification to have covered the sustainability requirements for residues. For Chain of Custody, only segregated and identity preserved models are permitted. Where the plantation is RSPO certified, it is not necessary for the palm oil plantation to apply for RSB certification as RSB is able to recognise the RSPO-certified palm plantation as a certified supplier for palm trunks.

As PKS is an industrial residue, the certification starts at the palm oil mill (industrial site), so it is not required to trace PKS back to a certified palm oil plantation.

Q: *Are ISPO and MSPO recognised by RSB?*

A: Neither ISPO nor MSPO are currently recognised by RSB. In the future RSB may recognise ISPO and MSPO based on a benchmarking study. This would help ISPO-certified and MSPO-certified operators to implement outstanding RSB sustainability requirements and ultimately achieve RSB certification in an efficient way.

Further Questions?

For more information about [RSB's Japan FIT Scheme](#), RSB certification or the RSB Standard, please see our [website](#) or reach out to info@rsb.org



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.



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