

## Definitions in the SURE system

Version: TG-DEF-en-3.0  
Date: May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Valid from: May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

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# 1 Introduction

In order to establish a common understanding of the obligations, terms and definitions used in the SURE-EU system, these are listed and explained below. All scheme principles of the SURE-EU voluntary scheme refer to these definitions and explanations.

## 2 The use of modal verbs in the SURE scheme documents

In the area of certification, the degree to which a statement is binding is essential for all economic operators. The degree to which statements are binding is expressed by modal verbs (can, may, must, should, want, like, become).

In the SURE-EU system, the English version of the scheme documentation is the legally binding basis for certification. This can lead to misunderstandings regarding the meaning of modal verbs. To ensure a uniform understanding, the modal verbs used in the SURE documents are therefore listed below with a brief explanation:

- ✓ The modal verb *can/could* indicates a *possibility or ability*.
- ✓ The modal verb *may* refers to *permission*.  
This includes “may”/“may not”/“must not” or “allowed”.
- ✓ The modal verb *must* refers to an *obligation*.
- ✓ The modal verb *shall/should* is a *strong recommendation*.
- ✓ The modal verb *want* or *would like* indicates a *wish*.
- ✓ The modal verb *will/would* indicates a *habit* or *request*.

### 3 Definitions and explanations in alphabetical order

#### *Actual value*

The actual value represents the greenhouse gas savings from some or all steps in a specific biofuel, bioliquid or biomass fuel production process, calculated according to the methodology of Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001, Annex VI, Part B.

#### *adm*

The abbreviation "adm" stands for "absolute dry matter". adm weight specifications refer to absolutely dry biomass (dry matter) with a water content of 0 %. See also "dry matter".

#### *Afforestation (initial afforestation, new afforestation)*

Afforestation is the establishment of forest on formerly non-forested areas through seeding, planting, cuttings, etc.

#### *Agricultural, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry residues*

Residues that are directly generated by agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry and that do not include residues from related industries or processing.

#### *Agricultural biomass*

Biomass from agriculture, including agricultural waste and residues.

#### *Agricultural biomass producers*

Agricultural biomass producers are operations that produce agricultural biomass. See also "Production operations" and "Agricultural biomass".

#### *Agroforestry systems*

Agroforestry is a land-use system where woody perennials (trees, shrubs, palms, bamboos, etc.) are deliberately used on the same land-management units as agricultural crops and/or animals, in some form of spatial arrangement or temporal sequence. Biomass from agroforestry systems need to comply with the SURE requirements for agricultural biomass unless it is defined differently by law in the country of origin.

#### *Allocation*

Assignment of elements of one set to elements of another set. In the GHG balance sheets, inputs and outputs (here: GHG emissions) of a system are divided between different products and functions. Allocation takes place in every process step that the main product passes through in which a co-product is produced. GHG emissions are divided proportionally between the main and co-product.

### *Allocation factor*

The dimensionless factor used to allocate GHG emissions is called the allocation factor.

### *Ambient energy*

Naturally occurring thermal energy and energy accumulated in the environment with constrained boundaries, which can be stored in the ambient air, excluding in exhaust air, or in surface or sewage water.

### *Audit (ISO/IEC 17000:2020)*

A systematic, independent and documented process for obtaining audit proof and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which audit criteria are met. SURE uses this term for an external review of the SURE requirements of interfaces or scheme participants by the neutral certification body.

### *Auditor*

A person with the qualification to perform an audit.

### *Biodiversity*

See “Biological diversity”.

### *Biofuels*

Liquid fuels for transport produced from biomass.

### *Biogas*

Gaseous fuels produced from biomass.

### *Bioliquids*

Liquid fuel for energy purposes other than for transport, including electricity and heating and cooling, produced from biomass.

### *Biological diversity*

Biological diversity is defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity as “variability among living organisms from all sources, [...]; This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.”

### *Biomass*

Biomass means the biodegradable fraction of products, waste and residues from biological origin from agriculture, including vegetal and animal substances, from forestry and related industries, including fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the biodegradable fraction of waste, including industrial and municipal waste of biological origin. ;

### *Biomass fuel*

Gaseous or solid fuels produced from biomass.

### *Biomethane*

Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), which is of biogenic origin and a component of biogas. Biomethane is produced, for example, by processing biogas.

### *Biowaste*

According to Article 3(4) of Directive 2008/98/EC, “bio-waste” means biodegradable garden and park waste, food and kitchen waste from households, restaurants, caterers and retail premises and comparable waste from food processing plants.

### *Branch office audit*

See “Office audit”.

### *Canopy cover*

The canopy cover is the degree to which the surface of the forest is covered by a layer of branches and foliage at the top of a forest’s trees. A tree’s cover corresponds to its crown width. The crown width can be estimated or measured. When determining the percentage of tree canopy cover, the vertical projection of all crown widths is used.

### *Carbon sink*

Carbon sink has the meaning attributed to it by Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2018/841. ‘Sink’ means any process, activity or mechanism that removes a greenhouse gas, an aerosol, or a precursor to a greenhouse gas from the atmosphere.

### *Carbon stock*

Article 3 (4) of Regulation (EU) 2018/841 defines Carbon stock as the mass of carbon stored in a carbon pool.

### *CAP-Conditionality*

Conditionality is a general set of basic requirements that every farmer must meet in order to receive agricultural subsidies. This applies regardless of which farming method is practiced. Conditionality is intended to contribute to the development of sustainable agriculture by making beneficiaries more aware of the need to comply with the basic standards.

### *Carnot efficiency*

The Carnot efficiency is the highest theoretically possible efficiency in converting thermal energy into useful heat. It describes the ratio of useful heat to the amount of heat absorbed and is higher the greater the temperature difference between the useful heat at the point of delivery and its ambient temperature. Since neither absolute zero nor infinitely high temperatures can be reached, a Carnot efficiency of 100% is impossible.

### *Certificate*

A certificate is a conformity statement by a certification body within the framework of a voluntary scheme, certifying that an economic operator complies with the requirements of Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001.

### *Certification*

Confirmation after ISO/IEC 17000 of conformity by a third party for products, processes, schemes or people.

### *Certification audit*

Means an initial audit before participation in a scheme, with the purpose of issuing a certificate under a voluntary scheme.

### *Certification body (CB)*

Means an independent accredited or recognized conformity assessment body that concludes an agreement with a voluntary scheme to provide certification services for raw materials or fuels by carrying out audits of economic operators and issuing certificates on behalf of the voluntary schemes using the voluntary scheme's certification system.

### *CITES*

CITES stands for Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. The Convention on Biological Diversity regulates trade in protected animal and plant species, regardless of whether they appear on the IUCN (International Convention for Conservation of Nature) Red List or the World Conservation Union.

### *Collection operations*

See "Collectors" and "Operations".

### *Collector/collection point*

In the case of waste and residues from biomass, the first gathering points are called collectors/collection points. Collection points are operations that receive waste and residues from biomass for the first time from the supplying producers and where at most the waste and residues are subject to shredding or separation only that takes place within the course of waste processing.

### *Complaint*

A complaint is a statement by an interested party that expresses dissatisfaction and is linked to a claim against the scheme operator. A complaint does not justify a legal claim against the scheme operator.



### *Complaint management system*

The complaint management system describes how the scheme operator systematically deals with complaints within the SURE-EU system. The complaint management system is part of the integrity management system of the scheme operator.

### *Compliance*

Compliance describes behaviour that is in accordance with the rules and regulations, correct and in compliance with the law.

### *Compliance management system*

The compliance management system describes the scheme operator's systematic approach to all issues related to conduct in compliance with the rules, regulations and laws within the scope of the SURE-EU scheme. The compliance management system is part of the integrity management system of the scheme operator.

### *Conditionality*

Conditionality (formerly known as cross compliance) refers to a general set of basic requirements that every farmer must meet to qualify for certain EU agricultural payments or subsidies. These requirements relate to various aspects, including the environment, climate, human, animal and plant health, and animal welfare. Conditionality aims to promote the development of sustainable agriculture by increasing beneficiaries' awareness of the need to comply with these essential standards.

### *Confirmation of conformity*

The SURE certificate or the SURE inspection certificate confirms conformity (see: "Compliance") with the requirements of the SURE-EU scheme as well as with all legal provisions (directives, regulations, laws, etc.).

### *Conformity*

Conformity describes behaviour that is in accordance with the rules and regulations, correct and in compliance with the law.

### *Conformity evaluation*

Proof that specified or certain requirements related to a product, process, system or scheme, person, or body have been met. Conformity assessment includes activities such as testing, inspection, and certification, as well as accreditation of conformity assessment bodies. This process aligns with the principles outlined in ISO/IEC 17000, which provides a framework for conformity assessment and establishes criteria for evaluating conformity with relevant standards.

### *Contract*

Contract, for example in the context of trading in options, with certain, often standardised features, which grants both contract parties certain rights and duties.

### *Conversion factor*

Conversion factors describe the ratio of biomass input to biomass output after a conversion process or after natural leakage, e.g. during storage or transport.

### *Conversion plants*

Conversion plants for the generation of electricity or heat from biomass fuels are all facilities that use biomass fuels (such as wood fuel, straw, biogas, etc. but also those that absorb temporarily stored energy) and convert it to electrical energy and/or heat.

### *Conversion rate*

See “Conversion factor”

### *County of harvest*

Country of harvest means the country or territory where the forest biomass raw material was harvested.

### *Correction*

One or more measures for improvement, correction or adjustment.

### *Co-product*

If a substance arises in a process, the main purpose of which is not directed towards the production of this substance, it is to be regarded as a co-product if it is ensured that the substance will continue to be used, no further pre-treatment beyond a normal industrial process is required for this, the substance is produced as an integral part of a production process and the further use is lawful. The further use is lawful if the substance fulfils all product, environmental and health protection requirements applicable to its respective use and does not have any harmful effects on humans or the environment.

### *Crisis*

An incident that damages/may damage the image/reputation of the company, that influences/may influence public trust in the (voluntary) certification scheme or the scheme operator itself or that causes/may cause economic damage.

### *Crisis management system*

The complaint management system describes how the scheme operator systematically deals with all incidents with a potential for crisis within the SURE-EU system. The crisis management system is part of the integrity management system of the scheme operator.

### *Cross compliance*

Cross compliance is defined as tying certain EU agricultural payments to requirements relating to the environment, human, animal and plant health and animal welfare. The term was modified to “CAP-Conditionality”.

### *Date of initial operation*

In the SURE-EU system, the date the installation became operational must be checked and validated. An installation is deemed to be operational if it generates electricity and/or heat for the first time after establishing that it is technically ready for operation. The date the installation became operational does not change if the generator or other technical or structure parts are replaced after the initial start-up as a replacement or rationalization investment.

### *Deadwood*

All non-living woody biomass not contained in the litter, either standing, lying on the ground, or in the soil, including wood lying on the surface, coarse debris, dead roots, and stumps larger than or equal to 10 cm in diameter or any other diameter used by the country concerned.

### *Dealer/trader*

Any natural or legal person in the supply chain who makes a product available on the market.

### *Default value*

A value derived from a typical value by applying specified factors, which may be used instead of an actual value under the conditions laid down in Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001.

### *Desk audits*

A desk audit is an audit that does not/cannot take place on site at a scheme participant's premises. Conformity with the requirements of the SURE-EU scheme is verified by qualified individuals on the basis of the documents submitted.

### *Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (RED II)*

Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (new version).

### *Directive (EU) 2023/2413 (RED III)*

Directive (EU) 2023/2413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023 amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repealing Council Directive (EU) 2015/652.

### *Document inspection*

Document inspection is the examination of documents carried out as part of an audit. The document inspection is generally part of an on-site audit. However, a desk audit also involves a document inspection.

### *Documentary proof*

Documentary proof is a document that provides proof of scheme conformity for individual requirement criteria or parts thereof.

### *Drainage*

Drainage is defined as a reduction of the average annual water level due to an increased water loss or a reduced water supply because of human activities or installations both inside and outside of an area.

### *Dry matter*

Dry matter is the component of a material or substance that remains in that material or substance after deducting the mass of water contained therein. The dry matter content of a material provides a uniform reference value, e.g. to make measurement results or energy contents comparable.

### *Economic operator*

Economic operator has the meaning attributed to it by Article 2 (11) of the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996 of 14 June 2022 on rules to verify sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria and low indirect land-use change-risk criteria.

Economic operator means all economic units (e.g. operations) involved in the supply chain of biomass and biomass fuels, as well as in their conversion to electricity and heat and their sales.

Economic units involved in the supply chain of biomass and biomass fuels includes the following:

- producers of raw material;
- collectors of waste and residues;
- operators of installations processing raw material into final fuels or intermediate products;
- operators of installations producing energy (electricity, heating or cooling); or
- any other operators, including of storage facilities or traders that are in physical possession of raw material or fuels, provided that they process information on the sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving characteristics of those raw materials or fuels.

### *Ecosystem*

An ecosystem is a dynamic complex of communities of plants, animals and microorganisms and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

### *Electricity market*

Electricity markets as defined in Article 2, point (9), of Directive (EU) 2019/944.

### *Energy from renewable sources*

Energy from renewable non-fossil sources, namely wind, solar (solar thermal and solar photovoltaic) and geothermal energy, osmotic energy, ambient energy, tide, wave and other ocean energy, hydropower, biomass, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas, and biogas.

### *Exergy*

Exergy is the fraction of the total energy of a system or material flow that can do work when it is brought into thermodynamic equilibrium with its environment. In the case of the generation of electricity or mechanical energy, the SURE-EU system assumes that the energy share is 100 %, i.e. that there is no energy loss during transmission through the grid until electricity is removed from the grid.

### *Expired certificate*

A certificate that is no longer valid..

### *First gathering point*

A storage or processing facility managed directly by an economic operator or other counterpart under contractual agreement that is sourcing raw material directly from producers of agricultural biomass, forest biomass, wastes and residues or, in the case of renewable fuels of non-biological origin, the plant producing such fuels.

### *First-party audit*

First-party audit means a self-declaration by an economic operator supplying to the first gathering point who is subject to an auditing process according to the SURE EU system. The economic operator is responsible for ensuring compliance with the defined criteria.

### *Follow-up audit*

In a “follow-up audit” the implementation of corrective measures is verified. These are required if, during an initial or re-certification audit, there were non-conformities with the SURE-EU requirements that would prevent the participant from joining the scheme or lead to the loss of an existing certification.

### *Follow-up inspection*

A “follow-up inspection” checks whether corrective measures have been implemented. These are required if non-conformities with the SURE-EU requirements were found at the producer level in the context of group certification or the inspection of dependent operating sites.

### *Food and feed crops*

Starch-rich crops, sugar crops or oil crops produced on agricultural land as a main crop excluding residues, waste or ligno-cellulosic material and intermediate crops, such as catch crops and cover crops, provided that the use of such intermediate crops does not trigger demand for additional land.

### *Forest*

A forest is any area stocked with forest plants spanning more than one hectare with trees higher than five metres and a canopy cover of more than 10 percent, or with trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use. Land under agricultural use in this context refers to tree stands in agricultural production systems, such as fruit tree plantations, oil palm plantations and agroforestry systems when crops are grown under tree cover.

This definition is independent to the individual ownership structure of the area. The following (not exhaustive) shall also count as forest: clear-cut or opened-up areas, forest tracks, forest division and safety strips, forest glades and clearings, forest meadows, game feeding sites, timber storage sites and other areas associated with the forest and serving its interests.

A forest, as defined in the SURE-EU scheme, is characterised by a natural interaction of inter-dependent biological, physical and chemical factors that create an internal forest climate (temperatures are more balanced, air movement and light intensity are lower and humidity is higher compared to conditions in open spaces). Forests are rich in species and structures and are multifunctional, i.e. they are not used exclusively for the production of raw materials.

### *Forest biomass*

Biomass from forestry, including forest waste and residues. See “primary biomass from forest”.

### *Forest biomass producers*

Forest biomass producers are operations that produce forest biomass. See also “Production operations” and “Forest biomass”.

### *Forest regeneration*

See “Forest renewal”.

### *Forest renewal*

The re-establishment of a forest stand by natural or artificial means following the removal of the previous stand by felling or as a result of natural causes, including fire or storm.

### *Forests and other wooded areas with high biological diversity*

Forests and other wooded areas of high biological diversity are non-degraded, species-rich forest or wooded areas or areas designated by the competent authorities as wooded or wooded areas of high biological diversity.

### *Fuel supplier*

Entity supplying fuel to the market that is responsible for passing fuel through an excise duty point or, in the case of electricity or where no excise is due or where duly justified, any other relevant entity designated by a Member State.

### *Fuels*

Fuels that are ready to be supplied for consumption, including biofuels, bioliquids, biomass fuels, renewable liquid and gaseous fuels of non-biological origin and recycled carbon fuels.

### *Fuels producer*

An economic operator that produces renewable liquid and gaseous fuels of non-biological origin or recycled carbon fuels.

### *Fulfilment levels*

Extent to which specified scheme requirements are met. The scheme operator distinguishes between complete compliance (compliant), minor non-conformity, major non-conformity and non-compliance (critical or KO).

### *Gaseous biomass fuels*

Gaseous fuels from biomass for use as energy, i.e. the production of electricity, heat and cooling.

### *Geothermal energy*

Energy stored in the form of heat beneath the surface of solid earth.

### *GHG emissions*

GHG emissions (greenhouse gas emissions) are caused by the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, for example through the combustion of biomass or fossil fuels.

### *Grassland*

According to Art. 1(1) of Commission Regulation (EU) 1307/2014 (EU), grassland means terrestrial ecosystems dominated by herbaceous or shrub vegetation for at least five years continuously. It includes meadows or pasture that is cropped for hay but excludes land cultivated for other crop production and cropland lying temporarily fallow.

### *Greenhouse gases*

Greenhouse gases (GHG) are gases (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, etc.) in the atmosphere that prevent the heat from being reflected back into space from the earth's surface. The natural concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere ensures an average temperature of 15°C. The additional emission of greenhouse gases by human activity further heats up the climate and results in climate change.

### *Greenhouse gas emissions per unit of energy*

The total mass of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent GHG emissions associated with the biomass fuel or energy input divided by the total energy content of the biomass fuel or energy input (expressed as its lowest calorific value in the case of biomass fuel).

### *Greenhouse gas emission saving*

The greenhouse gas emission saving (GHG) is the savings of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions expressed as a percentage from the use of biomass fuels compared to fossil fuels for the production of electricity or heat.

### *Group*

A group is an association of several economic operators. The group does not have to be an independent legal entity. However, all of the operations in the group must be legally or contractually affiliated with the main office of the group and be integrated into a common administrative system defined and set up by the head office which is monitored and controlled internally.

### *Group inspection*

Group inspections are possible for operations which are members of a group and supply raw materials to the first gathering point.

### *Group certification*

Group certification is the certification of a group of companies where the certification applies to the group as a whole. (See also “Group inspection”)

### *Group manager*

The group manager manages a group and its members and monitors and verifies compliance with scheme requirements within the group. The group manager is, among other things, responsible for managing the audit process and communication between the certification body and the group members.

### *Group member*

A group member is an economic operator that belongs to a group with other economic operators. Group members must submit a self-declaration to the group manager. See also “Group”.

### *Habitat and biotope trees*

Habitat or biotope trees are very large, very old trees, both dead and living, which contain microhabitats. They are of central importance for specialised forest animal and plant species.

### *Hard IP procedure*

A mass balancing method whereby economic operators ensure that no supply of biomass or biomass fuel is mixed with other products. It also has to be ensured that the sustainable product can be identified as sustainable throughout the entire process with no changes. Individual consignments that are certified as sustainable are kept strictly separate from other products and raw materials during processing and storage so that their original characteristics are retained through to the end of the supply chain.



### *Harvesting criteria at national or sub-national level*

Harvesting criteria at national or sub-national level means the criteria laid down in point (a) of Article 29 (6) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001.

### *Harvesting criteria at sourcing area level*

Harvesting criteria at sourcing area level means the criteria laid down in point (b) of Article 29 (6) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001.

### *Heathland*

Vegetation with low and closed cover, dominated by bushes, shrubs, dwarf shrubs (heather, briars, broom, gorse, laburnum etc.) and herbaceous plants, forming a climax stage of development.

The official definitions of the country of origin of the biomass should prevail. In case of absence of any local reference, the definition here provided should be considered.

### *Highly biodiverse forest*

Highly biodiverse forest and other wooded land is defined as forest and other wooded land that is non-degraded and species-rich or has been identified as being highly biodiverse by the relevant competent authority.

### *Humus*

Humus is defined as the totality of dead organic matter in the soil. Humus is a complex mixture of organic substances of plant, animal and microbial origin, which is subject to permanent decomposition, conversion and formation processes. The humus reserves in the soil vary in stability and life span.

### *Hydrogen system*

Describes a system of infrastructure, including hydrogen networks, hydrogen storage, and hydrogen terminals, which contains hydrogen of a high grade of purity.

### *ILUC*

Indirect land-use change occurs when the cultivation of crops for biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels displaces traditional production of crops for food and feed purposes. Such additional demand increases the pressure on land and can lead to the extension of agricultural land into areas with high-carbon stock, such as forests, wetlands and peatland, causing additional greenhouse gas emissions.

### *Incident*

An incident with a potential for crisis.

### *Indicator*

An indicator is a characteristic that is an indication of a particular development, trait or condition. In risk assessments, indicators and the corresponding indicator values characterise the development of sustainability criteria for forest biomass.

### *Individual audit*

In the case of an individual audit, the inspection is carried out at a specific individual (stand-alone) operation and is site-specific. The successfully audited unit is issued a certificate of conformity.

### *Industrial grade roundwood*

Roundwood felled or otherwise harvested and removed, whose characteristics, such as species, dimensions, rectitude, and branch density, make it suitable for industrial use, as defined and duly justified by Member States according to the relevant forest conditions. This does not include pre-commercial thinning operations or trees extracted from forests affected by fires, pests, diseases or damage due to abiotic factors.

### *Industry*

Undertakings and products that fall under sections B, C, and F and under section J, division (63) of the statistical classification of economic activities (NACE REV.2), as set out in Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

### *Initial audit*

The initial audit is the first verification and assessment of compliance with the SURE-EU requirements prior to certification of an economic operator. A certification audit means an initial audit before participation in a scheme, with the purpose of issuing a certificate under a voluntary scheme..

### *Inspection*

“Inspection” is generally understood as a review of a factual situation by a neutral person or institution for the purpose of confirming conformity. Since the inspection is carried out by a neutral institution, it is also referred to as “neutral inspection”. For this reason, the SURE system principles, which generally relate to actually carrying out verifications, are described in the SURE document “Scheme principles for the certification process – Requirements and specifications”

In addition, SURE uses the term “inspection” to mean, in particular, an external review by the neutral certification body at the level of the biomass producer/waste and residue producer as part of group certification or the inspection of dependent operating sites. (See “Audit”.)

### *Inspection certificate*

A certificate of conformity following a successful inspection. It confirms conformity with the requirements of the SURE-EU scheme as well as with all further applicable legal provisions

(directives, regulations, laws, etc.). Economic operators, which are not themselves interfaces (e. g. group members as a part of group certification), are issued an inspection certificate on request. .

### *Installation*

In the SURE-EU system, “installation” is defined as the totality of all functionally related technical and structural facilities for the generation of electricity or heat. This means that all facilities installed in (immediate) physical proximity to each other, such as combined heat and power plants connected to the same fermenter or several boiler systems using the same steam turbine, form a single unit. Investments in expansion, such as the connection of an additional combined heat and power plant to an existing biogas plant, are also considered to be a single installation and not a second, newly commissioned installation.

### *Integrated pest management*

Integrated pest management aims to ensure that products are safe and of high quality while minimising the use of pesticides and other chemical plant protection products. This goal is achieved through various preventative measures. It requires continuous monitoring and analysis of all conditions that affect plant growth.

### *Integrity management*

Integrity management is understood as the totality of all activities or measures that build confidence in the (voluntary) certification scheme, its reliability and its quality, by reporting and/or prosecuting non-scheme-compliant behaviour and by investigating other unwanted incidents.

### *Interconnected infrastructure*

Describes a system of infrastructures, including pipelines, LNG terminals and storage facilities, which transports gases, that primarily consist of methane and include biogas and gas from biomass, in particular biomethane, or other types of gas that can technically and safely be injected into, and transported through the natural gas pipeline system, hydrogen systems as well as pipeline networks and transmission or distribution infrastructures for liquid fuels.

### *Interest groups*

See “Interested parties”

### *Interested parties*

“Interested party” means any natural or legal person, entity, body or authority with a legitimate interest in the SURE-EU system.

### *Interface*

Interfaces are the operations subject to certification along the production and supply chain, starting with the operations where biomass is first introduced into the processing chain (first gathering points/ collection points).

### *Land use*

Land use refers to the totality of the precautions, activities and interventions carried out on a given type of land cover (a series of human activities). The term land use is also used in the sense of the social and economic purposes for which the land is used (e.g. grazing, timber production and nature conservation).

### *Land-use change*

Land-use change refers to changes in terms of land cover between the six land categories used by the IPCC (forest land, grassland, cropland, wetlands, settlements and other land) plus a seventh category of perennial crops, i.e. multi-annual crops whose stem is usually not annually harvested such as short rotation coppice and oil palm (because such land has features of both cropland and forest land).

### *Last interface*

A last interface is a certifiable operation that converts solid or gaseous biomass fuels into electricity or heat and falls within the scope of Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001.

### *Legal predecessors*

Economic operator that has been legally replaced by a new one, but no substantive changes or only superficial ones have been made regarding its ownership, management composition, working methods or scope of activity.

### *Life cycle greenhouse gas emissions*

All net emissions of greenhouse gases attributable to the biomass fuel or energy supply (including any admixture). This includes all relevant stages of production or cultivation, including land use change, transport and distribution, processing and combustion, regardless of where these emissions occur.

### *Ligno-cellulosic material*

Material composed of lignin, cellulose and hemicellulose, such as biomass sourced from forests, woody energy crops and forest-based industries' residues and wastes.

### *Long-term production capacity*

Long-term production capacity means the health and ability of forest to continuously and sustainably deliver goods, such as wood of various quality grades, and non-wood-forest products and ecosystem services, including air and water purification, maintenance of wildlife habitat, recreation or cultural capital, over a long period of time, and where applicable, bridging several successive forestry rotations.

### *Low-risk area*

A low-risk area is an area for which the risk of using unsustainable forest biomass is assessed to be low in accordance with Article 29(6) and (7) of RED II.

### *LULUCF criteria at national level*

LULUCF criteria at national level means the criteria laid down in point (a) of Article 29 (7) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001.

### *LULUCF criteria at sourcing area level*

LULUCF criteria at sourcing area level means the criteria laid down in point (b) of Article 29 (7) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001.

### *Management system*

Management system means information collected on the area at the sourcing area level, including in the form of text, maps, tables and graphs, and strategies or management activities planned and implemented to reach the resource management or development goals.

### *Market participant*

Market participant as defined in Article 2, point (25), of Regulation (EU) 2019/943.

### *Mass balance system*

A process which establishes a connection between information or claims related to raw materials or intermediate and end products.

### *Measure*

An action, regulation or similar which is intended to achieve something specific.

### *Mix of raw material for the purpose of further processing*

Physical mixing of raw material for the sole purpose of producing biofuels, bioliquids or biomass fuels.

### *Monitoring*

In the SURE-EU system, the term “monitoring” mainly refers to the collection and evaluation of information on compliance with the scheme requirements.

### *Native tree types*

Tree species which have evolved in the same area, region or biotope where the forest stand is growing and area adapted to the specific ecological conditions predominant at the time of the establishment of the stand.

### *Natural and semi natural forests*

The term “natural forest” is defined in the SURE-EU system, in extension of the FAO definition, as follows:

In the SURE-EU system, a natural forest is any land area spanning more than 1.0 hectare with trees higher than 5 metres and a canopy cover of more than 10% or with trees that able to reach these thresholds in situ. This is independent of the ownership structure of the land. The following shall also count as forest: clear-cut or opened-up areas, forest tracks, forest division

and safety strips, forest glades and clearings, forest meadows, game feeding sites, timber storage sites and other areas associated with the forest and serving its interests.

A natural forest, as defined in the SURE-EU system, is characterised by a natural interplay of interdependent biological, physical and chemical factors that create an interior forest climate (temperatures are more balanced, air movement and light intensity are lower and humidity is higher compared to conditions in open spaces). Natural forests are rich in species and structures and are multifunctional, i.e. they are not used exclusively for the production of raw materials. Natural forests are composed of indigenous trees regenerated naturally, including both spontaneous and assisted natural regeneration.

Semi-natural forests are managed natural forests which, over time, have taken on a number of natural characteristics, including layered canopy, enriched species diversity, random spacing. They can also be planted forests which acquire more natural characteristics over time, including abandoned plantation forests that diversify with age and which experience natural regeneration of indigenous species.

#### *Natural disturbances*

Natural disturbances has the meaning attributed to it by point (9) of Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2018/841 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Natural disturbances: mean any non-anthropogenic events or circumstances that cause significant emissions in forests and the occurrence of which is beyond the control of the relevant Member State, and the effects of which the Member State is objectively unable to significantly limit, even after their occurrence, on emissions.

#### *Net annual increment*

Net annual increment means the annual growth in volume of the stock of living trees available minus the average natural mortality of that stock.

#### *Neutral inspections*

See “Inspections”

#### *Non-conformity*

Means non-compliance of an economic operator or certification body with the rules and procedures, established by the voluntary scheme, of which they are members or under which they operate.

#### *Non-food cellulosic material*

Feedstock mainly composed of cellulose and hemicellulose, and having a lower lignin content than ligno-cellulosic material, including food and feed crop residues, such as straw, stover, husks and shells; grassy energy crops with a low starch content, such as ryegrass, switchgrass, miscanthus, giant cane; cover crops before and after main crops; ley crops; industrial residues,

including from food and feed crops after vegetal oils, sugars, starches and protein have been extracted; and material from biowaste. Ley and cover crops are understood to be temporary, short-term sown pastures comprising grass-legume mixture with a low starch content to obtain fodder for livestock and improve soil fertility for obtaining higher yields of arable main crops.

### *Office audit*

Within the scope of an “office audit”, the quality of selected certification processes is verified at certification bodies on site.

### *Old-growth forests*

A forest stand or area consisting of native tree species that have developed, predominantly through natural processes, structures and dynamics normally associated with late-seral developmental phases in primary or undisturbed forests of the same type. Signs of former human activities may be visible, but they are gradually disappearing or too limited to significantly disturb natural processes. (SWD(2023) 62 Final. Commission guidelines for defining, mapping, monitoring and strictly protecting EU primary and old-growth forests. Extracted from Section 2.3.).

The official definitions of the country of origin of the biomass should prevail. In case of absence of any local reference, the definition here provided should be considered.*Operation*  
Operations are economic, independent economic units. (See also “Interface”)

### *Osmotic energy*

Energy created from the difference in salt concentration between two fluids, such as fresh water and salt water.

### *Operating site*

An operating site is a dependent location of an operation, which is or can also be subject to inspection within the SURE-EU certification of the so-called interface. Operating sites can be, for example, (goods) warehouses or silos.

### *Other wooded land*

Areas not classified as “forest” with an area of more than 1 hectare and trees higher than 5 metres and a canopy cover of 5-10% or trees able to reach these limits in situ; or with a combined canopy cover of shrubs, bushes and trees of more than 10%. It does not include land that is mainly used for agricultural or urban purposes.

### *Peatland*

See “Peatland soil”.

### *Peatland soil*

Peatland soil is soil that, when analysed up to a depth of 60 cm, exhibits organic material (peat substrate) in horizontal layers with a total thickness of at least 30 cm. The mass of the organic material is at least 20% organic carbon in the fine soil.

### *Permanent crops*

Permanent crops are perennial crops with stems not normally harvested every year.

### *Permanent forest*

A permanent forest is a structurally rich forest ecosystem with continuous canopy cover, single tree management and the absence of area-based approaches. The concept denotes a vertically structured, ecologically valuable forest which features trees of different ages, species and development stages.

### *Plantation forest*

Plantation forest means a planted forest that is intensively managed and meets, at planting and stand maturity, all the following criteria: one or two species, even age class, and regular spacing. It includes short rotation plantations for wood, fibre and energy, and excludes forests planted for protection or ecosystem restoration, as well as forests established through planting or seeding which at stand maturity resemble or will resemble naturally regenerating forests.

### *Planted forest*

Planted forest means forest predominantly composed of trees established through planting and/or deliberate seeding provided that the planted or seeded trees are expected to constitute more than fifty percent of the growing stock at maturity; it includes coppice from trees that were originally planted or seeded.

### *Polygon*

A polygon is a plane figure bounded by edges that are all straight lines (Greek polys = many, gony = angle). A polygon is uniquely defined by the coordinates of its angles. By measuring the individual distances and the angles of refraction or direction, the coordinates of all points can be calculated. The measurement of larger areas or lines is often based on a polygon.

### *Primary biomass from forests*

Primary biomass from forests means all roundwood felled or otherwise harvested and removed. It comprises all wood obtained from removals, i.e., the quantities removed from forests, including wood recovered due to natural mortality and from felling and logging. It includes all wood removed with or without bark, including wood removed in its round form, or split, roughly squared or in other form, e.g., branches, roots, stumps and burls (where these are harvested) and wood that is roughly shaped or pointed.



### *Primary forests*

Naturally regenerated forest of native tree species, where there are no clearly visible indications of human activities and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed.

### *Processing plants*

Processing plants are interfaces where biomass is processed and treated to reach the required quality for use as biomass fuel.

### *Processing residue*

See “Production residue”.

### *Producers/production operations*

Producers or production operations are operations that produce forest and/or agricultural biomass.

### *Product*

A product is a material that was intentionally created within a production process. A product is the result of a technical decision.

### *Product group*

Means raw materials, biofuels, bioliquids, non-gaseous biomass fuels with similar physical and chemical characteristics and similar heating values or gaseous biomass fuels, and LNG with similar chemical characteristics that all are subject to the same rules set out in Articles 7, 26 and 27 of Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001 for determining the contribution of biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels towards achieving the targets for renewable energy.

### *Production residue*

See “Residue”.

### *Proof of sustainability*

Declaration by an economic operator, made on the basis of a certificate issued by a certification body within the framework of a voluntary scheme certifying the compliance of a specific quantity of feedstock or fuels with the sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions savings criteria set out in Articles 25(2) and 29 of Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001.

### *Raw material*

Substances that have not yet been processed into fuels including intermediate products.

### *Re-certification audit*

An audit with the purpose of renewing a certificate issued by a certification body within the framework of a voluntary scheme. An “initial audit” must precede a “re-certification audit”. It is used to renew a certificate issued by a certification body under a voluntary scheme. .

### *Recognised national scheme*

A national scheme recognised pursuant to with is a certification scheme recognised pursuant to Art. 30(6) of Directive (EU) 2023/2413 Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001.

### *Recognised voluntary scheme*

A voluntary scheme recognised pursuant to Article 30(4) of Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001.

### *RED II*

RED II is the abbreviation for the Directive (EU) 2018/2001 to promote the use of energy produced from renewable sources. (Renewable Energy Directive).

### *RED III*

Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001

### *Reforestation*

Reforestation is the establishment of forest on formerly non-forested areas through seeding, planting, cuttings, etc.

### *Rejuvenation*

Rejuvenation is the natural or artificial forest renewal. This can be done, for example, through natural rejuvenation, seeding, planting or coppicing.

### *Remote audit*

A remote audit is a method, permitted only under specifically defined conditions, of carrying out an audit no longer solely on site with the physical presence of the people involved, but virtually with the aid of suitable information and communication technologies (ICT).

### *Renewable energy*

See “energy from renewable sources”

### *Residue*

Substance that is not the end product(s) that a production process directly seeks to produce. A residue is thus not the primary aim of the production process and the process has not been deliberately modified to produce it.

### *Risk*

Is the possibility of an incident which has an adverse effect on the (voluntary) certification scheme or the scheme operator or its integrity. Furthermore, risk is defined as the result of the assessment of the probability of negative consequences of an event. .

### *Risk assessment*

Risk assessment is the systematic process of assessing potential risks that may be associated with an activity or undertaking.

### *Risk management*

Risk management comprises all activities for the assessment, evaluation and prioritisation of risks as well as their avoidance, prevention and minimisation.

### *Sanction*

Measure to penalise non-scheme-compliant behaviour.

### *Sanction management system*

The sanction management system describes how the scheme operator systematically deals with all incidents involving non-scheme-compliant behaviour within the SURE-EU system. The sanction management system is part of the integrity management system of the scheme operator.

### *Scheme audit*

An external review of SURE requirements for interfaces or scheme participants by the neutral certification body. .

### *Scheme conformity*

The term “scheme conformity” means the conformity of the behaviour of the scheme participant but also of a certification body with the requirements of the SURE-EU scheme.

### *Scheme integrity*

Behaviour in accordance with the rules, regulations and laws within the SURE-EU system.

### *Scheme participant*

An economic operator (natural or legal person) who is a contract party to the SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES Verification Scheme and participates in the SURE-EU system. Scheme participants bear the risk for the obligations under the SURE-EU system for which they are responsible.

### *Scheme user*

All parties who use the scheme such as certification bodies and scheme participants.

### *Scheme operator*

A company that operates a (voluntary) certification scheme. In this context, “SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES Verification Scheme” is the scheme operator, and the SURE-EU scheme is the voluntary certification scheme.

### *Second-party audit*

Second-party audit means a self-declaration by an economic operator supplying to the first gathering point who is subject to an auditing process according to the SURE EU system. The first gathering point is responsible for ensuring compliance with the defined criteria through an internal auditing process of its suppliers.

### *Secondary biomass from forests*

Secondary biomass from forests means residues from forest-based industry, including bark, sawdust and wood shavings that result from sawmilling or wood milling, and recovered post-consumer wood.

### *Self-declaration*

Self-declarations confirm compliance with the requirements of Article 29 of Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001 by agricultural or forest biomass producers vis-à-vis the first collectors or by waste and residue producers vis-à-vis the collectors/collection points.

### *Service providers after the last interface*

Economic operators who supply the electricity and/or heat/cooling produced from sustainable biomass fuels to the next recipient after production at the last interface.

### *Severely degraded areas*

“Severely degraded land” means areas that were salinated over a longer period of time or to which very few organic substances have been added and areas that are heavily eroded.

### *Shadow audit*

A “shadow audit” is an unannounced on-site audit of a scheme participant by SURE.

### *Short rotation plantations*

“Short-rotation plantations” are agricultural areas on which fast-growing tree species are planted with the aim of rapid timber extraction and whose stands have a rotation period of no more than 20 years.

### *Silviculture*

System of measures to manage forest stands with the aim of fulfilling the useful, protective and recreational functions of the forest while respecting natural conditions.

### *Site*

Geographical location, logistical facilities, transmission or distribution infrastructures with precise boundaries within which products can be mixed.

### *Soft IP procedure*

A mass balancing method which keeps sustainable and non-sustainable biomass separate. Under certain conditions, however, consignments of sustainable products can also be mixed with products with other sustainability characteristics.

### *Soil compaction*

Soil compaction is considered to be the process of reducing the total volume of the soil by pressing or settlement. Soil compaction is defined as the increase in soil density ( $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$ ) or the corresponding decrease in pore content (vol.%).

### *Soil erosion*

Soil erosion is defined as the erosion of the soil by water and wind which goes beyond the scope of natural erosion processes and which is aided or triggered by soil management.

### *Solid biomass fuels*

Solid fuels produced from biomass.

### *Special audit*

Special audits are carried out in addition to the regular scheme audits when a violation is suspected or when crises or incidents occur or for other reasons. In addition, special audits also represent a quality assurance measure of the scheme operator.

### *Specified-risk area*

A specified-risk area is an area for which the risk of using unsustainable forest biomass is assessed to be specific (not low) in accordance with Article 29(6) and (7) of RED II.

### *Sourcing area*

The sourcing area is the geographically defined area where raw materials for forest biomass is produced, where reliable and independent information is available and where conditions are homogeneous enough to assess the risk to the sustainability and legality of the forest biomass.

### *Starch-rich crops*

Crops comprising mainly cereals, regardless of whether the grains alone or the whole plant, such as in the case of green maize, are used; tubers and root crops, such as potatoes, Jerusalem artichokes, sweet potatoes, cassava and yams; and corm crops, such as taro and cocoyam.

### *Stumps and roots*

Stumps and roots mean parts of the whole tree volume, excluding the volume of the above-stump woody biomass, considering the height of the stump as that at which the tree would be cut under normal felling practices in the relevant country or region.

### *Subject to certification*

An operation is subject to certification if it needs a certificate to prove that it fulfils the requirements of RED II.

### *Subject to inspections*

A requirement for a company to undergo an inspection (according to SURE's definition of the term "inspection").

### *Suppliers before the last interface*

Economic operators who supply biomass or biomass fuels, after their initial production/col-lection, to the next recipient up to the last interface.

### *Support scheme*

Any instrument, scheme or mechanism applied by a Member State, or a group of Mem-ber States, that promotes the use of energy from renewable sources by reducing the cost of that energy, increasing the price at which it can be sold, or increasing, by means of a renewa-ble energy obligation or otherwise, the volume of such energy purchased, including but not restricted to, investment aid, tax exemptions or reductions, tax refunds, renewable energy obligation support schemes including those using green certificates, and direct price support schemes including feed-in tariffs and sliding or fixed premium payments.

### *SURE*

Abbreviation for “SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES Verification Scheme”. This abbreviation stands for both the company name and the (voluntary) certification scheme of the scheme operator.

### *SURE-EU scheme/system*

The SURE-EU scheme/system is the certification scheme based on the European Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001) and serves to implement the requirements described therein.

### *SURE voluntary certification scheme*

See “SURE-EU scheme”.

### *Surveillance audit*

Any follow up audit of certificates issued by a certification body within the framework of a voluntary scheme after certification and before a re-certification audit, which can be carried out quarterly, half-annually or annually.

### *Suspended certificate*

A certificate temporarily invalidated due to non-conformities identified by the certification body or upon voluntary request of the economic operator.

### *Sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving characteristics*

The set of information describing a consignment of raw material or fuel that is required for demonstrating compliance of that consignment with the sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria for biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels or the greenhouse gas emis-sion savings requirements applicable for renewable liquid and gaseous transport fuels of non-biological origin and recycled carbon fuels.

### *Sustainability criteria*

The term 'sustainability criteria' refers to the 'harvesting criteria at national or sub-national level' (laid down in point (a) of Article 29 (6) of Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001) and the 'LULUCF criteria at national level' (laid down in point (a) of Article 29 (7) of Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001).

### *Terminated certificate*

Means a certification that has been voluntarily cancelled while it is still valid.

### *Third party audit*

Third party audit means an audit according to ISO/IEC 17000:2020 standard, which is a systematic, independent and documented process for obtaining audit proof and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which audit criteria are met.

SURE uses this term for an external review of the SURE requirements of interfaces or scheme participants by the neutral certification body, independent from the organization subject to the auditing.

### *Tip*

A communication reporting that something may be suspicious.

### *Transshipment points*

Transshipment points are defined in the SURE-EU system as locations where biomass is only provided for transport where no mixtures or changes of any kind may be made to the container or the product itself. Storage for the purpose of transshipment must not normally exceed 24 hours.

### *Typical value*

Estimate of the greenhouse gas emissions and greenhouse gas emissions savings for a particular biofuel, bioliquid or biomass fuel production pathway, which is representative of the Union consumption. .

### *Union database*

Database provided for in Article 31a of Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001.

### *Use of whole trees*

Using whole trees means using the entire above-ground biomass of trees, i.e. including branches and fine brushwood, leaves or needles, but excluding root mass, and including root parts (stumps or sticks) protruding from the ground and remaining after felling are not used.

### *Voluntary scheme*

Means an organisation that certifies the compliance of economic operators with criteria and rules including, but not limited to, the sustainability and greenhouse gas saving criteria set out in Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001 and in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/807.

### *Waste*

Waste as defined in point (1) of Article 3 of Directive 2008/98/EC, excluding substances that have been intentionally modified or contaminated in order to meet this definition. Substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard (Directive 2008/98/EC). Substances that have been intentionally modified or contaminated to meet that definition are not covered by this definition and are not accepted as waste.

### *Waste and residue producer*

Operations, also called points of origin, where waste and residues derive from biomass and which will be supplied to interfaces of the supply chain downstream and/or use them for further processing by themselves. .

### *Wetlands*

Land that is covered with or saturated by water permanently or for a significant part of the year.

### *withdrawn certificate*

Means a certificate that has been permanently cancelled by the certification body or the voluntary scheme.

### *Witness audit*

Observation of an audit is an activity carried out by an employee of SURE (or a person appointed by SURE) who observes an audit performed by an auditor or team from the appointed certification body without interference or influence.



# Annex I: Revision Information

## Revision Information Version 3.0

Section	Change	Date of Change
whole document	Version 2.0 updated to 3.0	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Agricultural, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry residues</u> Agricultural, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry residues means residues that are directly generated by agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry and that do not include residues from related industries or processing. <b>changed to:</b> <u>Agricultural, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry residues</u> Residues that are directly generated by agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry and that do not include residues from related industries or processing.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Allocation</u> [...] by-product <b>changed to:</b> <u>Allocation</u> [...] co-product	19.05.2025
Section 3	<b>added:</b> <u>Ambient energy</u> Naturally occurring thermal energy and energy accumulated in the environment with constrained boundaries, which can be stored in the ambient air, excluding in exhaust air, or in surface or sewage water.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Audit (ISO/IEC 17000:2005)</u> <b>changed to:</b> <u>Audit (ISO/IEC 17000:2020)</u>	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Auditor (EN ISO 19011)</u> <b>changed to:</b> <u>Auditor</u>	19.05.2025

Section	Change	Date of Change
Section 3	<p><u>Biomass</u> Biomass means the biodegradable fraction of products, waste and residues from biological origin from agriculture, including vegetal and animal substances, from forestry and related industries, including fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the biodegradable fraction of waste, including industrial and municipal waste of biological origin.</p> <p><b>changed to:</b> <u>Biomass</u> Biomass means the biodegradable fraction of products, waste and residues from biological origin from agriculture, including vegetal and animal substances, from forestry and related industries, including fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the biodegradable fraction of waste, including industrial and municipal waste of biological origin.</p>	19.05.2025
Section 3	<p><u>Carbon sink</u> [...] point (1) of Article 3 [...]</p> <p><b>changed to:</b> <u>Carbon sink</u> [...] Article 3 [...]</p>	19.05.2025
Section 3	<p><u>Carbon stock</u> Carbon stock has the meaning attributed to it by point (4) of Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2018/841.</p> <p><b>changed to:</b> <u>Carbon stock</u> Article 3 (4) of Regulation (EU) 2018/841 defines Carbon stock as the mass of carbon stored in a carbon pool</p>	19.05.2025
Section 3	<p><u>Certificate</u> Means a conformity statement by a certification body within the framework of a voluntary scheme, certifying that an economic operator complies with the requirements of Directive (EU) 2018/2001.</p> <p><b>changed to:</b> <u>Certificate</u> A certificate is a conformity statement by a certification body within the framework of a voluntary scheme, certifying that an economic operator complies with the requirements of Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001.</p>	19.05.2025
Section 3	<p><u>Certification (ISO/IEC 17000:2005)</u> Confirmation of conformity by a third party for products, processes, schemes or people.</p> <p><b>changed to:</b> <u>Certification</u> Confirmation after ISO/IEC 17000 of conformity by a third party for products, processes, schemes or people.</p>	19.05.2025

Section	Change	Date of Change
Section 3	<u>Certification body</u> [...] recognised [...] <b>changed to:</b> <u>Certification body (CB)</u> [...] recognized [...] 	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Compliance management system</u> [...] SURE-EU system [...] <b>changed to:</b> <u>Compliance management system</u> [...] SURE-EU scheme [...] 	19.05.2025
Section 3	<b>added:</b> <u>Conditionality</u> Conditionality (formerly known as cross compliance) refers to a general set of basic requirements that every farmer must meet to qualify for certain EU agricultural payments or subsidies. These requirements relate to various aspects, including the environment, climate, human, animal and plant health, and animal welfare. Conditionality aims to promote the development of sustainable agriculture by increasing beneficiaries' awareness of the need to comply with these essential standards.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Confirmation of conformity</u> [...] SURE-EU system [...] <b>changed to:</b> <u>Confirmation of conformity</u> [...] SURE-EU scheme [...] 	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Conformity evaluation</u> Proof that specified requirements relate to a product, process, system, person or body have been met. Conformity evaluation includes activities such as testing, inspection and certification and accreditation of conformity evaluation bodies. <b>changed to:</b> <u>Conformity evaluation</u> Proof that specified or certain requirements related to a product, process, system or scheme, person, or body have been met. Conformity assessment includes activities such as testing, inspection, and certification, as well as accreditation of conformity assessment bodies. This process aligns with the principles outlined in ISO/IEC 17000, which provides a framework for conformity assessment and establishes criteria for evaluating conformity with relevant standards.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Date of initial operation</u> [...] rationalisation [...] <b>changed to:</b> <u>Date of initial operation</u> [...] rationalization [...] 	19.05.2025

Section	Change	Date of Change
Section 3	<u>Default value</u> [...] SURE-EU system [...]           [...] Directive (EU) 2018/2001. <b>changed to:</b> <u>Date of initial operation</u> [...] SURE-EU scheme [...]           [...] Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Confirmation of conformity</u> [...] SURE-EU system [...] <b>changed to:</b> <u>Confirmation of conformity</u> [...] SURE-EU scheme [...]	19.05.2025
Section 3	<b>added:</b> <u>Directive (EU) 2023/2413 (RED III)</u> Directive (EU) 2023/2413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023 amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repealing Council Directive (EU) 2015/652.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Drainage</u> [...] supply as a result of [...] <b>changed to:</b> <u>Drainage</u> [...] supply because of [...]	19.05.2025
Section 3	<b>added:</b> <u>Electricity market</u> Electricity markets as defined in Article 2, point (9), of Directive (EU) 2019/944.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<b>added:</b> <u>Energy from renewable sources</u> Energy from renewable non-fossil sources, namely wind, solar (solar thermal and solar photovoltaic) and geothermal energy, osmotic energy, ambient energy, tide, wave and other ocean energy, hydropower, biomass, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas, and biogas.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Expired certificate</u> Means a certificate that is no longer valid. <b>changed to:</b> <u>Expired certificate</u> A certificate that is no longer valid.	19.05.2025

Section	Change	Date of Change
Section 3	<p><u>First gathering point</u></p> <p>First gathering point are operations, which accept agricultural or forest biomass for the first time from the supplying producers. “First gathering point” has the meaning attributed to it by Article 2 (12) of the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996 of 14 June 2022 on rules to verify sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria and low indirect land use change risk criteria.</p> <p>“First gathering point” means a storage or processing facility managed directly by an economic operator or other counterpart under contractual agreement that is sourcing raw material directly from the producers of agricultural biomass, forest biomass, wastes and residues or, in the case of renewable fuels of non-biological origin, the plant producing such fuels.</p> <p><b>changed to:</b></p> <p><u>First gathering point</u></p> <p>A storage or processing facility managed directly by an economic operator or other counterpart under contractual agreement that is sourcing raw material directly from producers of agricultural biomass, forest biomass, wastes and residues or, in the case of renewable fuels of non-biological origin, the plant producing such fuels.</p>	19.05.2025
Section 3	<p><b>added:</b></p> <p><u>Food and feed crops</u></p> <p>Starch-rich crops, sugar crops or oil crops produced on agricultural land as a main crop excluding residues, waste or ligno-cellulosic material and intermediate crops, such as catch crops and cover crops, provided that the use of such intermediate crops does not trigger demand for additional land.</p>	19.05.2025
Section 3	<p><u>Forest renewal</u></p> <p>Reforestation of a forest stand by natural or artificial means after the removal of the previous stand by felling or due to natural causes, including fire, storm or other calamities.</p> <p><b>changed to:</b></p> <p><u>Forest renewal</u></p> <p>The re-establishment of a forest stand by natural or artificial means following the removal of the previous stand by felling or as a result of natural causes, including fire or storm</p>	19.05.2025
Section 3	<p><b>added:</b></p> <p><u>Fuel supplier</u></p> <p>Entity supplying fuel to the market that is responsible for passing fuel through an excise duty point or, in the case of electricity or where no excise is due or where duly justified, any other relevant entity designated by a Member State.</p>	19.05.2025

Section	Change	Date of Change
Section 3	<b>added:</b> <u>Fuels</u> Fuels that are ready to be supplied for consumption, including biofuels, bioliquids, biomass fuels, renewable liquid and gaseous fuels of non-biological origin and recycled carbon fuels.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<b>added:</b> <u>Fuels producer</u> An economic operator that produces renewable liquid and gaseous fuels of non-biological origin or recycled carbon fuels.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<b>added:</b> <u>Geothermal energy</u> Energy stored in the form of heat beneath the surface of solid earth.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Grassland</u> Grassland has the meaning attributed to it in Article 1, point (1) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 1307/20143 <b>changed to:</b> <u>Grassland</u> According to Art. 1(1) of Commission Regulation (EU) 1307/2014 (EU), grassland means terrestrial ecosystems dominated by herbaceous or shrub vegetation for at least five years continuously. It includes meadows or pasture that is cropped for hay but excludes land cultivated for other crop production and cropland lying temporarily fallow	19.05.2025
Section 3	<b>added:</b> <u>Heathland</u> Vegetation with low and closed cover, dominated by bushes, shrubs, dwarf shrubs (heather, briars, broom, gorse, laburnum etc.) and herbaceous plants, forming a climax stage of development. The official definitions of the country of origin of the biomass should prevail. In case of absence of any local reference, the definition here provided should be considered.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<b>added:</b> <u>Highly biodiverse forest</u> Highly biodiverse forest and other wooded land is defined as forest and other wooded land that is non-degraded and species-rich or has been identified as being highly biodiverse by the relevant competent authority..	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Hydrogen system</u> Means a system of [...] <b>changed to:</b> <u>Grassland</u> Describes a system of [...]	19.05.2025

Section	Change	Date of Change
Section 3	<b>added:</b> <u>Industrial grade roundwood</u> Roundwood felled or otherwise harvested and removed, whose characteristics, such as species, dimensions, rectitude, and branch density, make it suitable for industrial use, as defined and duly justified by Member States according to the relevant forest conditions. This does not include pre-commercial thinning operations or trees extracted from forests affected by fires, pests, diseases or damage due to abiotic factors.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<b>added:</b> <u>Industry</u> Undertakings and products that fall under sections B, C, and F and under section J, division (63) of the statistical classification of economic activities (NACE REV.2), as set out in Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Initial audit</u> The initial audit is the first verification and assessment of compliance with SURE-EU-requirements prior to certification of an economic operator. <b>changed to:</b> <u>Initial audit</u> The initial audit is the first verification and assessment of compliance with the SURE-EU re-quirements prior to certification of an economic operator. A certification audit means an initial audit before participation in a scheme, with the purpose of issuing a certificate under a voluntary scheme.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Inspection certificate</u> The certificate of conformity following a successful inspection. In the SURE-system group members are issued an inspection certificate on request as part of group certification. <b>changed to:</b> <u>Inspection certificate</u> A certificate of conformity following a successful inspection. It confirms conformity with the requirements of the SURE-EU scheme as well as with all further applicable legal provisions (directives, regulations, laws, etc.). Economic operators, which are not themselves interfaces (e. g. group members as a part of group certification), are issued an inspection certificate on request	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Interconnected grid</u> Means a system [...] <b>changed to:</b> <u>Interconnected grid</u> Describes a system [...]	19.05.2025

Section	Change	Date of Change
Section 3	<u>Last interface</u> [...] Article 29(1) of Directive 2018/2001/EC <b>changed to:</b> <u>Interconnected grid</u> [...] Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Legal predecessors</u> Means an economic operator [...] <b>changed to:</b> <u>Legal predecessors</u> Economic operator [...]	19.05.2025
Section 3	<b>added:</b> <u>Market participant</u> Market participant as defined in Article 2, point (25), of Regulation (EU) 2019/943.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<b>added:</b> <u>Mass balance system</u> A process which establishes a connection between information or claims related to raw materials or intermediate and end products.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Mix of raw material of the purpose of further processing</u> Means the physical mixing [...] <b>changed to:</b> <u>Mix of raw material of the purpose of further processing</u> Physical mixing [...]	19.05.2025



Section	Change	Date of Change
Section 3	<p><b>added:</b></p> <p><u>Natural and semi natural forests</u></p> <p>The term “natural forest” is defined in the SURE-EU system, in extension of the FAO definition, as follows:</p> <p>In the SURE-EU system, a natural forest is any land area spanning more than 1.0 hectare with trees higher than 5 metres and a canopy cover of more than 10% or with trees that able to reach these thresholds in situ. This is independent of the ownership structure of the land. The following shall also count as forest: clear-cut or opened-up areas, forest tracks, forest division and safety strips, forest glades and clearings, forest meadows, game feeding sites, timber storage sites and other areas associated with the forest and serving its interests.</p> <p>A natural forest, as defined in the SURE-EU system, is characterised by a natural interplay of interdependent biological, physical and chemical factors that create an interior forest climate (temperatures are more balanced, air movement and light intensity are lower and humidity is higher compared to conditions in open spaces). Natural forests are rich in species and structures and are multifunctional, i.e. they are not used exclusively for the production of raw materials. Natural forests are composed of indigenous trees regenerated naturally, including both spontaneous and assisted natural regeneration.</p> <p>Semi-natural forests are managed natural forests which, over time, have taken on a number of natural characteristics, including layered canopy, enriched species diversity, random spacing. They can also be planted forests which acquire more natural characteristics over time, including abandoned plantation forests that diversify with age and which experience natural regeneration of indigenous species.</p>	19.05.2025
Section 3	<p><b>deleted:</b></p> <p><u>Non-compliance</u></p> <p>Failure to comply with requirements of the SURE-EU system or other undesirable incidents.</p>	19.05.2025

Section	Change	Date of Change
Section 3	<b>added:</b> <u>Old-growth forests</u> A forest stand or area consisting of native tree species that have developed, predominantly through natural processes, structures and dynamics normally associated with late-seral developmental phases in primary or undisturbed forests of the same type. Signs of former human activities may be visible, but they are gradually disappearing or too limited to significantly disturb natural processes. (SWD (2023) 62 Final. Commission guidelines for defining, mapping, monitoring and strictly protecting EU primary and old-growth forests. Extracted from Section 2.3.). The official definitions of the country of origin of the biomass should prevail. In case of absence of any local reference, the definition here provided should be considered.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<b>added:</b> <u>Osmotic energy</u> Energy created from the difference in salt concentration between two fluids, such as fresh water and salt water.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Product group</u> [...] Directive (EU) 2018/2001 [...] <b>changed to:</b> <u>Product group</u> [...] Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001 [...]	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Proof of sustainability</u> Means a declaration [...] [...] Directive (EU) 2018/2001 <b>changed to:</b> <u>Proof of sustainability</u> Declaration [...] [...] Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Raw material</u> Means substrates [...] <b>changed to:</b> <u>Raw material</u> Substrates [...]	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Re-certification audit</u> Means an audit with the purpose of renewing a certificate issued by a certification body within the framework of a voluntary scheme. <b>changed to:</b> <u>Re-certification audit</u> Declaration [...] An audit with the purpose of renewing a certificate issued by a certification body within the framework of a voluntary scheme. An “initial audit” must precede a “re-certification audit”. It is used to renew a certificate issued by a certification body under a voluntary scheme.	19.05.2025

Section	Change	Date of Change
Section 3	<u>Recognised national scheme</u> Means a national scheme recognised pursuant to with Article 30(6) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001. <b>changed to:</b> <u>Recognised national scheme</u> A national scheme recognised pursuant to with is a certification scheme recognised pursuant to Art. 30(6) of Directive (EU) 2023/2413 Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Recognised voluntary scheme</u> “recognised voluntary scheme” means a voluntary [...] of Directive [...] <b>changed to:</b> <u>Recognised voluntary scheme</u> A voluntary [...] of Revised Directive [...]	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>RED II</u> <b>added:</b> (Renewable Energy Directive)	19.05.2025
Section 3	<b>added:</b> <u>RED III</u> Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Remote audit</u> A remote audit is a method permissible under certain conditions, of carrying out an audit no longer solely on site, with the physical presence of the people involved, but virtually with the aid of suitable information and communication technologies (ICT) <b>changed to:</b> <u>Remote audit</u> A remote audit is a method, permitted only under specifically defined conditions, of carrying out an audit no longer solely on site with the physical presence of the people involved, but virtually with the aid of suitable information and communication technologies (ICT).	19.05.2025
Section 3	<b>added:</b> <u>Renewable energy</u> See “energy from renewable sources”	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Residue</u> A residue is a substance that [...] <b>changed to:</b> <u>Residue</u> Substance that [...]	19.05.2025

Section	Change	Date of Change
Section 3	<p><u>Risk</u> A risk is the possibility of an incident which has an adverse effect on the (voluntary) certification scheme or the scheme operator or its integrity. Furthermore, in the SURE system, risk is defined as the result of the assessment of the probability of negative consequences of an event.</p> <p><b>changed to:</b> <u>Risk</u> Is the possibility of an incident which has an adverse effect on the (voluntary) certification scheme or the scheme operator or its integrity. Furthermore, risk is defined as the result of the assessment of the probability of negative consequences of an event.</p>	19.05.2025
Section 3	<p><u>Scheme audit</u> During a scheme audit, compliance with the scheme specifications is verified.</p> <p><b>changed to:</b> <u>Scheme audit</u> An external review of SURE requirements for interfaces or scheme participants by the neutral certification body.</p>	19.05.2025
Section 3	<p><u>Scheme operator</u> [...] SURE-EU system [...]</p> <p><b>changed to:</b> <u>Scheme operator</u> [...] SURE-EU scheme [...]</p>	19.05.2025
Section 3	<p><u>Self-declaration</u> [...] Directive (EU) 2018/2001 [...]</p> <p><b>changed to:</b> <u>Self-declaration</u> [...] Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001 [...]</p>	19.05.2025
Section 3	<p><u>Site</u> Means a geographical location [...]</p> <p><b>changed to:</b> <u>Site</u> Geographical location [...]</p>	19.05.2025
Section 3	<p><b>added:</b> <u>Starch-rich crops</u> Crops comprising mainly cereals, regardless of whether the grains alone or the whole plant, such as in the case of green maize, are used; tubers and root crops, such as potatoes, Jerusalem artichokes, sweet potatoes, cassava and yams; and corm crops, such as taro and cocoyam.</p>	19.05.2025

Section	Change	Date of Change
Section 3	<b>added:</b> <u>Support scheme</u> Any instrument, scheme or mechanism applied by a Member State, or a group of Member States, that promotes the use of energy from renewable sources by reducing the cost of that energy, increasing the price at which it can be sold, or increasing, by means of a renewable energy obligation or otherwise, the volume of such energy purchased, including but not restricted to, investment aid, tax exemptions or reductions, tax refunds, renewable energy obligation support schemes including those using green certificates, and direct price support schemes including feed-in tariffs and sliding or fixed premium payments.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>SURE-EU system</u> The SURE-EU system is the certification scheme based on the European Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2018/2001/EC) and serves to implement the requirements described therein. <b>changed to:</b> <u>SURE-EU scheme/system</u> The SURE-EU scheme/system is the certification scheme based on the European Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001) and serves to implement the requirements described therein.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Surveillance audit</u> Means any follow up [...] <b>changed to:</b> <u>Surveillance audit</u> Any follow up [...]	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Suspended certificate</u> Means a certificate [...] <b>changed to:</b> <u>Suspended certificate</u> A certificate [...]	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving characteristics</u> Means the set of [...] <b>changed to:</b> <u>Sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving characteristics</u> The set of [...]	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Sustainability criteria</u> [...] of Directive (EU) 2018/2001) and [...] Directive [...] <b>changed to:</b> <u>Sustainability criteria</u> [...] of Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001) and [...] Revised Directive [...]	19.05.2025

Section	Change	Date of Change
Section 3	<u>Third party audit</u> [...] ISO/IEC 17000:2005 [...] <b>changed to:</b> <u>Third party audit</u> [...] ISO/IEC 17000:2020 [...]	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Typical value</u> The typical value is a estimate of the greenhouse gas emissions and the corresponding greenhouse gas saving from a specific production pathway of biofuels, bioliquids or biomass fuels that is representative of EU consumption. <b>changed to:</b> <u>Typical value</u> Estimate of the greenhouse gas emissions and greenhouse gas emissions savings for a particular biofuel, bioliquid or biomass fuel production pathway, which is representative of the Union consumption.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Union database</u> Means the database provided for in Article 28, point 2 of Directive (EU) 2018/2001. <b>changed to:</b> <u>Union database</u> Database provided for in Article 31a of Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001.	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>voluntary scheme</u> [...] Directive (EU) 2018/2001 <b>changed to:</b> <u>Voluntary scheme</u> [...] Revised Directive (EU) 2018/2001	19.05.2025
Section 3	<u>Waste</u> Any substance or object which the holder discards or intends to discard (Directive 2008/98/EC). Substances that have been intentionally modified or contaminated to meet that definitions are not covered by this definition and are not accepted as waste <b>changed to:</b> <u>Waste</u> Waste as defined in point (1) of Article 3 of Directive 2008/98/EC, excluding substances that have been intentionally modified or contaminated in order to meet this definition. Substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard (Directive 2008/98/EC). Substances that have been intentionally modified or contaminated to meet that definition are not covered by this definition and are not accepted as waste.	19.05.2025

Section	Change	Date of Change
Section 3	<p><u>Waste and residue producer</u> Operations which generate waste or residues from solid or gaseous biomass and supply them to interfaces and/or use them for the production of electricity and heat.</p> <p><b>changed to:</b> <u>Waste and residue producer</u> Operations, also called points of origin, where waste and residues derive from biomass and which will be supplied to interfaces of the supply chain downstream and/or use them for further processing by themselves</p>	19.05.2025
Section 3	<p><u>Wetlands</u> Wetlands are land that is covered with or saturated by water permanently or for a significant part of the year. Wetland include, in particular, swamps, marshes or bogs, as well as other bodies of water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters.</p> <p><b>changed to:</b> <u>Wetlands</u> Land that is covered with or saturated by water permanently or for a significant part of the year.</p>	19.05.2025

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