



SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES
Verification Scheme GmbH

Definitions in the SURE system

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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 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

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.

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".

Agricultural waste and residues

Waste and residues from agricultural production, aquacultural and fisheries, that do not include wastes or residues from related industries or processing.

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 by-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.

Audit (ISO/IEC 17000:2005)

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 (EN ISO 19011)

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 industrial and municipal waste of biological origin.

Biomass fuel

Gaseous or solid fuels produced from biomass.

Biomethane

Methane (CH₄), 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”.

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.

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 point (1) of Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2018/841.

Carbon stock

Carbon stock has the meaning attributed to it by point (4) of Article 3, of Regulation (EU) 2018/841.

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 type of declaration of conformity, which certifies conformity with the requirements of the SURE-EU system and with all relevant legal regulations. Certificates are issued to scheme participants or interfaces in the SURE system.

Certification (ISO/IEC 17000:2005)

Confirmation of conformity by a third party for products, processes, schemes or people.

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 mechanical processing only (shredding or separation).

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 system. The compliance management system is part of the integrity management system of the scheme operator.

Confirmation of conformity

The SURE certificate or the SURE inspection certificate confirms conformity (see: “Compliance”) with the requirements of the SURE-EU system 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 (ISO/IEC 17000:2005)

Proof that specified requirements related 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.

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”.

Correction

One or more measures for improvement, correction or adjustment.

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.

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 rationalisation 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 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 system 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).

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 as a result 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

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. (See “Scheme participants”)

Ecosystem

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

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.

First gathering points

First gathering points means a storage or processing facility managed by an economic operator that is sourcing raw materials directly from producers of forest- or agricultural biomass.

First-party audit

First party audit means a self-declaration by an economic operator supplying to the first gathering point.

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.

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 interdependent 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

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 and other calamities.

Forest waste and residues

Waste and residues from forestry production, but not from processing operations in downstream stages of the value chain or from processing.

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.

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.

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 Article 1(1) 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 (CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, 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 CO₂-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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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 Article 29(1) of Directive 2018/2001/EC.

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.

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.

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.

Measure

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

Monitoring

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

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.

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.

Neutral inspections

See “Inspections”.

Non-compliance

Failure to comply with requirements of the SURE-EU system or other undesirable incidents.

Non-conformity

A non-conformity is defined as a deficiency or wrongdoing, which in turn may result in legal claims.

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.

Operation

Operations are economic, independent economic units. (See also “Interface”.)

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.

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.

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.

Processing residue

See "Production residue".

Production residue

See "Residue".

Re-certification audit

The “re-certification audit” is a fully comprehensive audit that verifies whether the operation still meets the scheme requirements and has implemented any corrective measures that may have been agreed. An “initial audit” must precede a “re-certification audit”.

RED II

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

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, 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).

Residue

A residue is a 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

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.

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

During a scheme audit, compliance with the scheme specifications is verified.

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 system is the voluntary certification scheme.

Second-party audits

Second party auditing means the auditing of a supplier by the economic operator managing the first gathering point

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 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.

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 (g/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.

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.

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 system

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

SURE voluntary certification scheme

See "SURE-EU scheme".

Surveillance audit

Scheme audit conducted during the validity period of the SURE certificate to assess whether the participant meets the requirements for certification. In the SURE-EU system, surveillance audits are carried out during the year in the area of waste and residues after initial certifica-tion.

Third party auditing

Third party auditing means the auditing of an economic operator carried out by a third party that is independent from the organisation subject to the auditing.

Timber-producing plantations

Planted forest that is intensively managed and meet the following criteria at planting and stand maturity: one or two species, even age class and regular spacing.

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

The typical value is an estimate of the greenhouse gas emissions and the corresponding greenhouse gas savings from a specific production pathway of biofuels, bioliquids or biomass fuels that is representative of EU consumption.

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.

Waste

Any 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 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.

Wetlands

Wetlands are land that is covered with or saturated by water permanently or for a significant part of the year. Wetlands 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 metres.

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 1.3

Section	Change	Date of change
whole document	the term “certification schemes” updated to “voluntary schemes” to better align the terminology with the REDII framework throughout.	25.06.2021

Revision Information Version 1.2

Section	Change	Date of change
Section 3 / Definition of “Carbon sink”	new: Carbon sink has the meaning attributed to it by point (1) of Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2018/841.	15.06.2021
Section 3 / Definition of “Carbon stock”	new: Carbon stock has the meaning attributed to it by point (4) of Article 3, of Regulation (EU) 2018/841.	15.06.2021
Section 3 / Definition of “Dead-wood”	Non-living woody biomass either standing or lying on the ground changed to: 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.	15.06.2021
Section 3 / Definition “First gathering point”	First gathering points are operations, which accept agricultural or forest biomass for the first time from the supplying producers. changed to: First gathering points means a storage or processing facility managed by an economic operator that is sourcing raw materials directly from producers of forest- or agricultural biomass.	15.06.2021
Section 3 / Definition of “First-party audit”	In the case of first-party audits, known as internal audits, the organisation being audited is responsible for checking the defined criteria. changed to: First party audit means a self-declaration by an economic operator supplying to the first gathering point	15.06.2021

Section 3 / Definition of “Management system”	new: 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.	15.06.2021
Section 3 / Definition of “Natural disturbances”	new: 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.	15.06.2021
Section 3 / Definition of “Non-food cellulosic material”	[...] including from food and feed crops after vegetal oils, sugars, starches and protein have been extracted; and material from biowaste, where ley and cover crops are understood [...] changed to: [...] 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 [...]	15.06.2021
Section 3 / Definition of “Primary biomass from forests”	new: 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.	15.06.2021
Section 3 / Definition of “Second-party audits”	In the case of second party audits, people close to the organisation, such as customers or suppliers, inspect the organisation during an audit. changed to: Second party auditing means the auditing of a supplier by the economic operator managing the first gathering point.	15.06.2021
Section 3 / Definition of “Secondary biomass from forests”	new: 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.	15.06.2021
Section 3 / Definition of “Third party audit”	new: Third party auditing means the auditing of an economic operator carried out by a third party that is independent from the organisation subject to the auditing.	15.06.2021

Revision Information Version 1.1

Section	Change	Date of change
Section 3 / Definition of “Agricultural, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry residues”	deleted without substitution: These do not include residues from related industries or from processing.	22.03.2021
Section 3 / Definition of “Bioliquids”	Liquid fuels produced from biomass and intended for use as energy other than transport, including electricity, heating and cooling. replaced by: Liquid fuel for energy purposes other than for transport, including electricity and heating and cooling, produced from biomass.	22.03.2021
Section 3 / Definition of “By-product/Co-product”	deleted: By-product	22.03.2021
Section 3 / Definition of “By-product/Co-product”	by-product changed to: co-product	22.03.2021
Section 3 / Definition “Inspection”	[...] are described in the SURE document “System principles for neutral inspections.” changed to: [...] are described in the SURE document “Scheme principles for the certification process – Requirements and specifications”.	22.03.2021
Section 3 / Definition of “Lignocellulosic material”	Material consisting of lignin, cellulose and hemicellulose, such as biomass from forests, wood-like energy plants and residues and waste from the forest industry. replaced by: Material composed of lignin, cellulose and hemicellulose, such as biomass sourced from forests, woody energy crops and forest-based industries' residues and wastes.	22.03.2021
Section 3 / Definition of “Non-food cellulosic material”	Raw materials consisting mainly of cellulose and hemicellulose with a lower lignin content than lignocellulosic material; it includes residues of food and feed crops such as straw, sticks, husks and skins, low starch grass-like energy crops such as pasture grass, switchgrass, miscanthus, and cane, catch crops before and after main crops, undersown crops, industrial raw materials, including food and feed crops after extraction of vegetable oils,	22.03.2021

	<p>sugars, starches and protein, and biowaste material; undersown crops and cover crops are defined as temporarily cultivated pastures with grass-clover mixtures with a low starch content, used to feed livestock and to improve soil fertility for higher yields of the main crops farmed.</p> <p>replaced by:</p> <p>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, where 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.</p>	
<p>Section 3 / Definition of “Renewable liquid and gaseous transport fuels on non-biological origin”</p>	<p>deleted without substitution:</p> <p>Liquid or gaseous fuels used for transport, with the exception of biofuels or biogas whose energy content comes from renewable energy sources other than biomass.</p>	<p>22.03.2021</p>

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