



ISCC 202 Sustainability Requirements for the Production of Biomass

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1 Introduction

In the context of a sustainable development the use of biomass is only justifiable, if a sustainable, environmentally and socially sound production of the biomass is ensured.

Therefore the protection of certain areas and the compliance with several environmental and social standards are indispensable.

This standard for sustainable production comprises six principles with their respective criteria and does not only aim at the prevention of ecological shortcomings but also at the safekeeping of adequate working conditions and the protection of employees' health on farms. The criteria are defined as "major musts" and "minor musts".

Annex 1 entails the six principles with the respective criteria to be fulfilled. The criteria are categorized according to their relevance in "major musts" and "minor musts". All "major musts" and at least 60% of the "minor musts" must be fulfilled for a successful audit.

All criteria of ISCC principle 1 (Biomass shall not be produced on land with high biodiversity value or high carbon stock (according to Article 17(3), (4) and (5) of the Directive 2009/28/EC. HCV areas shall be protected.) belong to the category "major must" and must be complied with. Raw material for biofuels/bioliquids should not be taken from land with high biodiversity value or high carbon stocks.

If land fell into one of these categories in January 2008 and no longer does, raw material for biofuels/bioliquids should not be taken from the land. If land belongs to more than one of these land categories, all the relevant criteria apply. Eligibility for an exception under one of the criteria would not confer an exception from other criteria that apply. Raw material should not be obtained from primary forest and other (primary) wooded land, designated nature protection areas, and highly biodiverse grassland.¹ Any conversion of grassland is prohibited until the EC has published its definition.

As indicated already, all other "major musts" of the principles 2 to 6 must be fulfilled as well. Exceptions in the principles 2 to 6 are possible under certain conditions if producers cannot fulfil certain requirements due to the specific conditions in an individual country. Exceptions are not allowed for principle 1. At the same time, at least 60% of the minor in the principles 2 to 6 must be fulfilled.

Within EU Member Countries that have implemented Cross Compliance it is only necessary to control principle 1 as principles 2 to 6 are already covered by Cross Compliance and other control systems and one can rely on existing control systems to ensure that farmers fulfil the requirements from ISCC principles 2 to 6. If there are farmers within the EU who supply raw material for biofuels/ bioliquids production but are not covered by these control systems, all six ISCC principles need to be controlled. This is also the case in Romania and Bulgaria where Cross Compliance regulations are not finally implemented yet. Although Cross Com-

¹ The European Commission intends to establish the criteria and geographic ranges to determine which grassland can be considered to be highly biodiverse grassland. ISCC will communicate to economic operators any details of lists on protected areas as soon as they are available from the EC. ISCC will similarly update the standard documentation accordingly.

pliance regulation is not subject to an ISCC audit, the auditor must notify the respective national or regional authority of any obvious Cross Compliance violations. A correction of these violations must also be part of the auditor's task list for the respective farm.

For countries that have ratified the respective ILO Conventions, it is assumed that the social requirements (principle 4) are fulfilled. However, this is only the case as long as the auditor, based on his risk assessment does not come to a different conclusion.

Appendix 2 of this document entails an indicative list of information sources for the land use related and social criteria of ISCC. The information sources can be used for the risk management of the auditors.

As needed, a National or Regional Initiative (National or Regional Technical Working Group) can adapt the international ISCC standards to local conditions by the means of a specification of the standard. Therefore the working groups shall consider the regulations in the documents ISCC 102 National and Regional Initiatives. Possible national or regional specifications of the ISCC standard are always subject to recognition by the European Commission and or the national public authority and if relevant by the accreditation body.

2 Scope

The sustainability requirements in this document are valid for all farms participating in the ISCC system.

A differentiation takes place when auditing the standards in these cases:

- The relevant companies receive direct payments pursuant to Regulation (EC) no. 73/2009 or subsidies for area-oriented measures pursuant to Article 36 letter a numbers i through v and letter b numbers i, iv and v of Council Regulation (EC) no. 1698/2005 of 20 September 2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) (OJ L 277 of 21 October 2005, p. 1) that obligate them to fulfil Cross-Compliance requirements,
- or
- are registered as organisations pursuant to Regulation (EC) no. 761/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2001 allowing voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) (OJ L 114 of 24 April 2001, p. 1), in the applicable version.

If one or both of these conditions is/are fulfilled, only requirements not covered by according EU regulations are audited.

3 Normative references

As a basic principal, all relevant ISCC documents are valid for the scope of application. The normative references display the documents whose contents are linked and have to be considered as common points.

Relevant references:

- ISCC 201 System Basics
- ISCC 202-01 Checklist for the Control of Requirements for Biomass
- ISCC 203 Requirements for traceability
- ISCC 256 Group Certification
- ISCC 102 National and Regional Initiatives

4 Requirements for the production of biomass

All farms and plantations that go through an ISCC audit shall comply with relevant national and regional laws and regulations as long as they do not violate any requirements of ISCC and the Directive 2009/28/EC. If for example certain countries have legislation in place that allows for a certain degree of forest clearance for agricultural production it would not be allowed to produce biomass under the ISCC System on these areas as this would violate ISCC Principles and the requirements from the Directive.

The entire land of a farm/ plantation including agricultural land, pasture, forest and any other land must comply with the ISCC Standard 202 (Principle 1 – 6). Selection of fields (“cherry picking”) or partial compliance with the ISCC Standard 202 is not allowed under ISCC.

PRINCIPLE 1: Biomass shall not be produced on land with high biodiversity value or high carbon stock. HCV areas shall be protected.

The Directive 2009/28/EC identifies categories of land with high biodiversity value (Article 17(3)) and high carbon stocks (Article 17(4) and (5)). If land fell into one of these categories in January 2008 and no longer does, raw material for biofuels/bioliquids should not be taken from the land.

For some of these criteria the Directive allows for exceptions, provided that certain evidence is provided.

If land belongs to more than one of these land categories, all the relevant criteria apply. Eligibility for an exception under one of the criteria would not confer an exception from other criteria that apply.

Raw material should not be obtained from land with high carbon stock. The provision shall not apply if at the time the raw material was obtained, the land had the same status as it had in January 2008.

Compliance with national and local laws and regulations relevant to biomass production in the area and surroundings where biomass production takes place is required. The company should be familiar with the relevant legislation and should remain informed on changes in legislation. If national or local legislation allows the violation of ISCC Principles or the requirements from the Directive a production according to ISCC requirements is not possible.

1.1 Biomass is not produced on land with high biodiversity value

The production on land that had one of the following statuses in or after January 2008, no matter whether or not the land still has this status is not allowed:

(1) Forest land

Forest land comprises primary forests and other natural areas that are covered with native tree species and do not show clearly visible indications of human activity and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed.

Tree species are defined as native, if they grow within their natural geographical range on sites and under climatic conditions to which they have adapted naturally and without human interference.

The following tree species do not count as native:

- Tree species that have been introduced by humans and that would not occur in that area otherwise; and
- tree species and breeds that would not occur on these sites or under these climatic conditions, even if these sites or climatic conditions fall within the larger geographical range of the species.

Clearly visible indications of human activity are:

- Land management (i.e. wood harvest, forest clearance, land use change),
- heavy fragmentation through infrastructural constructions such as roads, power lines,
- Disturbances of the natural biodiversity (e.g. significant occurrence of non-native plant or animal species).

Activities of indigenous people or other humans managing the land in a traditional way do not count as clearly visible indications of human activity if they manage the forest on a subsistence level and their influence on the forested area is minimal (e.g. the collection of wood and non-timber products, the felling of a few trees as well as small-scale forest clearance according to traditional management systems).

(2) Areas designated by law or by the relevant competent authority to serve the purpose of nature protection

Areas for nature protection purposes comprise areas that are designated by law or by the relevant competent authority to serve the purpose of nature protection as well as areas that have been acknowledged by the European Commission as areas for the protection of rare, threatened or vulnerable ecosystems or species.

In Germany for example, all areas designated to serve the purpose of nature protection are protected parts of nature and landscape on the basis of the nature conservation acts of the states. They include the biotopes protected by federal or state law as well as Natura 2000 areas, nature conservation areas, national parks, national natural monuments, biosphere reserves, landscape protection areas, natural parks, natural monuments and protected landscape elements according to the Federal Act for the Protection of Nature of July 29th 2009 (BGBl. I, S. 2542) entering into force on March 1st 2010.

Comparable legal regulations must be regarded in other countries.

It is allowed to grow biomass on areas that serve the purpose of nature protection as long as evidence is provided that the production of raw material did not interfere with the nature protection purpose in question.

(3) Areas for the protection of rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems or species

Areas for the protection of rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems or species recognised by international agreements or included in lists drawn up by international agreements or included in lists drawn up by intergovernmental organisations or the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, subject to their recognition in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 18(4) of the RED.

An exception is possible if evidence is provided that the production of that raw material did not interfere with those protection purposes.

ISCC will communicate to economic operators any details of lists on protected areas as soon as they are available from the EC. The standard documentation will be updated accordingly.

1.2 Biomass is not produced on highly biodiverse grassland

Grassland of high biodiversity is defined as grassland, which in the absence of human intervention would:

- (1) remain grassland of intact natural species composition, ecological characteristics and processes (natural grassland); or
- (2) not remain grassland and which is rich in species and not degraded (artificial grassland), unless there is evidence that the harvesting of the biomass is necessary to preserve its grassland status.

Natural grassland develops under certain climatic and other factors (e.g. natural grazing, natural fires) preventing succession to dense forest. Its special characteristic is to remain grassland without any effort of humans.

Natural grassland with high biological diversity is characterized by intact ecological characteristics and processes as well as a natural species composition. A significant occurrence of invasive species, for instance, could indicate that natural grassland does not feature a natural species composition. A disturbance of ecological characteristics and processes can be caused by a significant change through humans, for instance. As long as this influence does not cause a change in the natural species composition or a significant disturbance of the ecological characteristics and processes, an area is still to be regarded as natural grassland. In savannahs, for instance, extensive pasturing and anthropogenic fire do not pose a significant disturbance.

Artificially created grassland (non-natural grassland) is mainly agricultural land permanently cultivated for green fodder; it can be permanent grassland such as meadows, mowing pastures and grazing pastures.

According to the EC public consultation document², the following operational definitions are considered:

² http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/consultations/2010_02_08_biodiverse_grassland_en.htm.

- Grassland: An area where a continuum of grasses or grass-like plants with few woody plants grows.
- Non-natural grassland: an area whose condition as grassland is maintained [for at least [5] years] as a result of human intervention such as ploughing, sowing, mowing or live-stock grazing.
- Natural grassland: grassland that has not been sown and is maintained as grassland by the influence of natural factors such as natural fires, grazing by wild animals, (periodic) drought or freezing temperatures.

This EC's consultation process seeks comments on three possible approaches for establishing the criteria and geographic ranges for highly biodiverse grassland.

Biomass cannot be harvested from areas that have been declared natural grassland of high biodiversity in January 2008 or thereafter. Whereas biomass is allowed to be harvested from non-natural grassland with high biodiversity, in case the preservation of the grassland status requires the harvest of the biomass.

Local conditions of species richness must be regarded when evaluating whether grassland features high biodiversity. Here, species richness must be assessed along the lines of the biogeographical conditions and site conditions (e.g. a species inventory for that region, if available). In case, of a land-use change from grassland without high biodiversity, the greenhouse gas emissions caused by that change must be incorporated into the greenhouse gas emissions calculation

Highly biodiverse grassland, as stated in the RED, has not yet been fully defined by the EC. **Until definitions, criteria and geographic areas featuring grassland with high biodiversity are determined by the Commission, any conversion of grassland in or after January 2008 is prohibited within the ISCC system.**

1.3 Biomass is not produced on land with high carbon stock

This means land that used to have one of the following statuses in January 2008 or thereafter and no longer had this status at the time of growing and harvesting biomass:

(1) Wetlands

Wetlands are areas that are covered with or saturated by water permanently or for a significant part of the year. In particular all wetlands that have been included in the list of internationally important wetlands according to article 2, section 1 of the Convention of February 2nd 1971 on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands), especially as habitat for waterfowl and waders of international importance fall into this category. The application of the requirement is not restricted to the wetlands covered by the convention, it applies to all wetlands.

Wetlands are in particular areas of marsh, fen, or 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.

- Covered with water means that water is visible on the surface as water surface.

- Saturated by water is a soil that shows also water at the surface, but not as a closed water surface.
- Areas that are permanently covered by or saturated with water show this state throughout the year.
- Areas that are covered by or saturated with water during a considerable part of the year do not show this state throughout the year. A considerable part of the year means that coverage or saturation with water lasts long enough so organisms adapted to wet or reduced conditions dominate. This holds especially for shallow water, shores, low-moor bog, fen and moor.

The conservation of the status of a wetland also implies that this condition is not to be changed or compromised. Thus if raw material is taken from land that was wetland in January 2008 and is still wetland when the raw material is taken, using such material would not breach the criterion.

(2) Forested areas

Forested areas is land that

- spans over more than one hectare with trees higher than five metres and a canopy cover of more than 30% (continuously forested areas), or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ (it does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural land use³), or
- spans over more than one hectare with trees higher than 5 metres and a canopy cover of between 10% and 30%, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ, unless reliable evidence is provided that the carbon stock of the area concerned before and after conversion is such that, when the methodology laid down in part C of Annex V of the RED is applied, the appropriate threshold for the greenhouse gas saving criterion would still be fulfilled, or,
- is forest according to the respective national legal definition.

The canopy cover is the degree of the coverage of an area by tree crowns of a storey. The coverage of a tree equals the size of its crown. The crown size can be estimated or measured. For the determination of the canopy cover of a forest in percent the vertical projection of all tree crowns must be used.

The status of forest areas includes all stages of development and age. Thus, it is quite possible that the canopy cover temporarily falls below 10 or 30 %, e.g. after tree harvest or a natural hazard (e.g. windfall). Such incidents do, however, not change the status of the area as forested area as long reforestation or natural succession is ensured within a justifiable time.

³ 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.

The canopy cover percentage marks the mean canopy cover of a forest area; it refers to an area of homogeneous coverage. If an area shows measurably varying coverage, it must be divided into subareas of homogeneous canopy cover to determine the mean canopy cover. The mean canopy cover is calculated from the canopy covers of the subareas.

Continuously forested areas are to be judged as entity, no matter how much of this continuously forested area lies within the farm land or the production area. Accordingly, the whole area is the basis for the calculation of the threshold values of 10 or 30%. If the total area of the forested area exceeds 1 ha and is stocked with trees higher than 5 metres, the area and each part of it that lies within the farm land or the production area is termed continuously forested area. Even if only 0.5 ha of the continuously forested area lie within the farm land, these 0.5 ha must be classified as continuously forested area just like the total forested area.

No conversion of continuously forested areas is allowed, even if this is allowed by national regulation.

These regulations do not apply to short rotation plantations, because they count among permanent crops and belong to farm land.

1.4 Biomass is not produced on land that was peatland in January 2008 or thereafter (Article 17(5) of the Directive 2009/28/EC)

Biofuels and bioliquids shall not be made from raw material obtained from land that was peatland in January 2008. An exception is possible if evidence is provided that

- the soil was completely drained in January 2008, or
- there has not been draining of the soil since January 2008.

This means that for peatland that was partially drained in January 2008 a subsequent deeper drainage, affecting soil that was not already fully drained, is not allowed.⁴

Peat itself is not considered biomass.

Peatland soils are soils with horizons of organic material (peat substrate) of a cumulative thickness of at least 30 cm at a depth of down to 60 cm. The organic matter contains at least 20 mass percent of organic carbon in the fine soil.

Drainage means a drawdown of the mean annual level due to an increased water loss or a reduced water supply resulting from human activities or constructions within or outside of the area.

Peatland soils that have been used for cropping before January 2008 are allowed for biomass production as long as a subsequent deeper drainage is not affecting soil that was not already fully drained.

⁴ Please also see Communication from the Commission on the practical implementation of the EU biofuels and bioliquids sustainability scheme and on counting rules for biofuels (2010/C 160/02).

1.5 Reference date

If areas have been converted after January 2008, the conversion and use must be in accordance with the requirements of principle 1.

PRINCIPLE 2: Biomass shall be produced in an environmentally responsible way. This includes the protection of soil, water and air and the application of Good Agricultural Practices

Compliance with national and local laws and regulations relevant to soil degradation, soil preservation, soil management, contamination and depletion of water sources, water quality, air emissions and burning practices is required.

2.1 Environmental impact assessment and conservation

2.1.1 Environmental aspects are considered if planning buildings, drainage etc.

Environmental impact of new buildings, drainage systems and other constructions or systems are assessed and kept as little as possible. If any of these activities are done, a report must be available to show that environmental aspects have been considered and negative impacts have been kept as little as possible.

2.1.2 Where production of raw material does not interfere with protection purposes (set in Principle 1), appropriate management measures shall be implemented to avoid damage or deterioration of habitats

If evidence is provided that the production of the raw material does not interfere with the protection purposes, cultivation is only allowed if appropriate management measures are identified and implemented. Legal requirements relating to the protection of species and habitats must be met and damage to or deterioration of habitats is avoided. Illegal or inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping or collecting activities in these areas are controlled as far as possible and, if necessary, prohibited.

Existing ecological corridors and important landscape elements shall be maintained or, if necessary, restored to minimize fragmentation of the protected habitats. This shall take place in accordance with the type of terrain, wildlife and agricultural practices. Around all protected areas (covered in Principle 1), set aside land or wildlife corridors, appropriate buffer zones shall be protected, restored or set up.

2.1.3 The cultivation of highly invasive species shall be prevented

If a species is officially prohibited in the country of operation, it shall not be cultivated. The introduction of alien species, which are not already established in the country or region, which show a high risk of invasive behaviour in a region, is prohibited or shall be in line with existing regulatory frameworks for such an introduction.⁵

2.1.4 Legitimacy of seed origin

All purchased seed must come from recognized seed producers. Self-bred seeds may be used, provided appropriate seed production norms are followed and legal requirements regarding intellectual property rights are met.

⁵ For further guidelines see for example GISD database: <http://www.issg.org/database/welcome/>

2.2 Natural water courses

2.2.1 *Natural vegetation areas around springs and natural watercourses are maintained or re-established.*

The producer knows the status of riparian vegetation. Setting up, maintaining or restoring appropriate riparian buffer zones protects watercourses and wetlands. Where natural vegetation in riparian areas has been removed there is a plan with a timetable for recovery.

2.3 Soil conservation and avoidance of soil degradation

2.3.1 *Conservation of soils*

Crops should be grown on suitable soils. In order to ensure a sustainable treatment of soils, good agricultural practices with respect to soil quality, soil contamination and soil erosion are addressed in the soil management. They refer to:

- Prevention and control of erosion;
- Maintaining and improving soil nutrient balance;
- Maintaining and improving soil organic matter;
- Maintaining and improving soil pH;
- Maintaining and improving soil structure;
- Maintaining and improving soil biodiversity;
- Prevention of salinization.

A soil management plan aimed at sustainable soil management, erosion prevention and erosion control must be documented. Topographical characteristics must also be considered. Annual documentation of applied good agricultural practices with respect to the abovementioned aspects must be in place. Applying precautionary measures prevents soil degradation. Appropriate management measures include inter alia crop rotations and intercropping, landscaping elements or an appropriate type and use of machinery. In order to maintain or improve soil conditions, periodic soil analysis shall be conducted, on e.g. soil pH, macro- and micronutrients or soil organic matter.

.2.3.2 Field cultivation techniques used to reduce the possibility of soil erosion

Evidence of measures of reduced soil erosion is available. Maps of fragile soils and topographic characteristics must be available. A management strategy including measures should exist for plantings on slopes above a certain limit (specified to soil, climate and topographical characteristics). A management strategy including identified measures should be in place for other fragile and problematic soils (e.g. sandy, low organic matter soils).

Appropriate measures to prevent the risk of soil erosion (including wind- as well as water erosion) and which maintain the natural soil structure are inter alia field tillage practices (minimisation of uncovered soil e.g. between harvest and next sowing), crop rotation and the adaptation of field cultivation techniques (e.g. limitation of mechanized harvesting).

2.4 Soil organic matter and soil structure

2.4.1 *Soil organic matter is preserved*

A soil organic matter balance is compiled (can be generic) or every six years a soil organic matter analysis takes place. Results are kept for seven years.

2.4.2 *Organic fertilizer is used according to nutritional requirements*

Organic fertilizer is used according to nutritional requirements of the soil. If organic matter, like Empty Fruit Bunches (EFB) or other remaining plant material is used in the production areas (mulched), the material is evenly distributed.

2.4.3 *Restriction on burning*

The burning of stubble or other crop residues is only allowed with the permission of competent authority and if there are no viable alternatives. Burning as part of land clearance is prohibited. When burning of stubble or other crop residues takes place, it is done in a responsible way (e.g. by considering influencing factors like wind direction).

2.4.4 *Techniques have been used that improve or maintain soil structure and avoid soil compaction*

Applied techniques are suitable for the respective processed ground. The soil structure shall be maintained and soil compaction shall be prevented, e.g. by an appropriate use of machinery, an appropriate timing of on-field work and an appropriate tire pressure.

2.4.5 *Use of agricultural by-products*

The use of agricultural by-products does not jeopardize the function of local uses of the by-products, soil organic matter or soil nutrients balance. Documentation must be available that the use of by-products does not occur at the expense of the soil nutrient balance, soil organic matter balance or important traditional uses (such as fodder, natural fertiliser, material, local fuel), unless documentation is available that similar or better alternatives are available and are applied.

2.5 Ground water and irrigation

2.5.1 *Mineral oil products and plant protection products are stored in an appropriate manner, which reduces the risk of contaminating the environment*

The storages of the material are consistent with best available technology and respective laws and prevent contamination by the stored materials.

2.5.2 *The producer respects existing water rights, both formal and customary, and can justify the irrigation with respect to social and environmental sustainability. Local legislation is followed*

Irrigation with other than rainwater is only allowed with a permit of the responsible authority. If ground water is used for irrigation, the producer holds an irrigation permit (official license) or, if not applicable, assesses and evaluates use and recharge rates of the water source.

The producer respects existing water rights, both formal and customary (including those of local communities and indigenous people), and can justify the irrigation in light of accessibility of water for human consumption. Adverse effects for downstream users must be prevented. Local legislation is followed.

2.5.3 Application of good agricultural practices to reduce water usage and to maintain and improve water quality

Good agricultural practices are implemented to reduce the unsustainable water use, the abstraction of unsustainable water sources and to minimize diffuse and localized inputs of chemical residues, fertilizers, erosion or other pollution sources to ground and surface water. Irrigation water should only be abstracted in a way that recharge rates compensate water abstraction. To protect the environment, water is abstracted from a sustainable source. The producer can justify the method of irrigation used in light of water conservation. Timing and amount of irrigation is tailored to crop requirements to meet planned yield and quality levels under local conditions.

Documentation of water management plan aimed at sustainable water use and prevention of water pollution shall exist. Annual documentation of applied good agricultural practices with respect to:

- Efficient water usage;
- Responsible use of organic fertilizers and agro-chemicals;
- Waste discharge.

Appropriate management measures to improve water quality could include inter alia setting up buffer zones around water bodies, an efficient handling of fertilizers including sewage sludge, wastewater treatment, installing efficient irrigation techniques (including rainwater harvesting, drain design) as well as timing the irrigation appropriately to crop requirements. Monitoring which is appropriate to scale demonstrates that applied practices are effective (e.g. by monitoring the Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) in order to monitor water quality management measures). Any direct evidence of localized contamination of water bodies (ground- or surface waters) is reported to local authorities and – if requested – monitored in collaboration with the authorities.

2.6 Use of fertilizer

2.6.1 During the application of fertilizers with a considerable nitrogen content care is taken not to contaminate the surface and ground water

The producer must demonstrate that he observes at least a distance of 3 m to riverbanks. He takes care that there is no run-off of applied fertilizer into surface water bodies and the ground water. During application, weather conditions (e.g. wind speed and –direction, temperature) are examined and taken into account.

2.6.2 Fertilizers with a considerable nitrogen contents are only applied onto absorptive soils

Fertilizer with a content of more than 1.5% of nitrogen in the dry matter are not applied onto flooded, water logged or frozen soils.

2.6.3 Records of fertilizer application

Complete records of all fertilizer applications are available (where, what, how much, date).

This includes:

- (1) The name or reference of the field
- (2) Exact dates (day/month/year) of the application
- (3) The trade name, type of fertilizer
- (4) Amount of the applied product in weight or volume
- (5) Application machinery type used and the method
- (6) Name of the operator.

2.6.4 Fertilizer application machinery

The fertilizer application machinery allows accurate fertilizer application. It is kept in good condition and verified annually to ensure accurate fertilizer application.

2.6.5 Inorganic fertilizers are stored in a covered, clean and dry area

The covered area is suitable to protect all inorganic fertilizers, e.g. powders, granules or liquids, from atmospheric influences like sunlight, frost and rain. Based on risk assessment (fertilizer type, weather conditions, temporary storage), plastic coverage could be acceptable. Storage directly on the soil is not allowed. It is possible to store lime and gypsum in the field for a day or two before spreading. Inorganic fertilizers, e.g. powders, granules or liquids, are stored in an area that is free from waste, does not constitute a breeding place for rodents, and where spillage and leakage is cleared away. The storage area for all inorganic fertilizers, e.g. powders, granules or liquids, is well ventilated and free from rainwater or heavy condensation.

2.6.6 Fertilizers are stored in an appropriate manner, which reduces the risk of contamination of water courses

All inorganic fertilizers, e.g. powders, granules or liquids are stored in a manner which poses minimum risk of contamination to water sources, e.g. stored liquid fertilizer must be surrounded by an impermeable barrier (according to national and local legislation) or is stored in a container of at least 10% larger capacity (if there is no applicable legislation)..Consideration should be given to the proximity to water courses and flood risks.

2.6.7 Fertilizer is used according to an input/output balance

A periodic input/output balance of fertilizer application must be conducted. Fertilizers application should be based on this input/output balance and follow professional recommendations, if available. Most efficient fertilizer application is aspired in order to reduce runoff.

2.6.8 The use of raw sewage sludge is not allowed

2.7 Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

2.7.1 *Assistance with implementation of IPM systems has been obtained through training or advice*

The technically responsible person on the farm has received a formal and documented training and / or the assistance of an external technical IPM consultant with the required technical qualifications is ensured.

2.7.2 *The producer can show evidence of implementation of at least one activity that falls in the category of "Prevention"*

The producer can show evidence of implementing at least one activity that includes the adoption of cultivation methods that could reduce the incidence and intensity of pest attacks, thereby reducing the need for intervention.

2.7.3 *The producer can show evidence of implementation of at least one activity that falls in the category of "Observation and Monitoring"*

The producer can show evidence of implementing at least one activity that will determine when, and to what extent, pests and their natural enemies are present and, using this information, plan the required pest management techniques.

2.7.4 *The producer can show evidence of implementation of at least one activity that falls in the category of "Intervention"*

The producer shows evidence that in situations where pest attack adversely affects the economic value of a crop, intervention with specific pest control methods will take place. Where possible, non-chemical approaches must be considered.

2.8 Use of Plant Protection Products (PPP)

2.8.1 *The application of chemicals listed in the Stockholm Convention of Persistent Organic Pollutants is prohibited*

Chemicals listed in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants shall not be applied on any (own and leased) land of the farm/plantation.⁶

2.8.2 *Staff dealing with plant protection products is competent*

Where the plant protection product records show that the technically responsible person making the choice of the plant protection products is a qualified adviser, technical competence can be demonstrated via official qualifications or specific training course attendance certificates. Fax and e-mails from advisors, governments, and other suitable institutions are allowable. Where the plant protection product records show that the technically responsible person making the choice of plant protection products is the producer, experience must be complemented by technical knowledge that can be demonstrated via technical documentation, e.g. product technical literature or specific training course attendance.

⁶ <http://chm.pops.int/Convention/ConventionText/tabid/2232/Default.aspx>

2.8.3 Producers only use plant protection products that are registered in the country of use for the target crop where such official registration scheme exists

All the plant protection products applied are officially registered or permitted by the appropriate governmental organization in the country of application. Where no official registration scheme exists, reference to the FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides is possible.

2.8.4 The producer follows the label instructions

All requirements (protective clothing, storage, handling etc.) have to be followed for the products used.

2.8.5 All application equipment is calibrated

Documented evidence of up-to-date sheets for all repairs, oil changes and maintenance is available. Application machinery (automatic and non-automatic) has been verified for correct operation within the last 12 months, which is certified or documented either by participation in an official scheme (where it exists) or by having been carried out by a person who can demonstrate their competence.

2.8.6 Invoices of registered plant protection products kept

Invoices of the registered plant protection products used must be kept for record keeping and available at the time of the external inspection.

2.8.7 If there are local restrictions on the use of plant protection products they are observed

It must be documented and secured that the producers are aware of the restrictions and are following them.

2.8.8 All the plant protection product applications have been recorded (where, when, what, how much, why, who)

Records are available and complete on:

- (1) The crop name and/or variety,
- (2) Date, location and trade name of product
- (3) Justification for application, product quantity applied
- (4) Application machinery used and the operator
- (5) The common name of the pest(s), disease(s) or weed(s) treated.

2.8.9 Surplus application mix or tank washings are disposed of in a way not contaminating the ground water

It must be secured and documented that the producer is aware of national or local legislation and the legislation is observed. When surplus application mix or tank washings are applied onto designated fallow land, it can be demonstrated that this is legal practice and all the treatments have been recorded in the same manner and detail as a normal plant protection product application. Surface water contamination must be avoided.

2.8.10 Application of plant protection products is done appropriately

If plant protection products are applied near populated areas or water bodies, appropriate distances must be kept. If plant protection products are applied aerially, any residents within 500 m of the planned application are notified in advance. Pesticides classified as WHO1a, 1b or 2 are not applied within a 500 m distance to any populated areas or water bodies.

During plant protection product application the weather conditions (e.g. wind speed, wind direction, temperature) are examined and taken into account in order to minimize drift. Documented procedures on good agricultural practices during spraying and records of weather conditions shall be available.

2.9 Plant Protection Product Storage

2.9.1 Plant protection products are stored in accordance with local regulations in a secure, appropriate storage. Potential contamination of the ground water must be avoided

The plant protection product storage facilities comply with all the relevant current national, regional and local legislation and regulations. The plant protection product storage facilities are kept secure under lock and key. Appropriate storage facilities:

- (1) Are structurally sound and robust
- (2) Have a sealed floor
- (3) Are built of materials and/or located so as to protect against temperature extremes
- (4) Are built of materials that are fire resistant (Minimum requirement RF 30, e.g. 30 minutes resistance to fire)
- (5) Have sufficient and constant ventilation of fresh air to avoid a build up of harmful vapours
- (6) Are located in areas with sufficient illumination both by natural or by artificial lighting, to ensure that all product labels can be read easily on the shelves
- (7) Are located in a separate space isolated from any other materials.

2.9.2 There are facilities for measuring and mixing plant protection products

The plant protection product storage facilities or the plant protection product filling/mixing area if this is a different location, have measuring equipment whose graduation for containers and calibration verification for scales has been verified annually by the producer to assure accuracy of mixtures and are equipped with utensils, e.g. buckets or water supply points for the safe and efficient handling of all plant protection products which can be applied.

2.9.3 There are facilities to deal with spillage to avoid contamination of the ground water

The plant protection product storage facilities and all designated fixed filling/mixing areas are equipped with a container of absorbent inert material such as sand, floor brush and dustpan and plastic bags, that must be signposted and kept in a fixed location, to be used in case of spillage of plant protection product.

2.9.4 The product inventory is documented and readily available

A stock inventory, which indicates the contents (type and quantity) of the store, is available and it is updated at least every three months. Quantity refers to the number of bags, bottles, etc., and is not to be calculated on milligram or centilitre basis.

2.9.5 All plant protection products are stored in their original package

All the plant protection products that are currently in the store are kept in the original containers and packs; in the case of breakage only, the new package must contain all the information of the original label.

2.9.6 Liquids are not stored on shelves above powders

All the plant protection products that are liquid formulations are stored on shelving, which is never above those products that are powder or granular formulations.

2.9.7 Obsolete plant protection products are securely maintained and identified and disposed of by authorised or approved channels

There are documented records that indicate that obsolete plant protection products have been disposed of by officially authorised channels. When this is not possible, obsolete plant protection products are securely maintained and identifiable. They shall be removed and recycled or – if not possible - disposed of following internationally recognized best practices, e.g. the FAO Guidelines for the management of small quantities of unwanted and obsolete pesticides.

2.10 Empty Plant Protection Product Containers and Waste Disposal

2.10.1 The reuse of empty plant protection product containers for purposes other than containing and transporting of the identical product is avoided

There is evidence that empty plant protection product containers have not been or currently are not being reused for anything other than containing and transporting of the identical product as stated on the original label. Workers and adjacent communities shall be educated on the risks of reusing empty containers.

2.10.2 The disposal of empty plant protection product containers occurs in a manner that avoids exposure to humans and the environment

The system used to dispose of empty plant protection product containers ensures that people cannot come into physical contact with the empty containers. The risk of contamination of the environment, watercourses, flora and fauna is minimised. Where official collection and disposal systems exist, there are documented records that the producer uses these systems.

2.10.3 Empty containers are rinsed either via the use of an integrated pressure rinsing device on the application equipment, or at least three times with water. The rinsate from empty containers is returned to the application equipment tank. Local regulations regarding disposal or destruction of containers are followed

Installed on the plant protection product application machinery there is pressure-rinsing equipment for plant protection product containers or there are clear written instructions to rinse each container three times prior to its disposal. Either via the use of a container-

handling device or via written procedure for the application equipment operators, the rinsate from the empty plant protection product containers is always put back into the application equipment tank when mixing. Compliance is ensured with the existing legislation and all the relevant national, regional and local regulations regarding the disposal of empty plant protection product containers.

2.10.4 The premises have adequate provisions for waste disposal

National and regional legislation is followed when storing and disposing wastes. The farm has designated areas to store litter and waste, which do not create a safety or health hazard..

Risks of different types of wastes are identified, and the wastes are stored according to risk identification. This especially applies to hazardous wastes. If applicable, waste burning and disposal should always be done by official, authorized systems. If not available, on-farm disposal should follow best practices. The following rules are to be followed:

If waste is burned on-farm, certain requirements must be fulfilled:

- Burning hazardous wastes like solvents, certain plastics or plant protection products on-farm is not allowed;
- PVC and certain other plastics should not be burned in on-farm incinerators (especially in open fires or low-temperature incinerators);
- Incinerators and burning sites are in legal locations and fit for purpose.

If on-farm disposal takes place, certain requirements shall be fulfilled:

- Sanitary landfills on the farm are designed according to the requirements of national legislation or where not available – governed by best practice guidelines defined by farm management;
- Litter and other general waste is not thrown into ditches, stream ways or holes that might flood;

Disposals of burned wastes are covered with a suitable layer of soil.

2.10.5 There is a farm waste management plan. Waste reduction, reuse and recycling avoids or reduces wastage and avoids the use of landfill or burning

Best practices must be addressed in the waste management plan. They refer to:

- Prevention of wastes;
- Prevention of on-farm burning of certain waste materials;
- Prevention of contamination of on-site landfill disposal;
- Prevention of contamination with respect to disposal of ash;

The waste management plan should include the phases (1) risk assessment, (2) target-setting, (3) risk management and (4) monitoring. It should be documented if on-farm burning and landfill disposal took place. An assessment of risks to humans and environment should be conducted in case burning and disposal took place on-farm. Appropriate management measures could be inter alia minimization of waste materials, or energy recovery, or efficient burning sites/incinerators. Record keeping must be in place for produced waste amounts and on-farm disposal (including discharge to landfill, drains, sewers, surface water, land or groundwater). If burning takes place, further records on types of wastes burned and the type

of burning practice (e.g. open fire, low temperature incinerators) should be available. Records of the risk assessment as well as appropriate monitoring and management measures must be kept for at least five years. A comprehensive, current, documented plan that covers wastage reduction, pollution and waste recycling is available. Air, soil, water, noise and light contamination must be considered.

PRINCIPLE 3: Safe working conditions through training and education, use of protective clothing and proper and timely assistance in the event of accidents

Compliance with national and local laws on working conditions is required. The company should be familiar with the relevant legislation and should remain informed on changes in legislation.

3.1 Safe Working Conditions

3.1.1 The farm has a written health, safety and hygiene policy and procedures including issues of risk assessment

The risk assessment should include important health and safety risks, such as the use of agrochemicals, liquid fuels, lubricants, machines, generators, boilers, pumps, power tools, electrical installations and power lines. Within the risk assessment, risks connected with transporting, storage, handling, spillage and disposal shall be considered.

The health, safety and hygiene policy must at least include the points identified in the risk assessment. Policy measures could include inter alia accident and emergency procedures, hygiene procedures, dealing with any identified risks in the working situation. The policy must be made clearly understandable for all workers, reviewed and updated when the risk assessment changes.

Regarding all implemented health and safety requirements, a warning system including legally permitted sanctions exists for workers who do not apply the health- and safety requirements.

3.1.2 First Aid kits are present at all permanent sites and in the vicinity of fieldwork

Complete and maintained first aid kits according to national regulations and recommendations must be available and accessible at all permanent sites and available for transport to the vicinity of the work. First aid medical services must be provided in case of emergencies.

3.1.3 Workers (including subcontractors) are equipped with suitable protective clothing in accordance with legal requirements and/or label instructions or as authorised by a competent authority. Protective clothing is cleaned after use and stored so as to prevent contamination of clothing or equipment

Complete sets of protective clothing for certain works (e.g. handling plant protection products, working with electric equipment) which enable label instructions and/or legal requirements and/or requirements as authorised by a competent authority to be complied with are available, used and in a good state of repair. Examples of protective clothing are rubber boots, waterproof clothing, protective overalls, rubber gloves and facemasks as well as appropriate respiratory, ear and eye protection devices. They should be used where necessary.

Protective clothing is regularly cleaned, according to a schedule adapted to the type of use and degree of soiling. Cleaning the protective clothing and equipment should be done separately from private clothing and glove washing before removal.

Dirty, torn and damaged protective clothing and equipment and expired filter cartridges should be disposed of. Single-use items (e.g. gloves, overalls) have to be disposed of after one use. All the protective clothing and equipment, including replacements filters, is stored in a well-ventilated area and physically separate from the plant protection products and any other chemicals, which might cause contamination of the clothing or equipment.

3.1.4 Potential hazards are clearly identified by warning signs

Permanent and legible signs must indicate potential hazards, e.g. waste pits, fuel tanks, workshops, access doors of the plant protection product / fertilizer / any other chemical storage facilities as well as the treated crop. Warning signs must be placed where appropriate.

3.1.5 There are records kept for training activities and attendees

Staff members responsible for certain tasks within the company should participate in training activities. If applicable, local population or small farms may participate in training programs. Training includes the following topics:

- Handling of plant protection products and other hazardous chemicals
- Waste management
- Handling of protective equipment for chemicals, fuels, gas and electricity
- Topics of the chosen add-ons (if applicable), e.g. Classified Chemicals

A record is kept for training activities for employees including the topic covered, the trainer, the date and the attendees. Evidence of attendance is required. If useful, it is possible to collaborate with training programs for the local population.

3.1.6 All workers handling and/or administering chemicals, disinfectants, plant protection products, biocides or other hazardous substances and all workers operating dangerous or complex equipment as defined in the risk assessment have certificates of competence, and/or details of other such qualifications

Records must identify workers who carry out such tasks, and show certificates of training or proof of competence.

3.1.7 All workers received adequate health and safety training and have been instructed according to the risk assessment

Workers can demonstrate competency in responsibilities and tasks through visual observation. If at the time of inspection there are no activities, there must be evidence of instructions.

3.1.8 Workers have access to clean food storage areas, designated dining areas, hand washing facilities and free drinking water

A place to store food and to eat must be available. In addition, hand washing facilities and potable drinking water must be available to workers

3.1.9 On-site living quarters are habitable and have the basic services and facilities

The living quarters for the workers on farm are habitable, have a sound roof, windows and doors, and have the basic services of running water, toilets and drains.

3.2 Plant Protection Product Handling

3.2.1 *The accident procedure is evident within ten meters of the plant protection product/chemical storage facilities*

An accident procedure must display the basic steps of primary accident care and be accessible by all individuals within ten meters of the plant protection product/chemical storage facilities and designated mixing areas.

3.2.2 *There are facilities to deal with accidental operator contamination*

All plant protection product/chemical storage facilities and all filling/mixing areas present on the farm have eye wash capability, a source of clean water no more than 10 meters distant, a complete first aid kit and a clear accident procedure with emergency contact telephone numbers or basic steps of primary accident care, all permanently and clearly indicated.

3.2.3 *There are procedures dealing with re-entry times on the farm*

There are clear documented procedures, which regulate all the re-entry intervals for plant protection products applied to the crops according to the label instructions. Where no re-entry information is available on the label, there are no specific requirements.

PRINCIPLE 4: Biomass production shall not violate human rights labour rights or land rights. It shall promote responsible labour conditions and workers' health, safety and welfare and shall be based on responsible community relations

The criteria listed here are based on internationally recognized requirements concerning social aspects (International Labour Organization, core ILO standards: ILO 29, 105, 138, 182, 87, 98, 100, 111). In addition, compliance with relevant national and local laws is required.

In addition, compliance with relevant national and local laws is required.

4.1 A self-declaration on good social practice regarding human rights has been communicated to the employees and signed by the farm management and the employees' representative

The farm management and the employee's representative have signed and displayed a self-declaration assuring good social practice and human rights of all employees. The self-declaration must be in language appropriate to workers and surrounding communities. This declaration contains commitment to the ILO core labour standards, respect for living wage, respect for the social environment, respect for legal land titles, sufficient compensation for communities, commitment to solve social conflicts, fair contract farming arrangements.

4.2 Employment conditions comply with equality Principles

Evidence is available that the farm provides equality of opportunity and treatment regardless of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, nationality, social origin or other distinguishing characteristic (ILO conventions 100 and 111).

4.3 There is no indication of discrimination (distinction, exclusion or preference) practiced that denies or impairs equality of opportunity, conditions or treatment based on individual characteristics and group membership or association. For example, on the basis of: race, caste, nationality, religion, disability, gender etc.

A publicly available equal opportunities policy including identification of relevant/affected groups in the local environment exists.

4.4 There is no indication of forced labour at the farm

There must be no use of forced, bonded or involuntary labour as meant in ILO Convention 29 and 105. Furthermore, employees shall not be requested to lodge their identity papers with the owner or a third party. Retaining the salary of workers, further property or additional grants is prohibited, unless permitted by law.

4.5 Personnel is treated with dignity and respect

The company shall not engage in or tolerate the use of corporal punishment, mental or physical coercion, or verbal abuse of personnel. No harsh or inhumane treatment is allowed.

4.6 Workers have the freedom to join labour organizations or organize themselves to perform collective bargaining. Workers must have the right to organize and negotiate their working conditions. Workers exercising this right should not be discriminated against or suffer repercussions

All employees are free to establish and to join organizations of their own choice. There is evidence (workers' interviews with self-selected/anonymous workers) that the employer imports the establishment and/or there is no evidence that the employer blocks effective functioning of worker-committees where the workers elect representatives. There is evidence of acceptance of Collective Bargaining Agreements. Trade union members are guaranteed the possibility to fulfil their tasks at least outside of the regular working hours. The employment conditions regarding freedom of association and collective bargaining are in accordance with all national and local legislation and ILO Conventions 87 and 98.

4.7 The farm does pay a living wage which meets at least legal or industry minimum standards

The company's pay slips demonstrate that living wages meet at least legal or industry minimum standards and are sufficient to meet basic needs of personnel and to provide some discretionary income. Gross wages are paid at least monthly to workers.

4.8 The person responsible for workers' health, safety and good social practice and the elected individual(s) of trust have knowledge about and/or access to recent national labour regulations/collective bargaining agreements

The responsible person and the elected person of trust demonstrate awareness and/or access to national regulations concerning: Gross and minimum wages, working hours, union membership, anti-discrimination, child labour, labour contracts, holiday and maternity leave, medical care and pension/gratuity and regular two-way communication.

4.9 All impacts for surrounding areas, communities, users and land owners taken into account and sufficiently compensated for

A participatory social impact assessment has been conducted, where all relevant stakeholders including local communities and indigenous people have been engaged. The report is publicly available in appropriate language to surrounding communities. On the basis of that report an action plan to address identified social impacts and a continued dialogue with surrounding communities is in place. Documents of regular meetings with communities (with two-way communication) and local government with listed risks and/or impacts and evidence of minuted negotiations or resolution processes are compiled.

4.10 The management holds regular two-way communication meetings with their employees where issues affecting the business or related to worker health, safety and welfare can be discussed openly

At least two meetings a year are held between management and employees. Matters related to the business and workers' health, safety or welfare can be discussed without fear, intimidation or retribution. Records from such meetings are kept and the concerns of the employees are recorded. The elected person of trust should assign an independent mediator by name and address.

4.11 There is at least one worker or a workers' council elected freely and democratically who represent the interests of the staff to the management

Documentation is available that demonstrates that a clearly identified, named person of trust and/or a workers' council representing the interests of the staff to the management is elected by all employees and recognized by the management. This person shall be able to communicate complaints to the management.

4.12 There is a complaint form and/or procedure available on the farm, where employees and affected communities can make a complaint

A complaint form and/or procedure are available for farm employees and surrounding communities. They have been made aware of its existence and complaints or suggestions can be made at any time. Complaints are dealt with in a timely manner. Complaints and their solutions from the last 24 months are documented and accessible.

4.13 All children living on the farm have access to quality primary school education

All children at primary schooling age (according to national legislation) living on the farm must have access to primary school education, either through provided transport to a public primary school or through adequate on-site schooling.

This is in accordance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Art. 13.

4.14 There are records that provide an accurate overview of all employees (including seasonal workers and subcontracted workers on the farm) and indicate full names, a job description, date of birth, date of entry, wage and the period of employment

Records demonstrate clearly an accurate overview of all employees (including seasonal workers and subcontracted workers) working on the farm. Records contain wage and period of employment. Records must be accessible for the last 24 months.

4.15 No minors are employed on the farm.

The minimum age complies with all local and national legislation as well as with ILO Convention 138 and 182. Documents include recording of workers' date of birth and documented evidence that the employer is aware of prevailing legislation. Children within the age of compulsory schooling must not be employed during school hours. Young workers (15-18) must not undertake hazardous work that jeopardizes their health, safety or morals. All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, forced or compulsory labour of children is prohibited.

4.16 All employees are provided with fair legal contracts. Copies of working contracts can be shown for every employee indicated in the records. These have been signed by both the employee and the employer

For every employee indicated in the records, a contract can be shown to the auditor on request. Both the employee as well as the employer has signed them. Records must be kept for at least 24 months. Where a registration system exists, copies of working contracts are registered with the labour authority of the country of production.

This is in accordance with ILO Convention 110.

4.17 There is a time recording system that shows daily working time and overtime on a daily basis for all employees

There is a time recording system that makes working hours and overtime transparent for employees and employer. Working times of all employees during the last 24 months are documented.

4.18 The employment conditions of individual workers comply with legal regulations and/or collective bargaining agreements

Employment conditions shall comply with legal regulations and/or collective bargaining agreements (e.g. on working hours, breaks, rest days, overtime, deductions, sickness, holiday entitlement, maternity leave, reasons for dismissal, period of notice, etc.). They are documented and available in the languages understood by workers or explained carefully to them by the manager or supervisor. Records indicate that regular weekly working hours do not exceed 48 hours. This criterion is not applicable for supervisors or management. Rest breaks/days are also documented during peak season. Every six sequent days of work, workers should receive at least one day off. Overtime shall be voluntary and only occur within a certain time frame (e.g. during harvest or planting). Overtime shall always be compensated at a premium rate. As far as possible, workers should be informed about overtime work in a timely manner.

Workers who take maternity leave are entitled to return to their employment at the same terms and conditions of prior employment. They are not subject to any discrimination, loss of seniority or deduction of wages.

Conditions of employment should follow negotiations with trade unions or similar organisations in case they are available.

4.19 Pay slips document the conformity of payment with at least legal regulations and/or collective bargaining agreements

Wages and overtime payment documented on the pay slips are in line with legal regulations (minimum wages) and/or collective bargaining agreements (if applicable). If payment is calculated per unit, employees (on average) shall be able to gain the legal minimum wage within regular working hours.

4.20 Other forms of social benefits are offered by the employer to employees, their families and/or community

Incentives (please specify in quantities if possible): Incentives for good working performance, bonus payment, support of professional development, family friendliness, medical care/health provisions, improvement of social surroundings are offered. If appropriate, the employer makes opportunities of employment known locally.

4.21 Mediation is available in case of a social conflict

An independent mediator should be assigned by name and address by the elected person of trust.

4.22 Fair and transparent contract farming arrangements are in place

Essential indicators are:

- (1) The contracts are on paper in the appropriate language and co-signed copies are available with both parties. In case of cooperative contract arrangements, all members have a copy.
- (2) Payments for harvest are, in calculated form, done on paper and signed and handed over to contract farmer for his/her own record keeping.
- (3) Provisions governing price-quality parameters are clearly defined in the contract.
- (4) The contract contains clear provisions on exit arrangements, buy-out possibilities, handing over of property deeds (when appropriate), and compensation measures in case of bankruptcy of the mother company when legally required.
- (5) There are minutes of meetings providing evidence of regular discussions or negotiations between Mother Company and contract farmers' representatives.

4.23 Biomass production does not impair food security

Biomass production shall not replace stable crops or impair the local food security. Where local food prices are expected to rise as a direct effect of biomass production, the producer shall set up mitigation measures.

PRINCIPLE 5: Biomass production shall take place in compliance with all applicable regional and national laws and shall follow relevant international treaties

5.1 The producer can prove that the land is used legitimately and that traditional land rights have been secured

Documents show legal ownership or lease, history of land tenure and the actual legal use of the land. The producer must identify and respect existing land rights (see Principle 1). The rights of indigenous people are respected.

5.2 There is awareness of, and compliance with, all applicable regional and national laws and ratified international treaties

The producer can demonstrate awareness of his responsibilities according to the applicable laws. Applicable laws are being complied with. They apply to:

1. National and international protected areas as referred to in Principle 1
2. Environmental impact assessment
3. Soil conservation and management, soil fertility (relating to e.g. application of fertilizers, manure and plant protection products, contamination and accumulation of hazardous substances in soils)
4. Handling of fertilizers and plant protection products
5. Water conservation and management (relating to e.g. abstraction, use and discharge of irrigation water, protection of water bodies)
6. Energy use and related emissions
7. Reuse, recycling and disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes
8. Health, safety and rights of workers
9. Rights of local communities and indigenous groups.

The company should be familiar with the relevant legislation and should remain informed on changes in legislation.

PRINCIPLE 6: Good management practices shall be implemented

6.1 A recording system is established for each unit of production. These records must be kept systematically and up-to-date, and should be available for at least three years

Current records must provide a history of biomass production of all production areas.

6.2 Records are kept for the description of the areas in use

The documentation system for the fields of the farms must comply with the following minimal requirements:

- (1) The description of the whole agricultural area is carried out along a list of parameters to be assessed:
 - a. Lot number
 - b. Lot size
 - c. Type of crop
- (2) Each lot (as part of the whole agricultural area) is depicted as traverse in geographic coordinates with a precision of 20 metres for each measuring point.
 - a. The depiction of simple lot shapes can easily be realised with the help of satellite images.
 - b. For very complex shapes, the real lot can be approximated by a polygon. The measuring points on each end of the lines framing the polygon then have to meet the required precision of 20 metres.
 - c. A small number of measuring points may suffice for the approximation through a polygon as long as the lot size on the map does not deviate from the specification in (1) by more than 10%.
 - d. If suitable maps or tables specifying the requested information do not exist, it is permitted to identify lots with the help of tools like Google Earth. The measuring points can be set in the image as place marks manually and the tool for documentation shall deliver the results (geo-coordinates) for these place marks.
 - e. Reports on all implemented management measures as well as records and verification documents on fulfilled criteria, where such a reporting is required

6.3 In case of the engagement of subcontractors they must comply fully with the ISCC Standard and provide the respective documentation and information

Relevant subcontractors are enterprises that work on behalf of the producer (e.g. seeding, fertilizing, pest control, harvesting).

Relevant subcontractors must be regarded in the audit. The producer must provide evidence of respective contracts with the subcontractor ensuring that the auditor gets access to rele-

vant information. The producer must also accept that ISCC approved certifiers are allowed to verify the assessments through a physical inspection where there is doubt.

The producer is responsible for observance of the control points applicable to the tasks performed by the subcontractor by checking and signing the assessment of the subcontractor for each task and season contracted.

Annex 1 ISCC Requirements at a glance

Criterion number	Source	Criterion	Major Must	Minor Must
	Sustainability	The entire land of a farm/ plantation including agricultural land, pasture, forest and any other land must comply with the ISCC Standard 202 (Principle 1 – 6). Selection of fields (“cherry picking”) or partial compliance with the ISCC Standard 202 is not allowed under ISCC.	X	
PRINCIPLE 1: Biomass shall not be produced on land with high biodiversity value or high carbon stock (according to Article 17(3), (4) and (5) of the Directive 2009/28/EC. HCV areas shall be protected.				
1.1	2009/28/EC	Biomass is not produced on land with high biodiversity value	X	
1.2	2009/28/EC	Biomass is not produced on highly biodiverse grassland	X	
1.3	2009/28/EC	Biomass is not produced on land with high carbon stock	X	
1.4	2009/28/EC	Biomass is not produced on land that was peatland in January 2008 or thereafter (Article 17(5) of the Directive 2009/28/EC)	X	
1.5	2009/28/EC	If land was converted after January 1, 2008, the conversion and the use should not run contrary to principle 1	X	
PRINCIPLE 2: Biomass shall be produced in an environmentally responsible way. This includes the protection of soil, water and air and the application of Good Agricultural Practices				
2.1 Environmental impact assessment and conservation				
2.1.1	Cross Compliance	Environmental aspects are considered if planning buildings, drainage etc.	X	
2.1.2		Where production of raw material does not interfere with protection purposes (set in Principle 1), appropriate management measures shall be implemented to avoid damage or deterioration of habitats		X
2.1.3		The cultivation of highly invasive species shall be prevented		X
2.1.4	Directive 98/95/EC	Legitimacy of seed origin		X
2.2 Natural water courses				
2.2.1	Sustainability	Natural vegetation areas around springs and natural watercourses are maintained or re-established		X
2.3 Soil conservation and avoidance of soil degradation				
2.3.1	Sustainability	Conservation of soils		X
2.3.2	Cross Compliance	Field cultivation techniques used to reduce the possibility of soil erosion	X	
2.4 Soil organic matter and soil structure				
2.4.1	Cross Compliance	Soil organic matter is preserved	X	
2.4.2	Cross Compliance	Organic fertilizer is used according to nutritional requirements of the soil	X	

2.4.3	Cross Compliance	Burning as part of the cultivation process is not allowed without permission. Burning as part of land clearance is not allowed	X	
2.4.4	Cross Compliance	Techniques have been used that improve or maintain soil structure and avoid soil compaction	X	
2.4.5	Sustainability	Use of agricultural by-products	X	
2.5 Ground Water and Irrigation				
2.5.1	Cross Compliance	Mineral oil products and Plant Protection Products are stored in an appropriate manner which reduces the risk of contaminating the environment	X	
2.5.2	Cross Compliance (from 2010)	The producer respects existing water rights, both formal and customary, and can justify the irrigation with respect to social and environmental sustainability. Local legislation is followed	X	
2.5.3	Sustainability	Application of good agricultural practices to reduce water usage and to maintain and improve water quality		X
2.6 Use of Fertilizer				
2.6.1	Cross Compliance	During the application of fertilizers with a considerable nitrogen content care is taken not to contaminate the surface and ground water	X	
2.6.2	Cross Compliance	Fertilizers with a considerable nitrogen content are only applied on absorptive soils	X	
2.6.3	Cross Compliance	Records of fertilizer application	X	
2.6.4	Cross Compliance (from 2010)	Fertilizer application machinery	X	
2.6.5	GAP	Inorganic fertilizers are stored in a covered, clean and dry area		X
2.6.6	Cross Compliance	Fertilizers are stored in an appropriate manner, which reduces the risk of contamination of water courses	X	
2.6.7	Cross Compliance	Fertilizer is used according to an input/output balance	X	
2.6.8	Cross Compliance	The use of raw sewage sludge is not allowed	X	
2.7 Integrated Pest Management (IPM)				
2.7.1	2009/128/EG	Assistance with implementation of IPM systems has been obtained through training or advice		X
2.7.2	2009/128/EG	The producer can show evidence of implementation of at least one activity that falls in the category of "Prevention"		X
2.7.3	2009/128/EG	The producer can show evidence of implementation of at least one activity that falls in the category of "Observation and Monitoring"		X
2.7.4	2009/128/EG	The producer can show evidence of implementation of at least one activity that falls in the category of "Intervention"		X
2.8 Use of plant protection products (PPP)				

2.8.1		The application of chemicals listed in the Stockholm Convention of Persistent Organic Pollutants is prohibited	X	
2.8.2	Ratification by EU member states, national implementation (e.g. Germany: BGBI II S. 803)	Staff dealing with plant protection products is competent	X	
2.8.3	Cross Compliance	Producers only use plant protection products that are registered in the country of use for the target crop where such official registration scheme exists	X	
2.8.4	Cross Compliance	The producer follows the label instructions	X	
2.8.5	Cross Compliance	All application equipment is calibrated	X	
2.8.6	GAP	Invoices of registered plant protection products are kept		X
2.8.7	Cross Compliance	If there are local restrictions on the use of plant protection products they are observed	X	
2.8.8	Cross Compliance	All the plant protection product applications have been recorded (where, when, what, how much, why, who)	X	
2.8.9	Cross Compliance	Surplus application mixes or tank washings are disposed of in a way not to contaminate the ground water	X	
2.8.10		Appropriate distances are kept when plant protection products are applied		X
2.9 Plant Protection Product Storage				
2.9.1	Cross Compliance / Local legislation on dangerous substances	Plant protection products are stored in accordance with local regulations in a secure, appropriate storage. Potential contamination of the ground water must be avoided	X	
2.9.2	Cross Compliance	There are facilities for measuring and mixing plant protection products	X	
2.9.3	Cross Compliance / GefahrstoffVO Local legislation on dangerous substances	There are facilities to deal with spillage to avoid contamination of the ground water	X	
2.9.4	GAP	The product inventory is documented and readily available		X
2.9.5	Cross Compliance	All plant protection products are stored in their original package	X	
2.9.6	GAP	Liquids are not stored on shelves above powders		X
2.9.7	GAP	Obsolete plant protection products are securely maintained and identified and disposed off by authorized or approved channels		X
2.10 Empty Plant Protection Product Containers and Waste Disposal				
2.10.1	GAP	The re-use of empty plant protection product containers for purposes other than containing and transporting of the identical product is avoided		X

2.10.2	GAP	The disposal of empty plant protection product containers does occur in a manner that avoids exposure to humans and the environment		X
2.10.3	Cross Compliance / GAP	Empty containers are rinsed either via the use of an integrated pressure rinsing device on the application equipment, or at least three times with water. The rinsate from empty containers is returned to the application equipment tank. Local regulations regarding disposal or destruction of containers are followed.	X	
2.10.4	KrW-/abfG Local legislation	The premises have adequate provisions for waste disposal		X
2.10.5	KrW-/abfG Local legislation	There is a farm waste management plan. Waste reduction, reuse and recycling avoids or reduces wastage and avoids the use of landfill or burning		X

PRINCIPLE 3: Safe working conditions through training and education, use of protective clothing and proper and timely assistance in the event of accidents

3.1 Safe Working conditions

3.1.1	Employer's Liability Insurance Association	The farm has a health, safety and hygiene policy and procedures including issues of the risk assessment		X
3.1.2	VSG 1 First Aid legislation	First Aid kits are present at all permanent sites and in the vicinity of fieldwork		X
3.1.3	Cross Compliance / GAP	Workers (including subcontractors) are equipped with suitable protective clothing in accordance with legal requirements and/or label instructions or as authorised by a competent authority. Protective clothing is cleaned after use and stored so as to prevent contamination of clothing or equipment	X	
3.1.4	ArbeitsstättenVO Local legislation on work place	Potential hazards are clearly identified by warning signs		X
3.1.5	Employer's Liability Insurance Association	There are records kept for training activities and attendees		X
3.1.6	2009/128/EG GefahrstoffVO Local legislation on dangerous substances	All workers handling and/or administering chemicals, disinfectants, plant protection products, biocides or other hazardous substances and all workers operating dangerous or complex equipment as defined in the risk assessment have certificates of competence, and/or details of other such qualifications	X	
3.1.7	2009/128/EG	All workers received adequate health and safety training and they are instructed according to the risk assessment		X
3.1.8	ArbeitsstättenVO Local legislation on work place	Workers have access to clean food storage areas, designated dining areas, hand washing facilities and free drinking water		X
3.1.9	ArbeitsstättenVO Local legislation on work place	On-site living quarters are habitable and have the basic services and facilities		X

3.2 Plant Protection Product Handling

3.2.1	GAP	The accident procedure is evident within ten meters of the plant protection product/ chemical storage facilities	X
3.2.2	ArbeitsstättenVO Local legislation on work place	There are facilities to deal with accidental operator contamination	X
3.2.3	Cross Compliance / ArbeitsstättenVO Local legislation on work place	There are procedures dealing with re-entry times on the farm	X

PRINCIPLE 4: Biomass production shall not violate human rights, labour rights or land rights. It shall promote responsible labour conditions and workers' health, safety and welfare and shall be based on responsible community relations

The criteria listed here is based on internationally recognized requirements concerning social aspects (International Labour Organization, core ILO standards: ILO 29, 105, 138, 182, 87, 98, 100, 111)

4.1		A self-declaration on good social practice regarding human rights has been communicated to the employees and signed by the farm management and the employees' representative	X
4.2		Employment conditions comply with equality principles	X
4.3		There is no indication of discrimination (distinction, exclusion or preference) practiced that denies or impairs equality of opportunity, conditions or treatment based on individual characteristics and group membership or association. For example, on the basis of: race, caste, nationality, religion, disability, gender etc.	X
4.4		There is no indication of forced labour at the farm	X
4.5		Personnel is treated with dignity and respect	
4.6		Workers have the freedom to join labour organizations or organize themselves to perform collective bargaining. Workers must have the right to organize and negotiate their working conditions. Workers exercising this right should not be discriminated against or suffer repercussions	X
4.7		The farm does pay a living wage which meets at least legal or industry minimum standards	X
4.8		The person responsible for workers' health, safety and good social practice and the elected individual(s) of trust have knowledge about and/or access to recent national labour regulations/collective bargaining agreements	X
4.9		All impacts for surrounding areas, communities, users and land owners taken into account and sufficiently compensated for	X
4.10		The management does hold regular two-way communication meetings with their employees where issues affecting the business or related to worker health, safety and welfare can be discussed openly	X

4.11		There is at least one worker or a workers' council elected freely and democratically who represent the interests of the staff to the management	X
4.12		There is a complaint form and/or procedure available on the farm, where employees and affected communities can make a complaint	X
4.13		All children living on the farm have access to quality primary school education	X
4.14		There are records that provide an accurate overview of all employees (including seasonal workers and subcontracted workers on the farm) and indicate full names, a job description, date of birth, date of entry, wage and the period of employment	X
4.15		No minors are employed on the farm	X
4.16		All employees are provided with fair legal contracts. Copies of working contracts can be shown for every employee indicated in the records. These have been signed by both the employee and the employer	X
4.17		There is a time recording system that shows daily working time and overtime on a daily basis for all employees	X
4.18		The employment conditions of individual workers comply with legal regulations and/or collective bargaining agreements	X
4.19		Pay slips document the conformity of payment with at least legal regulations and/or collective bargaining agreements	X
4.20		Other forms of social benefits are offered by the employer to employees, their families and/or community	X
4.21		Mediation is available in case of a social conflict	X
4.22		Fair and transparent contract farming arrangements are in place	X
4.23		Biomass production does not impair food security	X

PRINCIPLE 5: Biomass production shall take place in compliance with all applicable regional and national laws and shall follow relevant international treaties

5.1		The producer can prove that the land is used legitimately and that traditional land rights have been secured	X
5.2		There is awareness of, and compliance with, all applicable regional and national laws and ratified international treaties	X

PRINCIPLE 6: Good management practices shall be implemented

6.1	Cross Compliance	A recording system is established for each unit of production. These records must be kept systematically and up-to-date for at least three years	X
6.2	Cross Compliance	Records are kept for the description of the areas in use	X

6.3	Cross Compliance	In case of the engagement of subcontractors they must comply fully with the ISCC Standard and provide the respective documentation and information	X
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Annex 2 Country-specific characteristics relevant for risk management

Country-specific characteristics	EU	Brazil	Argentina	USA	Colombia	Paraguay	Malaysia	Indonesia
Land according to principle 1								
a) land with high biodiversity value								
forest area	MODIS Land Cover Type Yearly, MODIS Vegetation Continuous Fields, World Intact Forest Landscapes	Brazilian Forest Code, MODIS Land Cover Type Yearly, MODIS Vegetation Continuous Fields, World Intact Forest Landscapes	MODIS Land Cover Type Yearly, MODIS Vegetation Continuous Fields, World Intact Forest Landscapes	MODIS Land Cover Type Yearly, MODIS Vegetation Continuous Fields, World Intact Forest Landscapes	MODIS Land Cover Type Yearly, MODIS Vegetation Continuous Fields, World Intact Forest Landscapes	MODIS Land Cover Type Yearly, MODIS Vegetation Continuous Fields, World Intact Forest Landscapes	MODIS Land Cover Type Yearly, MODIS Vegetation Continuous Fields, World Intact Forest Landscapes	MODIS Land Cover Type Yearly, MODIS Vegetation Continuous Fields, World Intact Forest Landscapes
nature protection area	Natura 2000, WDPA, IBAT	Sistema Nacional de Unidades de Conservação (SNUC), WDPA, IBAT	WDPA, IBAT	WDPA, IBAT	WDPA, IBAT	WDPA, IBAT	WDPA, IBAT	WDPA, IBAT
grassland	Grassland Ecosystems	Grassland Ecosystems	Grassland Ecosystems	Grassland Ecosystems	Grassland Ecosystems	Grassland Ecosystems	Grassland Ecosystems	Grassland Ecosystems
b) land with high carbon stock								
wetlands	RAMSAR Convention	RAMSAR Convention	RAMSAR Convention	RAMSAR Convention	RAMSAR Convention	RAMSAR Convention	RAMSAR Convention	RAMSAR Convention
continuously forested areas	Natura 2000	Brazilian Forest Code, MODIS Land Cover Type Yearly, MODIS Vegetation Continuous Fields, World Intact Forest Landscapes	MODIS Land Cover Type Yearly, MODIS Vegetation Continuous Fields, World Intact Forest Landscapes	MODIS Land Cover Type Yearly, MODIS Vegetation Continuous Fields, World Intact Forest Landscapes	MODIS Land Cover Type Yearly, MODIS Vegetation Continuous Fields, World Intact Forest Landscapes	Forstkonversionsmonitorium (Zero Deforestation Law), MODIS Land Cover Type Yearly, MODIS Vegetation Continuous Fields, World Intact Forest Landscapes	MODIS Land Cover Type Yearly, MODIS Vegetation Continuous Fields, World Intact Forest Landscapes	MODIS Land Cover Type Yearly, MODIS Vegetation Continuous Fields, World Intact Forest Landscapes
peatland	Harmonized World Soil Database, FAO	Harmonized World Soil Database, FAO	Harmonized World Soil Database, FAO	Harmonized World Soil Database, FAO	Harmonized World Soil Database, FAO	Harmonized World Soil Database, FAO	Harmonized World Soil Database, FAO	Harmonized World Soil Database, FAO
degraded land	Harmonized World Soil Database, FAO; Global Assessment of Soil Degradation	Harmonized World Soil Database, FAO; Global Assessment of Soil Degradation	Harmonized World Soil Database, FAO; Global Assessment of Soil Degradation	Harmonized World Soil Database, FAO; Global Assessment of Soil Degradation	Harmonized World Soil Database, FAO; Global Assessment of Soil Degradation	Harmonized World Soil Database, FAO; Global Assessment of Soil Degradation	Harmonized World Soil Database, FAO; Global Assessment of Soil Degradation	Harmonized World Soil Database, FAO; Global Assessment of Soil Degradation
land use management	land use planning based on EUREC and national land use planning	Agro-ecological Zoning	so far no centralized land use planning	regional land use planning	land use plan 2005	national land use plan	National Physical Plan (NPP) 2006-2020	National Spatial Plan (BAPPENAS, Gesetz Nr. 17 u. 26/2007)
ILO (forced labour / child labour, core labor standards)								
forced labour	ILO 29, 105 ratified	ILO 29 ratified	ILO 29 ratified	appropriate proof necessary	ILO 29 ratified	ILO 29 ratified	ILO 29 ratified	ILO 29 ratified
child labour	ILO 138, 182 ratified	ILO 138, 182 ratified	ILO 138, 182 ratified	only ILO 182 ratified, appropriate proof necessary	ILO 138, 182 ratified	ILO 138, 182 ratified	ILO 138, 182 ratified	ILO 138, 182 ratified
freedom of association and collective bargaining	ILO 87, 98 ratified	only ILO 98 ratified, appropriate proof necessary	ILO 87, 98 ratified	appropriate proof necessary	ILO 87, 98 ratified	ILO 87, 98 ratified	Nur ILO 98 ratified, appropriate proof necessary	ILO 87, 98 ratified
non-discrimination	ILO 100, 111 ratified	ILO 100, 111 ratified	ILO 100, 111 ratified	appropriate proof necessary	ILO 100, 111 ratified	ILO 100, 111 ratified	only ILO 100 ratified, appropriate proof necessary	ILO 100, 111 ratified
water use	Aquastat FAO	Aquastat FAO	Aquastat FAO	Aquastat FAO	Aquastat FAO	Aquastat FAO	Aquastat FAO	Aquastat FAO
High risk	WDPA-regions, Carpathians	WDPA-regions, Legal Amazonia, Atlantic Forests, Cerrado-Pantanal	WDPA-regions, Gran Chaco	WDPA-regions, Southeastern Rivers and Streams (Florida)	WDPA-regions, Choco Darien, Amazon	WDPA-regions, Gran Chaco, Upper Parana Atlantic Forest, eastern areas	WDPA-regions	WDPA-regions, Sumatra, Kalimantan ("Heart of Borneo"), Papua

Annex 3 Infringements of ISCC requirements

Farms/plantations violating ISCC Principle 1 are excluded from ISCC certification. In case a farm/plantation has received individual certification and violations of Principle 1 are detected, the certificate must be withdrawn immediately. If the farm/plantation has been audited as part of a group or as part of a FGP, it must be excluded as a supplier of sustainable material. Violations of Principle 1 can never be subject to corrective measures.

The farm/plantation has to comply with all criteria of ISCC Principle 1, all Major Musts of ISCC Principles 2 to 6 and 60% of all Minor Musts. The farmer has to address all relevant non-conformities, which have been detected during an audit or spot-check. Therefore, the auditor has to set up corrective measures for the identified non-conformities, which have to be implemented by the farmer within a 40-days timeframe. The farmer cannot be positively certified/audited as long as the auditor does not come to a positive conclusion regarding the implementation of detected non-conformities. As long as the farm/plantation does not meet the requirements, they cannot be accepted as group members or as suppliers of sustainable material. If the auditor cannot verify corrective measures within 40 days, the audit must be repeated, until the farm completes a successful audit to demonstrate compliance with ISCC requirements.

If during an audit of a group or a sample of farms/plantations one or more farms do not meet the requirements, the spot checks will have to be doubled. For example, if 10 farms (square root out of 100 farms which belong to one group of farmers) have been spot-checked and if one or more farms do not meet the requirements, the audit sample must be doubled to 20 farms. The farms/plantations, which have already been audited, cannot be counted for the new sample.