



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

# Consignments and Mass Balance Approach

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# 1. Introduction

To receive incentives under the Renewables Obligation (RO), Contracts for Difference (CfD) and Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), generators (RO/CfD) and participants (RHI) must comply with the woodfuel land criteria (i.e. with the Timber Standard).

- 1.1. To comply with the woodfuel land criteria, generators and participants must demonstrate that **all** their woodfuel supplied under the RO and RHI is legal<sup>1</sup> and that at least 70% of all woodfuel meets the definition of 'legal and sustainable'<sup>2</sup> (this minimum requirement is called the '70/30 threshold' in the following). Generators and their suppliers are encouraged to maximise the proportion of 'legal and sustainable' woodfuel they use.
- 1.2. Generators (RO/CfD) and participants (RHI) must ensure all woodfuel originates from a legal source (also called 'legal only') which means that it must have been *legally harvested*. For this purpose, 'legally harvested' has the same meaning as in Article 2 of the [EU Timber Regulation](#) (EUTR). Note that the requirement of 'legal source' is a separate requirement to the 'sustainable source' requirement (S1-S10) as set out in the Timber Standard. However, wood cannot be considered from a sustainable source if it is not also from a legal source. Also note that purchasing or selling certified material does not automatically imply compliance with EUTR, so both Timber Standard Category A and B evidence must be able to provide sufficient and credible evidence of EUTR compliance.
- 1.3. Generators and self-reporting participants may use a mass balance approach to apportion their sustainability data as appropriate, and should discuss this approach with Ofgem where in doubt.
- 1.4. Woodfuel must be reported to Ofgem on a consignment basis to ensure sufficient disaggregation of sustainability data and allow correct GHG calculations. Generators and participants must meet the 70/30 threshold per consignment, or across a mix of consignments, such that at least 70% of the total woodfuel reported to Ofgem is 'legal and sustainable'.
- 1.5. 'Consignment' is defined below. Generators (and participants using wood supplied by non-Biomass Suppliers List (BSL) suppliers) are recommended to discuss with Ofgem what constitutes a 'consignment' for their operation when agreeing Fuel Measurement and Sampling (FMS) procedures.
- 1.6. Ofgem will prepare guidance setting out exactly what information generators and participants will have to report on their systems per consignment.

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<sup>1</sup> See the Woodfuel Advice Note for a definition of legal source

<sup>2</sup> See the Woodfuel Advice Note for a definition of 'legal and sustainable'

- 1.7. When calculating the proportion of woodfuel reported which is 'legal and sustainable' in a quarter, BSL wood is considered to be 70% 'legal and sustainable', unless evidence can demonstrate a higher proportion.
- 1.8. Suppliers who wish to be registered on the RHI BSL need to demonstrate that the woodfuel they supply meets the 70/30 threshold. The BSL will be publishing its own guidance setting out its processes. BSL wood is deemed sustainable so participants buying solely from a BSL supplier do not need to demonstrate that they meet the Timber Standard requirements; this is the responsibility of the suppliers who have registered the fuel with the BSL. Ofgem guidance will set out what information participants must report for BSL wood and non-BSL wood (i.e. self-reporting).
- 1.9. See also [section 6](#) for further guidance.

## Consignment

- 1.10. The RO and RHI require that the woodfuel land criteria as set out in the Timber Standard be reported monthly for RO generators and CfD, and quarterly for RHI on a consignment basis or mix of consignment basis.
- 1.11. For purposes of reporting, the 70/30 threshold is calculated at the point where the woodfuel is burnt to generate electricity or heat. Mixing can happen at this point and further up the supply chain.
- 1.12. The BSL will set out the processes for how suppliers on the BSL can report by consignment or mix of consignments under the RHI.
- 1.13. In claiming incentives, Ofgem requires RO generators and CfD contract holders to report monthly, and RHI generators to report quarterly, against the greenhouse gas savings (GHG) criteria and woodfuel land criteria, as part of each claim.
- 1.14. Whilst the RO and RHI legislation do not define 'consignment', Ofgem have set out [guidance](#) on what constitutes a consignment. For practical reasons the definition of a consignment for GHG and meeting the woodfuel land criteria are the same. Each consignment should constitute the *same* characteristics in terms of:
  - Feedstock type<sup>3</sup>
  - Biomass form (solid biomass only)
  - Country of origin<sup>4</sup>
  - Classification of the fuel (residue, product etc.)
  - Compliance with woodfuel land criteria
  - Compliance with GHG criteria
- 1.15. Provided materials have identical consignment characteristics (as listed above), these can be considered as a single consignment for the purposes of data collection and

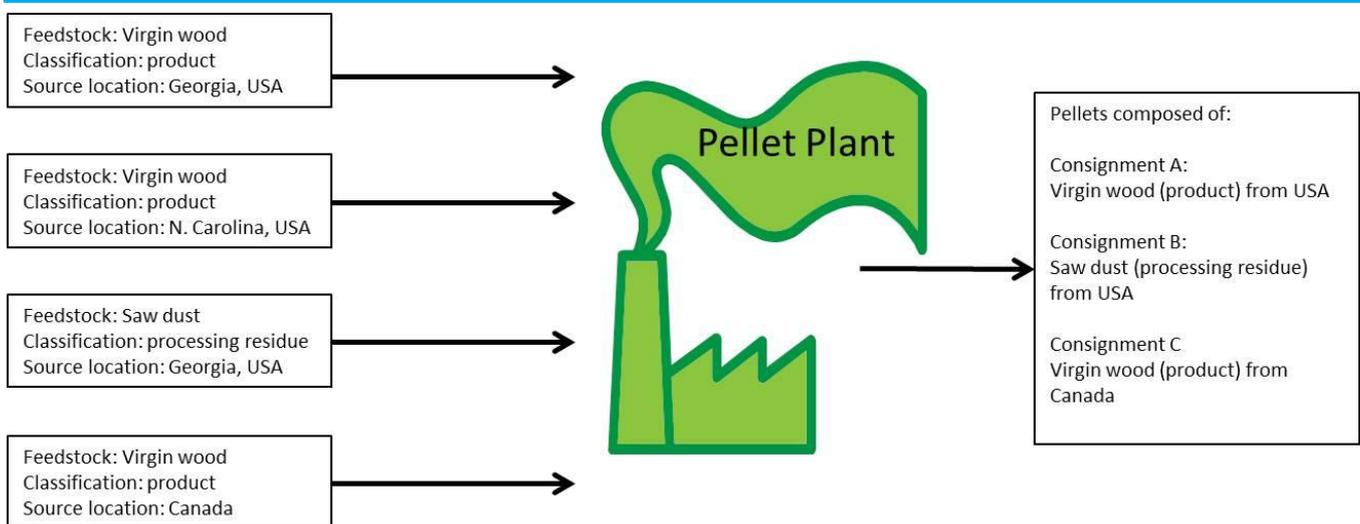
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<sup>3</sup> This is to ensure that different biomass fuels are not grouped together, e.g. wood cannot be considered the same as sunflower pellets or rapeseed oil cannot be considered the same as used cooking oil.

reporting. For example, where there are a number of source locations in the same country of origin<sup>5</sup> (e.g. forestry residue sourced from numerous locations in the UK) and where compliance with the woodfuel land criteria are the same, these combined sources can be considered as a single consignment.

- 1.16. There is not considered to be a ‘timeframe’ applicable to a consignment. It is for the operator to determine what consignments of biomass should be reported to Ofgem each month (for RO and CfD) or quarterly (for RHI) as part of their output data submission based on the biomass that they had available for combustion. For BSL a consignment will be considered to be the quarterly reporting time to the List Administrator.
- 1.17. Some biomass pellets and briquettes may contain biomass binders which will not necessarily have the same characteristics as the rest of the pellet or briquette. In this case, where the binder is  $\leq 2$  per cent by weight, it will be considered to have the same ratio between ‘legal and sustainable’ sources and ‘legal only’ sources as the pellet. In all other cases the ratio of sources of the binder, in its entirety, will have to be reported separately to the rest of the pellet or briquette.
- 1.18. For most, the consignment type will be very similar month by month, especially where the generator has contractual agreements for specific wood types. For others where the wood composition changes on a monthly basis, generators and suppliers will need to ensure that they consider the appropriate number of consignments, since the legislation is clear on the need to report per consignment or mix of consignment. It is therefore advisable to discuss your consignment breakdown with Ofgem as part of the [Fuel Measurement and Sampling](#) procedures.

**1.19. Figure 1: Consignments**



- 1.20. The example shown above outlines a pellet plant which is taking in different materials from different locations in North America. In this example, the biomass used at the generating station is wood in pelleted form. The supply chain has third party voluntary scheme certification and each biomass input into the pellet satisfies the GHG and woodfuel land criteria. Consignment A within the pellet includes virgin wood from both

<sup>5</sup> UK considered as a single country of origin

Georgia and North Carolina as both, if taken individually, were considered to meet the GHG criteria within this particular example and originate from the same country of origin, the US. Consignment B is considered to be a different consignment because of a different fuel classification (processing residue). Consignment C is again a different consignment because it originates from Canada, a different country of origin.

- 1.21. Once the number of consignments has been determined, the operator will need to establish whether the consignments are mixed in the supply chain. Where they are, a mass balance approach will need to be used to ensure that the 70/30 threshold is achieved at the point where the woodfuel is burnt to generate electricity or heat. This will require that the biomass can be traced back to determine what proportion is from a 'legal and sustainable' source versus 'legal only' source. The existing FMS questionnaires contain guidance to facilitate the determination of consignment and to decide whether a mass balance approach is required.

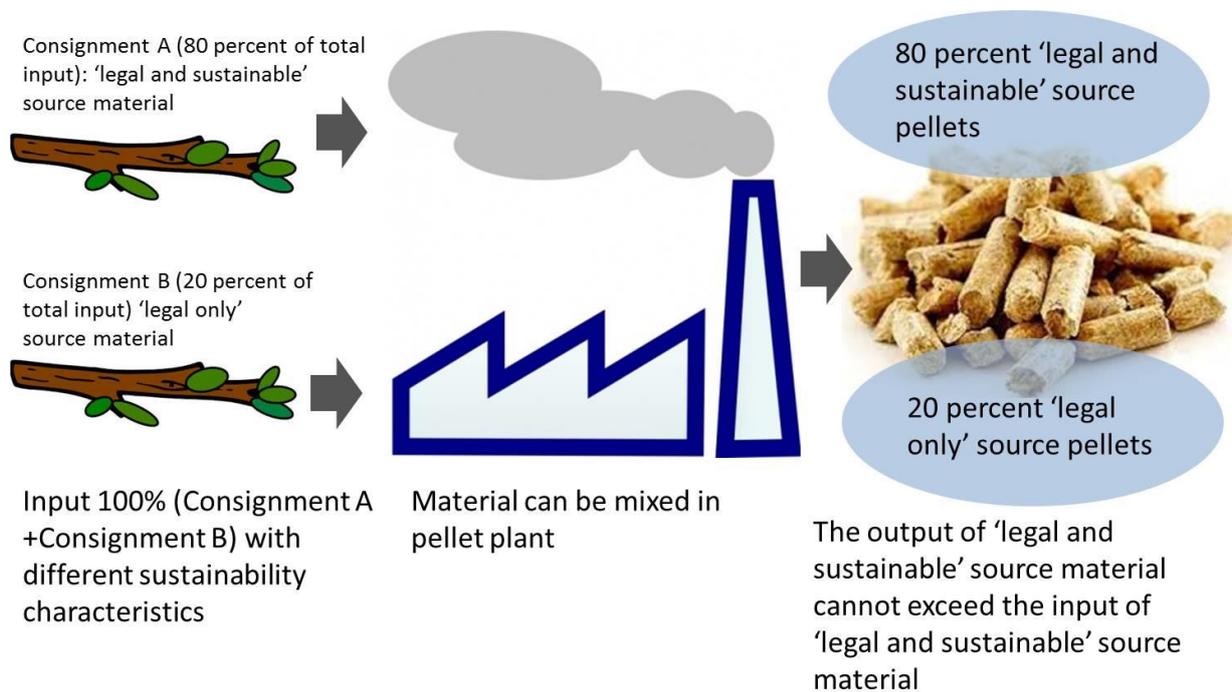
## Mass balance approach overview

- 1.22. To report compliance with the 70/30 threshold and, consequently to account for the ratio between 'legal and sustainable' sources and 'legal only' sources of each consignment or mix of consignments of biomass accurately, the information about the ratio of sources must be traceable through the supply chain. The concept of traceability from raw material to end product is known as the 'chain of custody'.
- 1.23. A mass balance approach enables material with differing percentages of 'legal and sustainable' sources and 'legal only' sources to be mixed whilst ensuring the correct accounting and reporting of the 70/30 threshold.
- 1.24. A mass balance approach is a means of accounting for the flows of woodfuel material using a defined system during a defined period of time. In this system, sets of sustainability characteristics such as the origin from a 'legal and sustainable' source or 'legal only' source can be transferred between consignments or mix of consignments. However, a node<sup>6</sup> in the supply chain can only use or sell biomass with the same sustainability characteristics and in the same volume as the biomass they took in originally, taking account of any conversion factors or losses in production, less any biomass they have recorded as being used or sold previously.

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<sup>6</sup> A node in the supply chain refers to any entity who legally owns the wood at some stage in the supply chain

## 1.25. Figure 2: A Mass Balance Approach



- 1.26. The time period during which mass balance is calculated is called the accounting period and starts with an initial stock. This initial stock may be zero. The accounting period may be no more than 12 months and can be a 12 month rolling average or can be defined from the start of the obligation year under the RO and CfD (April to March). For RHI, it can be defined from the start of the reporting year which is based on each installation's individual date of accreditation.
- 1.27. A mass balance approach does not permit calculations based on future or anticipated inputs. Also, inputs cannot be carried back in time to balance historic stocks.
- 1.28. Compliance with the 70/30 threshold on a consignment or mix of consignment basis has to be reported at the time when woodfuel is burnt at the generating station or heat installation on a monthly basis for RO and CfD and a quarterly basis for RHI.
- 1.29. A mass balance approach has to be calculated on a generating station<sup>7</sup> basis for RO and CfD and an installation<sup>8</sup> basis for RHI. Calculations cannot include material used at other generation stations or installations.
- 1.30. A mass balance approach requires material which cannot meet the Timber Standard (for example material from unknown origin) to be excluded from accounting for Timber Standard compliant woodfuel.
- 1.31. Operating a mass balance approach may be necessary if you;
  - Do not have 100% or do not always source 'legal and sustainable' material
  - Buy from many different sources of woodfuel

<sup>7</sup> A generating station which has been accredited under the RO to receive ROCs on what is burnt in that station

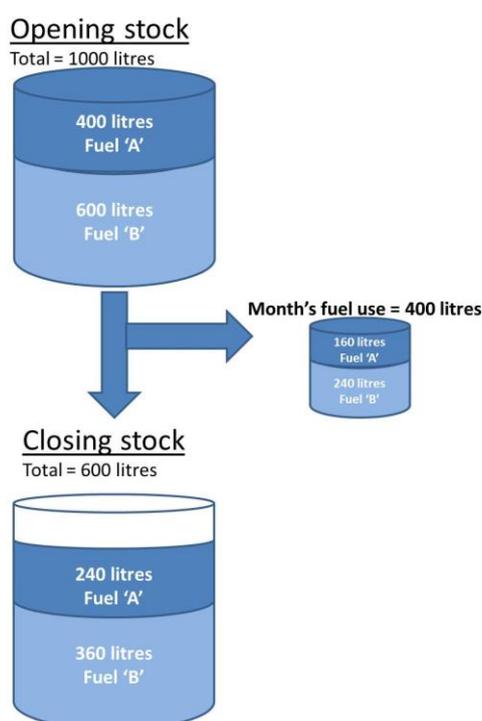
<sup>8</sup> An installation that has been accredited under the RHI Regulations

- Have limited internal processes to avoid mixing of material from a 'legal and sustainable' source with legal source material
- Already account for some or all of your woodfuel using mass balance approaches (including credit systems)

## Types of mass balance systems

- 1.32. There are typically two ways of reporting claims through a mass balance approach.
- When using **proportional mass balance**, any quantity of fuel removed from a mixture containing different consignments must be assigned the sustainability characteristics in the same proportions as the original mixture. For example, if a woodfuel mixture is 400 tonnes of 'A' and 600 tonnes of 'B' when a weight of woodfuel is extracted from the mixture these same proportions need to be applied to the extracted amount (i.e. 40 per cent is 'A' and 60 per cent is 'B'). See Figure 3 below.

### 1.33. Figure 3: Proportional Mass Balance Approach

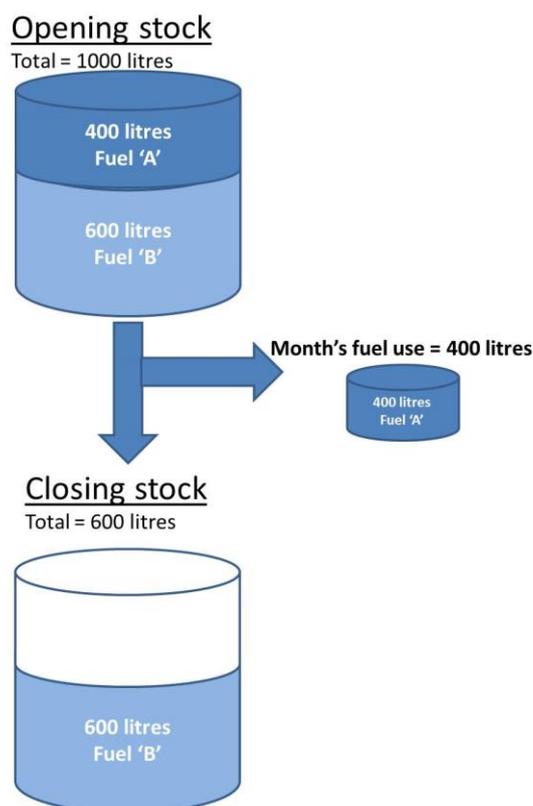


- When using a **non-proportional mass balance approach**, any quantity of fuel removed from a mixture containing different consignments does not require the sustainability characteristics to be assigned based on the proportions of the mixture. Instead it allows the sustainability characteristics to be assigned freely, as long as what is being assigned is not in greater amount than in the original mixture. For example, if a woodfuel mixture is 400 tonnes of 'A' and 600 tonnes of 'B' when you extract a weight of woodfuel you are free to set out whether it composes all of 'A', 'B'

or a combination of the both. However, you should not declare that you have removed more weight of either 'A' or 'B' than the mixture contains. See Figure 4 below.

### 1.34. Figure 4: Non-proportional Mass Balance Approach

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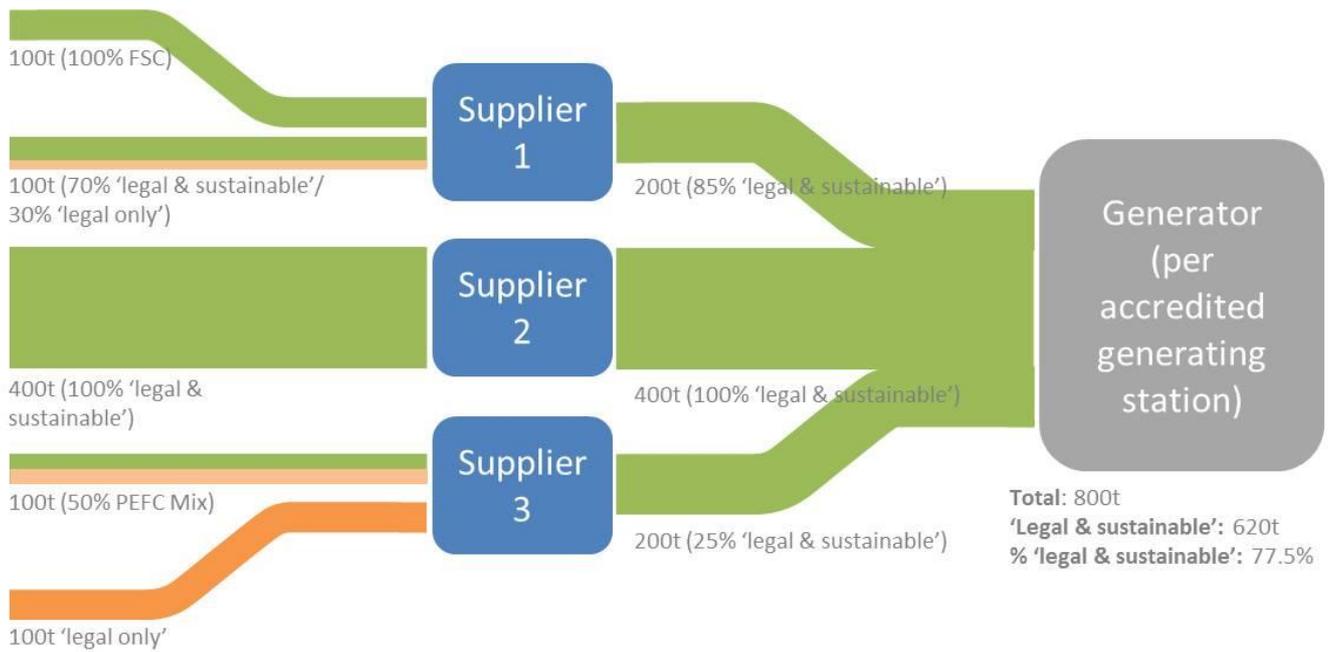


- 1.35. When making use of the non-proportional method, data assigned to a quantity of biomass is recommended to be done on a 'first in first out' (FIFO) basis. This reduces the risk that there is an amount of unsustainable biomass within the mix which is never assigned to an extracted quantity of biomass. If a party does not follow a FIFO approach the independent auditor may wish to consider this risk as part of the annual verification process.
- 1.36. Generally, it is acceptable for the operator to determine which mass balancing system to use, but the reporting process must be consistent and transparent. Ofgem recommend using the proportional mass balance system when there is any fossil fuel contamination.
- 1.37. The RO, CfD and RHI Orders do not expressly state that operators must use a mass balance approach, but it is recommended as a useful tool for accurate accounting and reporting of the 70/30 threshold and for ensuring that accurate sustainability information passes through the supply chain whilst allowing material with differing percentages of 'legal and sustainable' and 'legal only' content to be mixed. Suppliers who only supply 100% of 'legal and sustainable' woodfuel to all of their customers or who physically separate legal and sustainable sources do not need to use a mass balance approach.
- 1.38. To identify whether a mass balance approach is required, the operator must first determine the number of consignments they are using and whether these are being

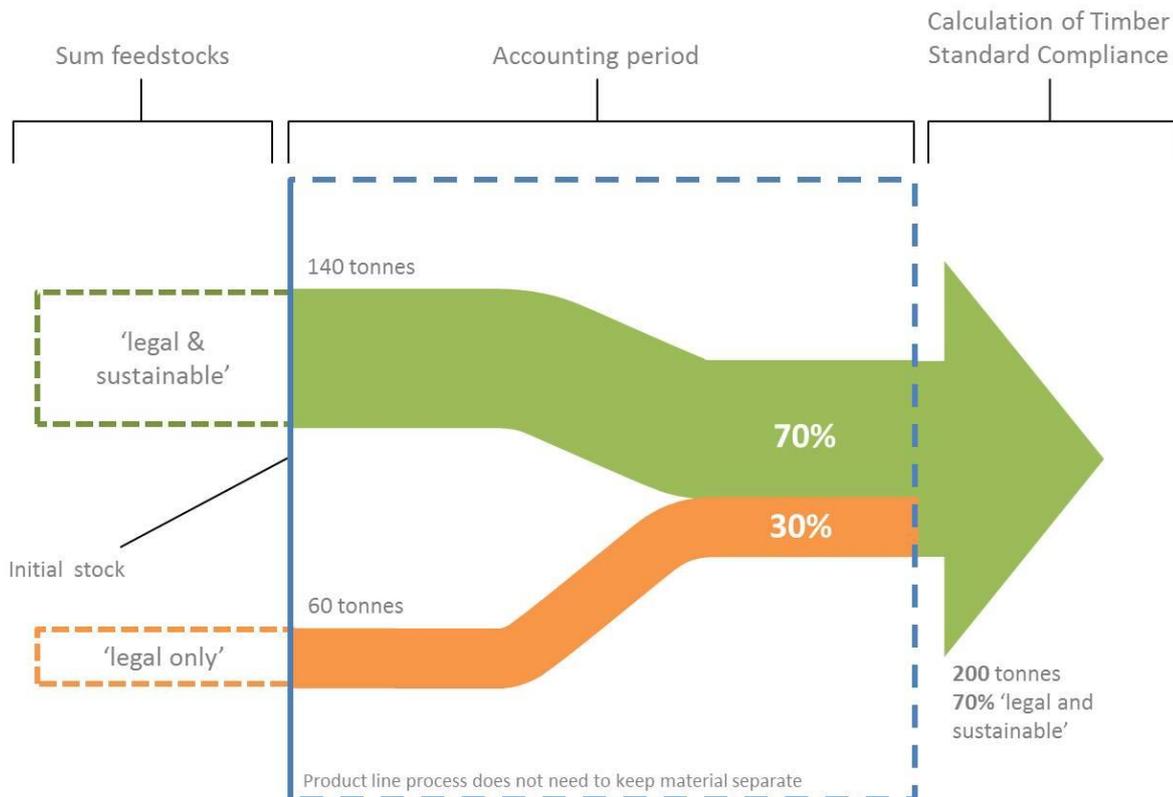
mixed at the generating station, installation or elsewhere in the supply chain. Where they are, a mass balance approach should be used to trace the biomass and its associated sustainability characteristics. Generators for RO and CfD and suppliers/participants for RHI should seek relevant information from their suppliers to understand the ratio of material from 'legal and sustainable' sources and from 'legal only' sources within the biomass they are receiving and if they receive a single consignment or a mix of consignments.

## 2. Demonstrating compliance using a mass balance approach

- 2.1. Generators using **Timber Standard Category A (TS Cat A)** and **Timber Standard Category bespoke B evidence (TS Cat B)** will be able to use a mass balance approach across the feedstock supply chain as well as within the fuel storage bunkers at the generating station or heat installation. Raw material and woodfuel carrying a percentage claim from a third party voluntary certification scheme used to provide Timber Standard Category A evidence may also be mixed with other inputs. After mixing, the ratio between material from 'legal and sustainable' sources and 'legal only' sources of the resulting mix must be calculated based on the ratio of the inputs.
- 2.2. If you are a biomass supplier on the BSL, compliance with the Timber Standard and the correct use of a mass balance approach will be assessed by the List Administrator. RHI Participants using woodfuel from the BSL may assume their woodfuel complies with the GHG and woodfuel land criteria, and will have to report the quantity supplied from BSL wood suppliers on a quarterly basis. The BSL guidance will set out the mass balance requirements for BSL suppliers. Further guidance on the applications and audit processes for self-suppliers is provided by the [Biomass Suppliers List Website](#).
- 2.3. For generators operating under the RO, CfD and RHI participants who self-report to Ofgem, calculation of percentage inputs shall be calculated on a consistent basis. Discuss with Ofgem (during FMS procedures) how this quantity should be recorded, whether on a volume, weight (e.g. oven dried tonnes; tonnes as delivered, other), or calorific value basis. Calculations must be made on an accredited generating station for RO and CfD and installation basis for RHI and calculations cannot include material used at other accredited generating stations or installations.
- 2.4. All raw material and woodfuel must meet the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) No 995/2010 legal requirements. Generators, suppliers and participants have a responsibility to ensure they comply with EUTR requirements. This document however does not provide guidance on complying with these requirements. The UK EUTR enforcement authority, the National Measurement Office (NMO), can provide advice and information, see their website [here](#).
- 2.5. Example of a generator operating under the RO or CfD: This generator can demonstrate that the woodfuel they use meets the 70/30 threshold, through a variety of means, as shown in the diagram. Note that the generator has to make mass balance calculations on an accredited generating station basis.



2.6. Example of a BSL supplier operating under the RHI: This supplier must be able to demonstrate that the 200t of woodfuel that they supply meets the 70/30 threshold.



## 3. A mass balance approach in practice

### What do I need to demonstrate?

- 3.1. Generators and participants need to demonstrate that the balance of the woodfuel used in a month (for RO and CfD) and in three months (for RHI) meets the 70/30 threshold.
- 3.2. The requirements apply at each individual accredited generating station (for RO and CfD) or installation (for RHI).
- 3.3. A mass balance approach must account for any losses during any processing or transformational steps, such as process conversion rates or unit conversion factors.
- 3.4. The accounting period may be no more than 12 months and can be a 12 month rolling average or can be defined from the start of the obligation year under the RO and CfD (April to March). For RHI, it can be defined from the start of the reporting year which is based on each installation's individual date of accreditation.
- 3.5. Generators, participants and suppliers of raw material and woodfuel will need to be able to demonstrate that any claims made on the percentage of 'legal and sustainable' and 'legal only' source material within raw material or woodfuel that they supply are justified.
- 3.6. A mass balance approach can combine flows of raw material and woodfuel carrying both Timber Standard approved certification scheme claims (Timber Standard Cat A) and bespoke forms of evidence (Timber Standard Cat B) over the accounting period. For mass balance calculations, the information about 'legal and sustainable' source and 'legal only' source claims are relevant, not the type of evidence provided.

### What evidence can I use to demonstrate compliance?

- 3.7. Where material is supplied under Timber Standard Category A, evidence that the material is supplied with a certification claim and within the scope of a valid chain of custody certificate would be adequate to demonstrate compliance with the Timber Standard. As noted above, supplying third party certified material does not automatically mean meeting EUTR legal requirements.
- 3.8. Where raw material and woodfuel is supplied outside of the scope of a Timber Standard Category A scheme then evidence of operating an effective mass balance approach along the supply chain is required (i.e. as part of the Timber Standard Category B bespoke evidence).
- 3.9. In such a case, the CPET Practical Guide "Supply Chain practical guide for Category B evidence"<sup>9</sup>, provides additional guidance on appropriate evidence in supply chains and on how to control mixing of material. The Practical Guide includes the 'Checklist 1 Supply Chain Information' and advice on how to complete it.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/forestry-supply-chain-check-category-b-evidence>

- 3.10. The approved Timber Standard certification schemes (at time of writing, just FSC and PEFC) and other schemes specific to biomass (e.g.the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB) and Sustainable Biomass Partnership (SBP)), have clear requirements for effective Timber Standard MBA control systems.
- 3.11. For more information please see the documents *Woodfuel Advice Note* and the *Risk-based regional assessment: A Checklist approach*, found [here](#).

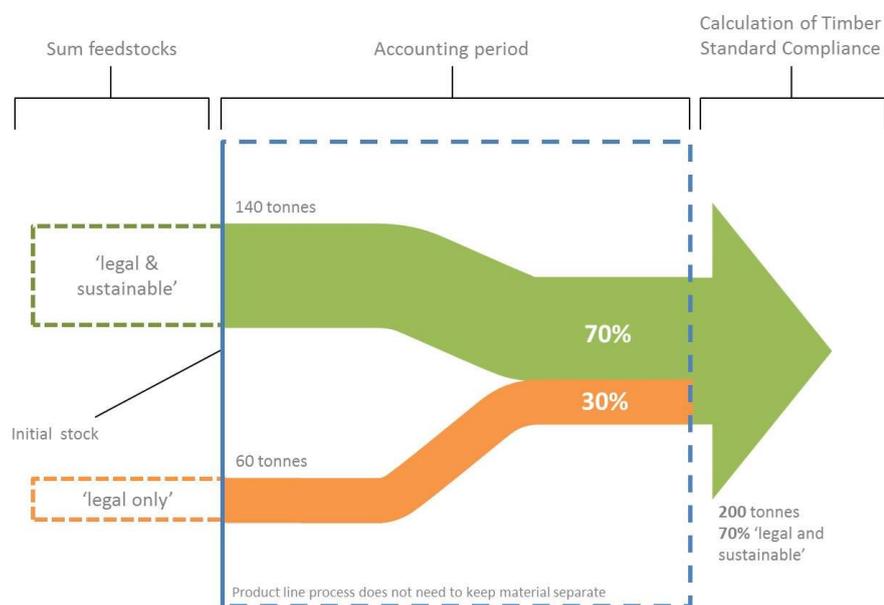
### Do I need to have my evidence verified?

- 3.12. If you are a generator or participant reporting directly to Ofgem and generating >1MW, you need to demonstrate in your sustainability audit report that the woodfuel you have used meets the woodfuel land criteria as set out in the Timber Standard. If you have used a mass balance approach in the supply chain then the reporting must include setting out evidence for reaching the 70/30 threshold. The evidence that you provide will be verified by the third party verifier/auditor in accordance with ISAE 3000 or an equivalent standard.
- 3.13. If you are registered on the RHI BSL, you will be required to demonstrate to the List Manager that you operate an effective mass balance approach and that the claims you make about compliance with the Timber Standard on raw material and woodfuel are justified. You will need to demonstrate that you always supply woodfuel at or above the 70/30 threshold.

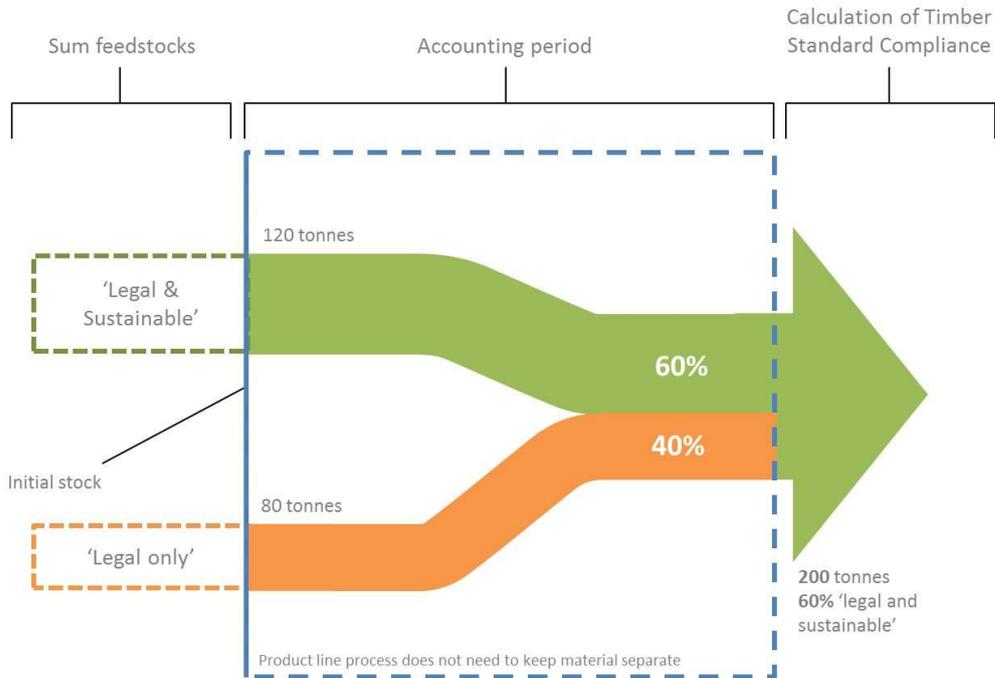
### Examples of mass balance approaches

- 3.14. Various scenarios have been presented in this section to indicate how a mass balance approach works in practice from the perspective of both generators and suppliers. Note that weight indicated in the examples below is the oven dried equivalent weight and there are no conversion factors or losses during production taken into account.

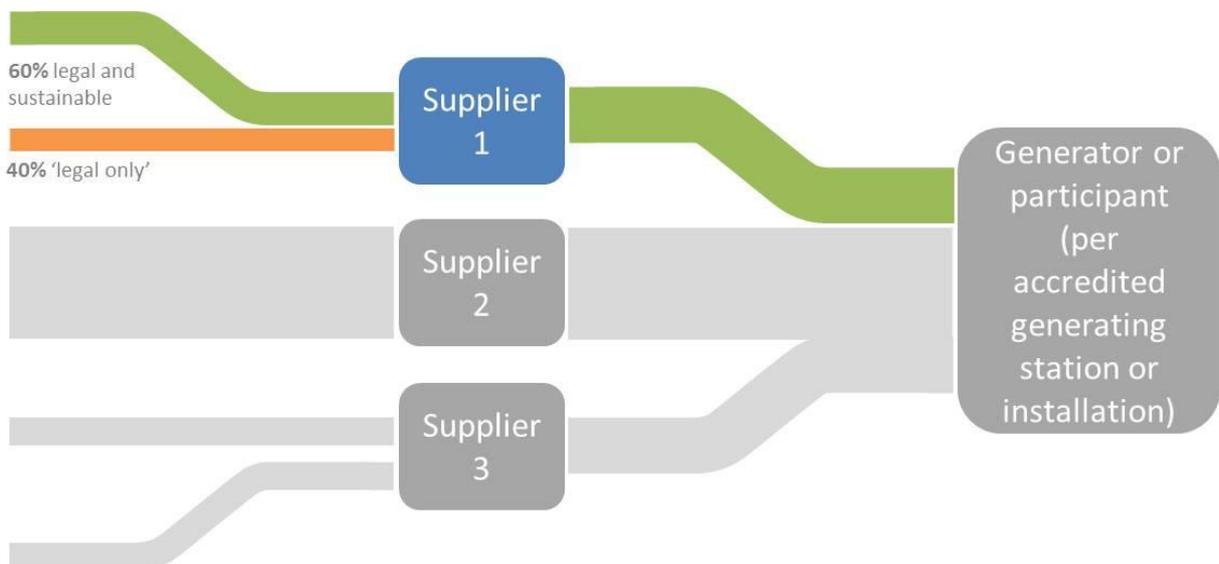
**Example 1a)** Woodfuel (200t) supplied by a BSL supplier over the accounting period carrying a 70% Timber Standard ‘legal and sustainable’ claim.



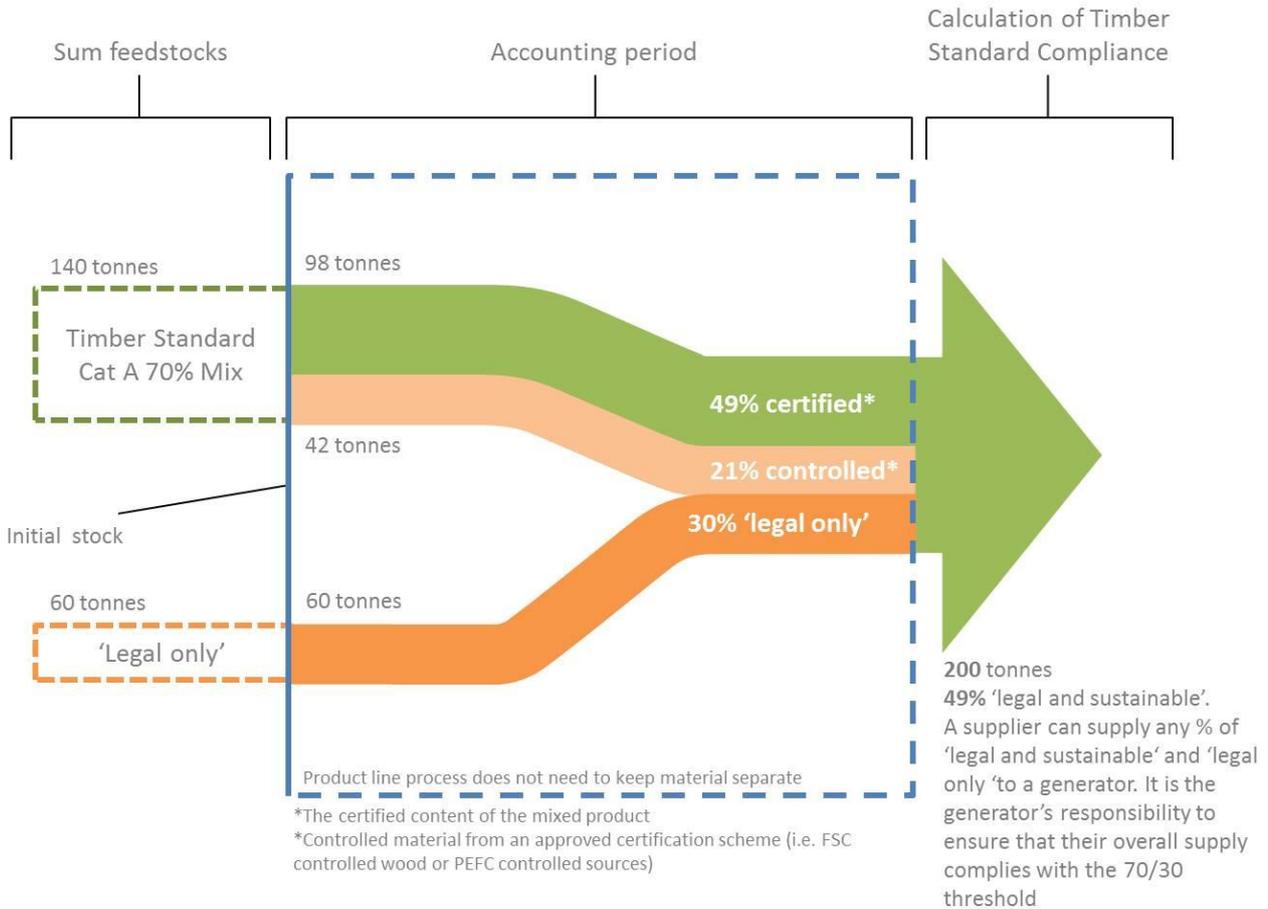
**Example 1b) Woodfuel (200t) supplied by a supplier** over the accounting period carrying a 60% Timber Standard 'legal and sustainable' claim. A supplier on the BSL **cannot** supply this material for use under the RHI. A supplier to a generator under the RO or to a RHI participant can supply this material with a 60% ratio Timber Standard 'legal and sustainable' to legal mix claim.



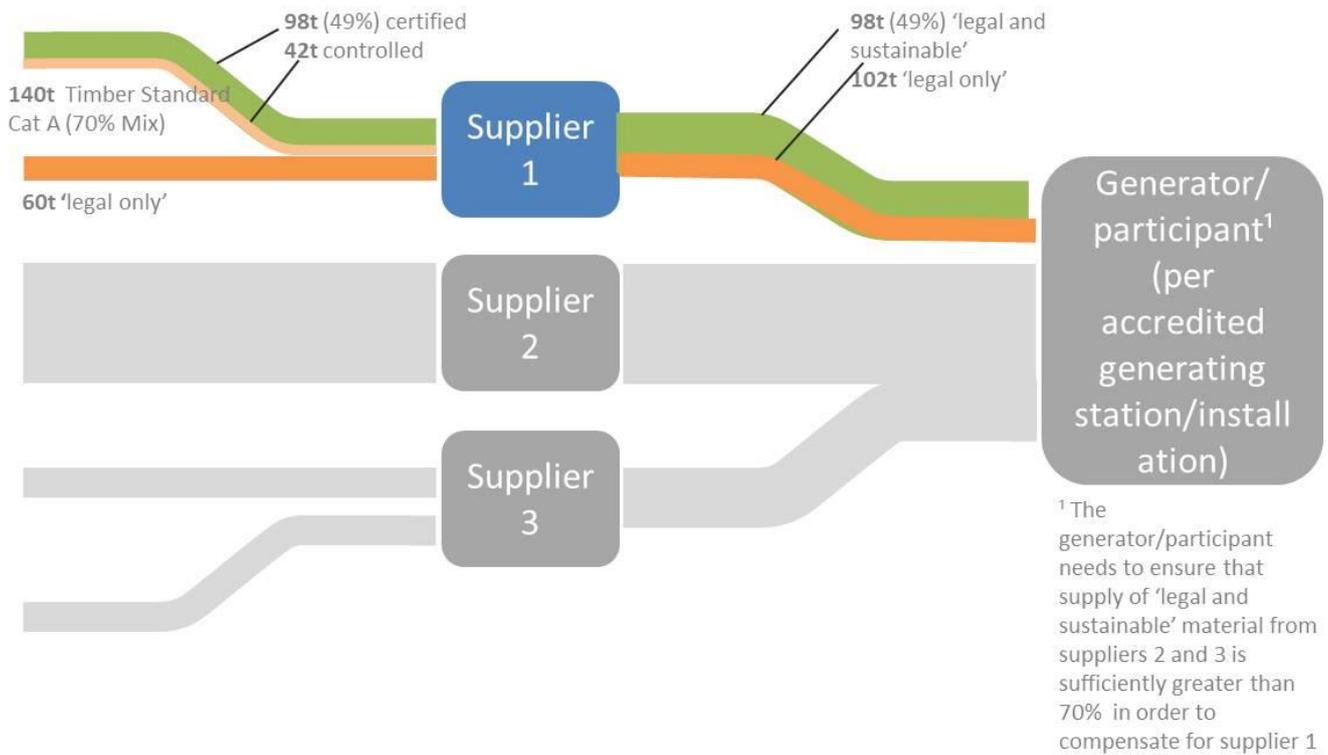
**Example 2) Woodfuel from a supplier** can be supplied at any ratio of 'legal and sustainable' and 'legal only' to a **generator under the RO or participant that self-reports under the RHI**. It is the **generator or participant's** responsibility to ensure the overall supply they use over the accounting period meets the 70/30 threshold on an accredited generating station or installation basis.



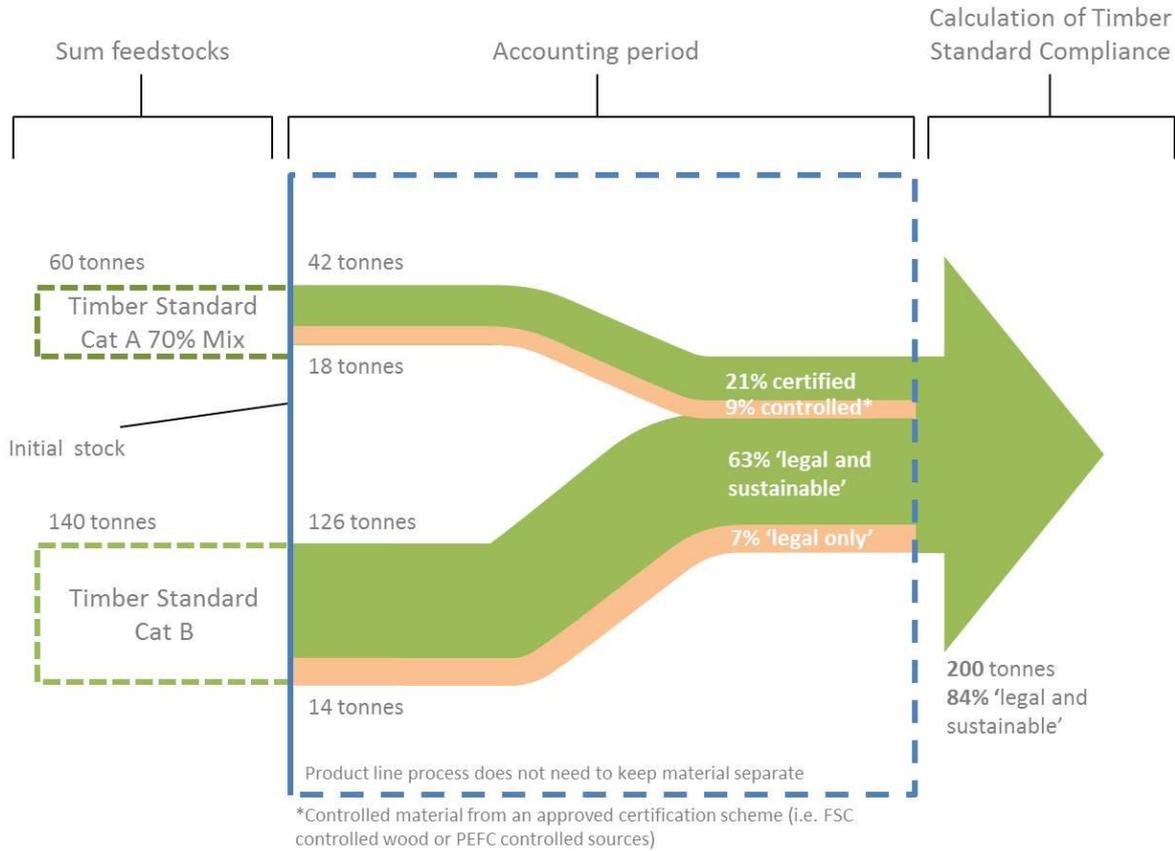
**Example 3a)** For material supplied with a **mixed claim** from a Timber Standard Category A certification scheme: Only the proportion that fully meets the scheme’s own sustainability standard can be considered ‘legal and sustainable’. The remaining proportion (also called controlled wood (FSC) or controlled sources (PEFC)) can be considered ‘legal only’ if it complies with EUTR legal requirements. In this example a BSL supplier **could not** supply this material under the RHI. A supplier to a generator under the RO or participant who self-reports under the RHI can supply this material with a 49% ratio Timber Standard ‘legal and sustainable’ to legal mix claim.



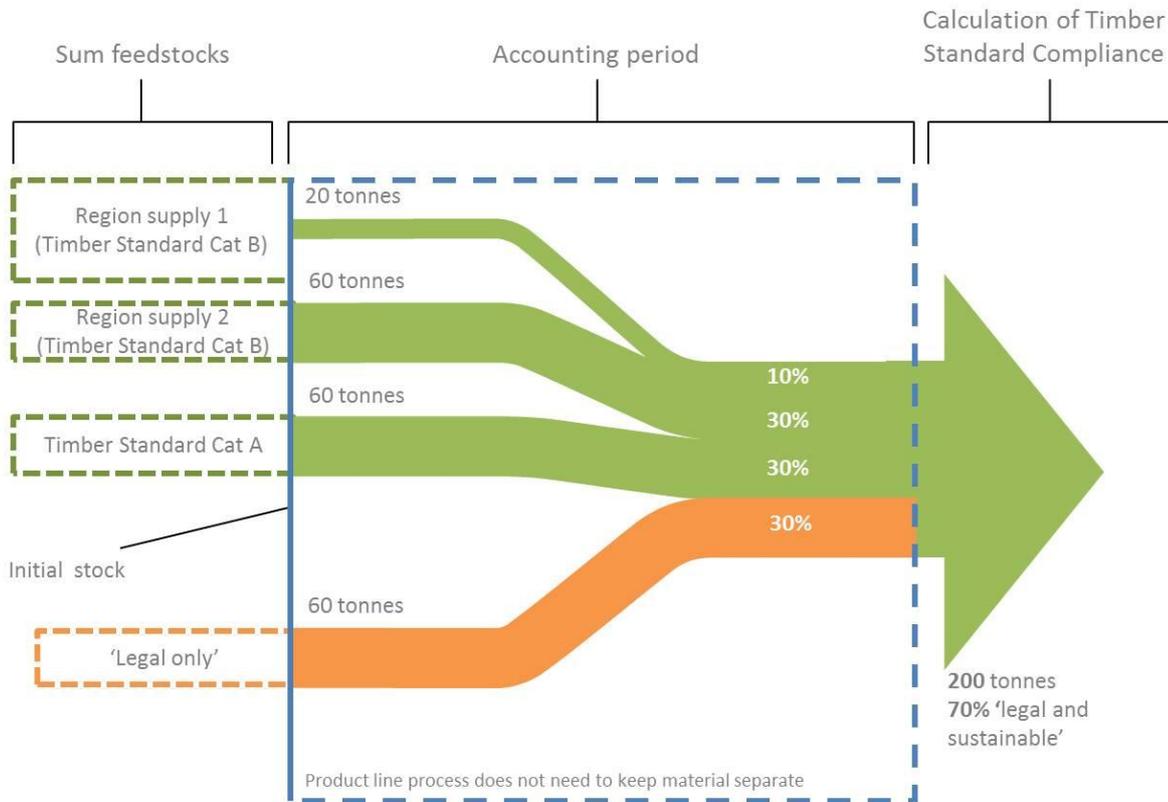
**Example 3b)** For a generator under the RO or participant who self-reports under the RHI: If material is received with a mixed claim from a Timber Standard Category A scheme, only the proportion that fully meets the scheme's own sustainability standard can be considered 'legal and sustainable'. The remaining proportion can be considered 'legal only' where it complies with EUTR legal requirements. In this example, the supply of 'legal and sustainable' source material from suppliers 2 and 3 would need to bring the total woodfuel supplied above the 70/30 threshold.



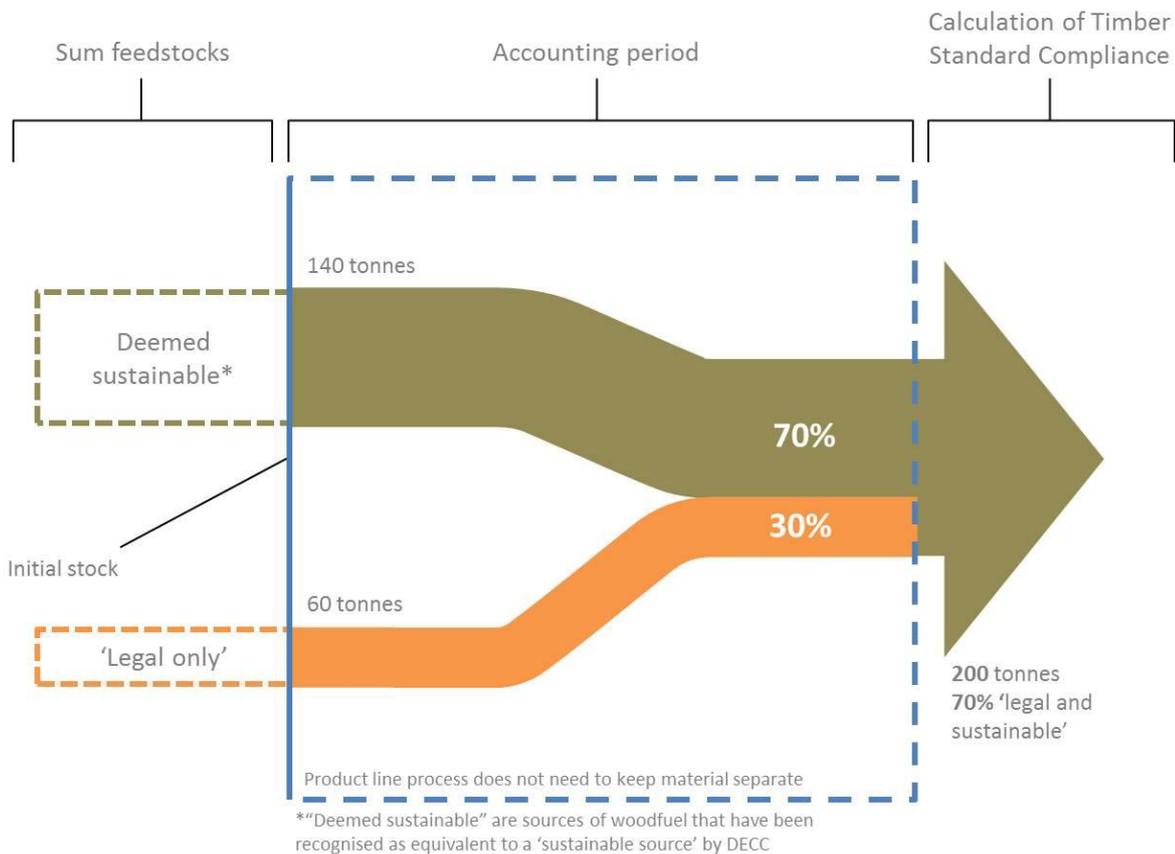
**Example 4) Suppliers and generators and participants** are able to mix consignments from different sources of 'legal and sustainable' or 'legal only'. The 'legal and sustainable', and 'legal only' proportions should be recorded in order to calculate the output claim or usage. A BSL supplier **can** supply this material under the RHI. A supplier to a generator under the RO or participant who self-reports under the RHI can supply this material with an 84% ratio Timber Standard 'legal and sustainable' to 'legal only' mix claim.



**Example 5) Suppliers and generator and participants** can meet the 70/30 threshold over the accounting period through different forms of 'legal and sustainable' evidence. A BSL supplier **can** supply this material under the RHI. A supplier to a generator under the RO or participant who self-reports under the RHI can supply this material with a 70/30 threshold.

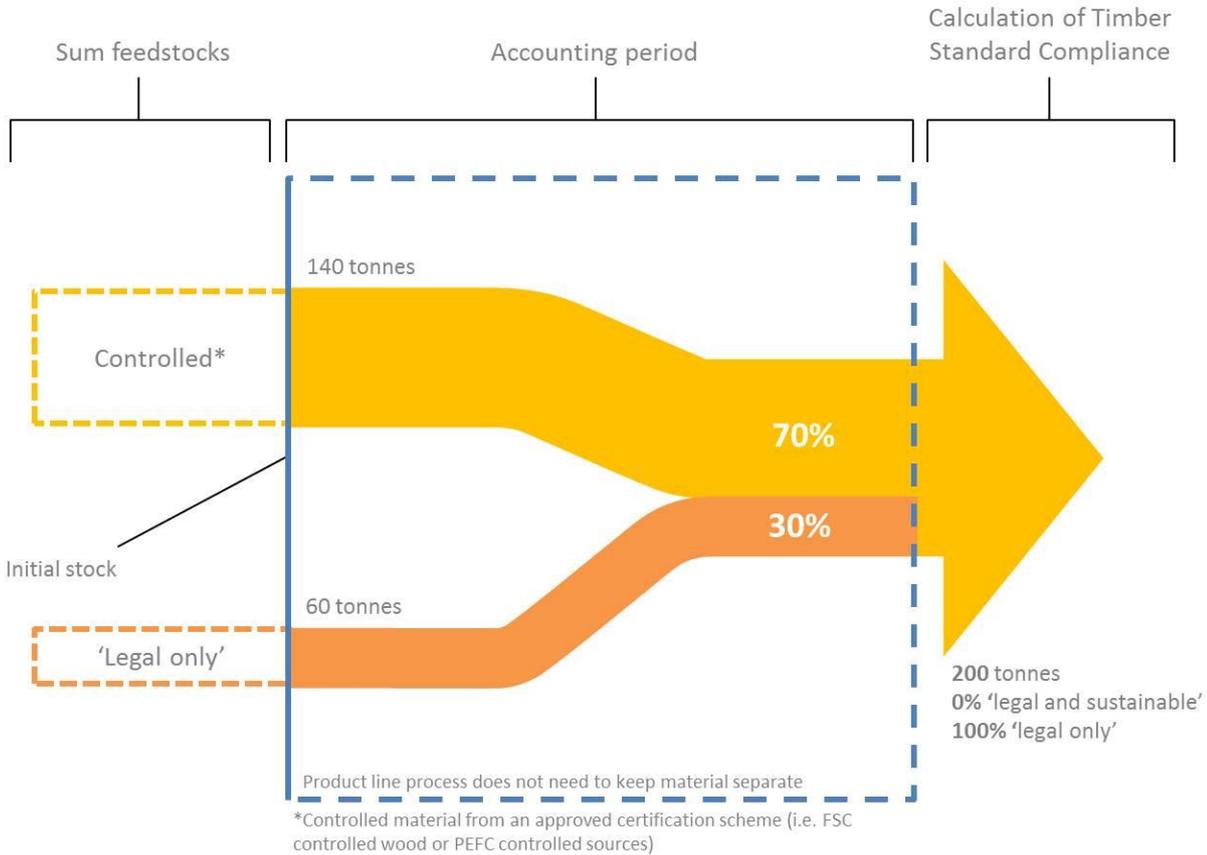


**Example 6)** Woodfuel from sources which are “deemed sustainable”<sup>10</sup> can be included within a mass balance approach to meet the 70/30 threshold over the accounting period. A BSL supplier **can** supply this material under the RHI. A supplier to a generator under the RO or participant who self-reports under the RHI can supply this material with a 70% ratio Timber Standard ‘legal and sustainable’ to ‘legal only’ mix claim.

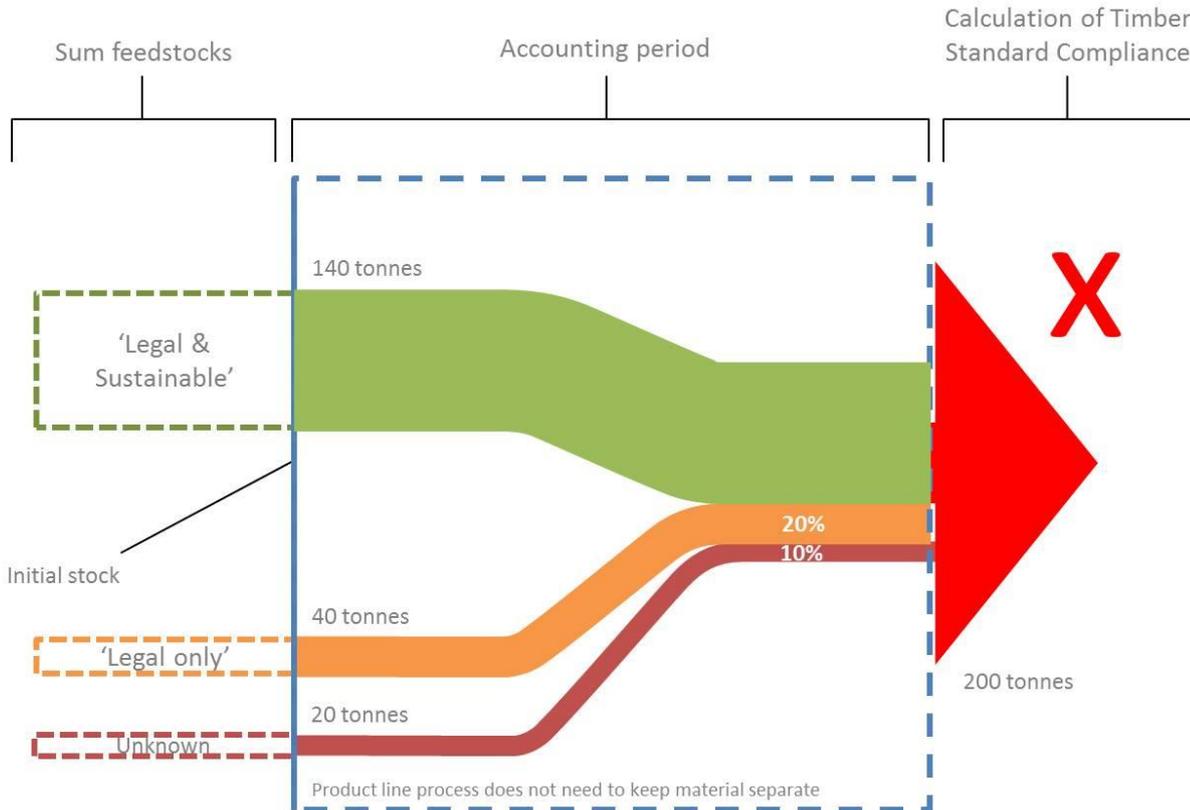


<sup>10</sup> See the Woodfuel Advice note for further guidance on “deemed sustainable” sources of woodfuel

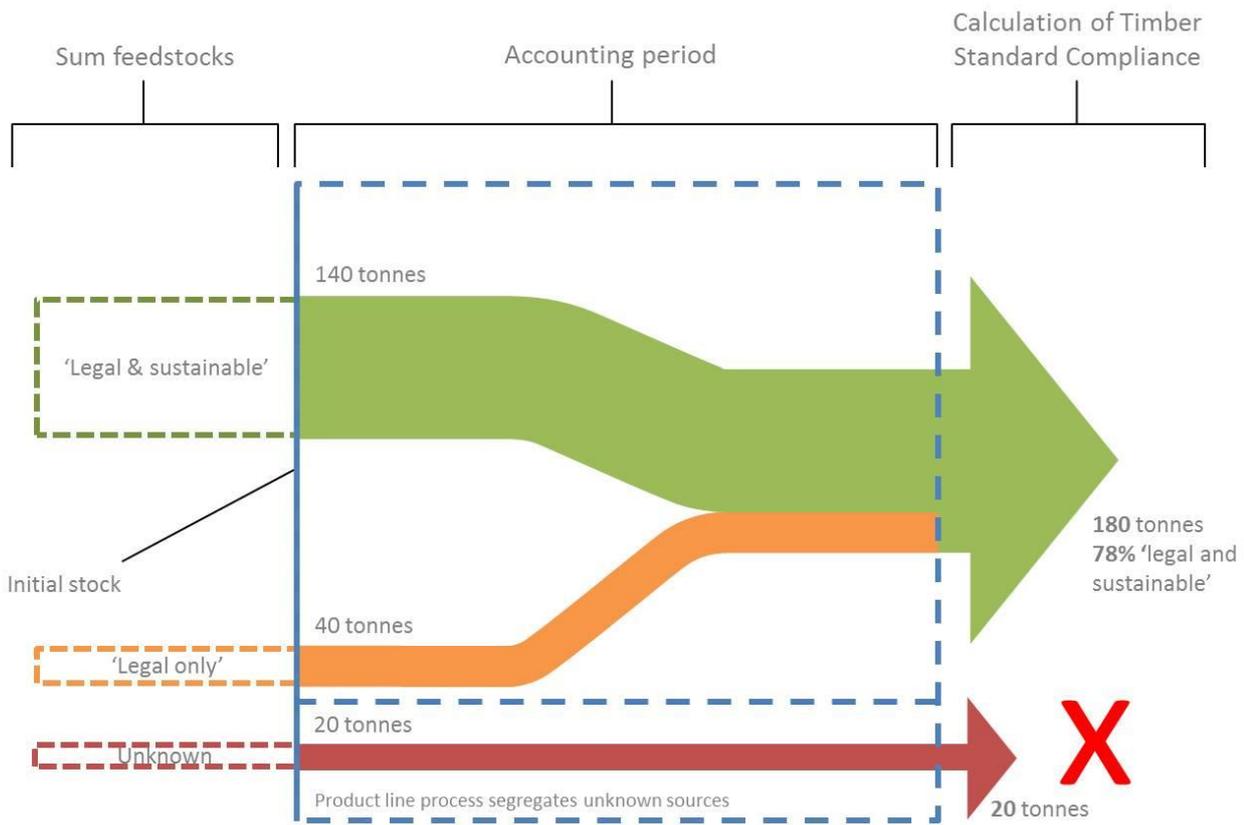
**Example 7)** Timber Standard Category A controlled material (for example FSC controlled wood or PEFC controlled sources) is not 'legal and sustainable' but may be considered 'legal only' if it complies with EUTR legal requirements. In the example below a BSL supplier **cannot** supply this material under the RHI. A supplier to a generator under the RO or participant who self-reports under the RHI can supply this material with a 0% ratio Timber Standard 'legal and sustainable' to legal mix claim.



**Example 8a)** A **supplier** cannot supply woodfuel containing a proportion with an unknown origin. Woodfuel of unknown origin does not meet EUTR legal requirements. Unknown sources being mixed with 'legal and sustainable' or 'legal only' sources means that all the woodfuel cannot be considered Timber Standard compliant. A BSL supplier **cannot** supply this woodfuel under the RHI. A supplier to a generator under the RO or participant who self-reports under the RHI **cannot** supply this woodfuel.



**Example 8b)** Segregation of Timber Standard compliant woodfuel with that of unknown origin enables the **supplier** to supply the Timber Standard compliant woodfuel to the **generator or participant**. A BSL supplier **can** supply the woodfuel of known origin under the RHI. A supplier to a generator under the RO or participant who self-reports under the RHI can supply the woodfuel of known origin with a 78% ratio Timber Standard 'legal and sustainable' to 'legal only' mix claim. The woodfuel of unknown origin cannot be supplied under the Timber Standard.



## 4. Where can I get more help?

- 4.1. [Timber Standard for Heat & Electricity](#): This document sets out how the land criteria will apply to the use of woodfuel under the Renewable Heat Incentive and Renewables Obligation.
- 4.2. [Woodfuel Advice Note](#): The Woodfuel Advice Note provides background information about the Timber Standard and guidance on how to implement it.
- 4.3. [Risk-Based Regional Assessment: A Checklist Approach](#): This document helps woodfuel buyers and suppliers provide evidence for compliance with the woodfuel land criteria as set out in the Timber Standard without the use of certification.
- 4.4. **Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET)** offer a helpline service providing information and guidance to suppliers and generators of woodfuel on how they can comply with the Timber Standard sustainable forest management criteria. CPET also provides information and guidance on how to provide Timber Standard Category A and Timber Standard Category B bespoke evidence. For woodfuel generators and suppliers who have to comply with the UK-TPP, CPET provides information and guidance on compliance.

Please note that CPET **cannot** provide technical advice on woodfuel queries (ie moisture content, weight, volume, size etc.) or provide guidance on how to get listed on the BSL. CPET also cannot provide advice on how to apply for RO or RHI schemes, determine a consignment, get incentives or comply with GHG emission targets, either.

Web: [www.gov.uk/government/groups/central-point-of-expertise-on-timber](http://www.gov.uk/government/groups/central-point-of-expertise-on-timber)

Email: [cpet@efeca.com](mailto:cpet@efeca.com)

Tel: +44 (0)1305 236 100 (Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm)

- 4.5. **The BSL Helpdesk** provides advice and support regarding the authorisation process to the Biomass Suppliers List. It also provide guidance and information about the following:

- How to comply with meeting the GHG criteria
- Defining if you are a producer, trader, producer-trader or self-supplier and what your requirements are
- Requirements applicable to BSL mark branding guidelines
- Technical queries on woodfuel from suppliers of BSL registered fuel (ie moisture content, size, weight, nature of raw material/fuel, measuring volumes of raw material/fuel)

Please note that the BSL Helpdesk **cannot** provide information and advice about application processes for incentive schemes or policy and legislation queries.

Web: <http://biomass-suppliers-list.service.gov.uk/contact-us>

Email: [bslhelpdesk@gemserv.com](mailto:bslhelpdesk@gemserv.com)

Tel: +44 (0)20 7090 7769 (Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm)

Further information on the BSL can be found [here](#).

- 4.6. **Ofgem** can help answer enquiries regarding the RO scheme and RHI (Domestic and Non-Domestic) application processes. Ofgem also provides advice on enquiries regarding fuel classification. Queries in relation to the B2C2 calculator software should be directed to the following email: [b2c2support@e4tech.com](mailto:b2c2support@e4tech.com).

Web: [www.ofgem.gov.uk](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk)

**For Renewables Obligation (RO):**

Email: [renewable@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:renewable@ofgem.gov.uk)

Tel: 020 7901 7310

**For Domestic RHI Applicants:**

Email: [domesticRHI@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:domesticRHI@ofgem.gov.uk)

Tel: 0300 003 0744 (Mon to Fri 8am to 7pm)

**For Non-Domestic RHI Applicants:**

Email: [rhi.enquiry@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:rhi.enquiry@ofgem.gov.uk)

Tel: 0845 200 2122 (Mon to Thurs 9am-5pm, and Fri 9am-4.30pm)

**For CfD**

Web <https://lowcarboncontracts.uk/contact-us>

- 4.7. The **Forestry Commission** provides information on management plans, felling licences and sustainable forest management practices. The [UK Forestry Standard \(UKFS\)](#) is the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK. The UKFS, supported by its series of Guidelines, outlines the context for forestry in the UK, sets out the approach of the UK governments to sustainable forest management, defines standards and requirements, and provides a basis for regulation and monitoring.
- 4.8. The National Measurement Office (NMO) answers enquiries related to compliance with the [EU Timber Regulation \(EUTR\)](#). Click [here](#) for the official NMO Enforcement enquiry form.
- 4.9. This is a guidance document only. The onus is on generators and participants to ensure that they are aware of, and are complying with the requirements of the Orders and Regulations. This guidance is not intended to provide comprehensive legal advice

on how the Orders and Regulations should be interpreted. Where necessary, generators and participants should seek their own technical or legal support.

## 5. Glossary

### Glossary of Terms

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Accounting Period            | the time period during which mass balance is calculated. It can start with an initial stock which may be zero. The accounting period may be no more than 12 months and can be a 12 month rolling average or can be defined from the start of the obligation year under the RO and CfD (April to March). For RHI, it can be defined from the start of the reporting year which is based on each installation's individual date of accreditation.   |
| Approved schemes             | independent certification schemes officially recognised by the UK Government as meeting the criteria set out in the Timber Standard   |
| Arboricultural residues      | material from woody plants and trees planted for landscape or amenity value that are removed as part of tree surgery usually in gardens, parks or other populated settings, and the verges of roads and railways  |
| Biomass Suppliers List (BSL) | list of suppliers of woodfuel who have been accredited as demonstrating that their fuel meets the sustainability criteria required under the RHI.   |
| Chain of custody (CoC)       | the ability to trace a product from its point of origin through the supply chain to end product   |
| Consignment                  | <p>Ofgem have set out <a href="#">guidance</a> on what constitutes a consignment. Each consignment should constitute the <i>same</i> characteristics in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Feedstock type<sup>11</sup></li><li>• Biomass form (solid biomass only)</li><li>• Country of origin<sup>12</sup></li><li>• Classification of the fuel (residue, product etc.)</li><li>• Compliance with woodfuel land criteria</li><li>• Compliance with GHG criteria</li></ul> |

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<sup>11</sup> This is to ensure that different biomass fuels are not grouped together, e.g. wood cannot be considered the same as sunflower pellets or rapeseed oil cannot be considered the same as used cooking oil.

<sup>12</sup> UK considered as a single country of origin

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|---|--|
| Controlled  | material certified as either FSC controlled wood or PEFC controlled sources  |
| CPET  | Central Point of Expertise on Timber   |
| EU Timber Regulation No 995/2010 (EUTR)                     | European Union legislation prohibiting the placement of illegally harvested timber or their products on European markets   |
| FSC   | Forest Stewardship Council; is a voluntary, international forest certification scheme who sets standards for sustainable forest management   |
| Generator   | UK electricity power producer operating under the RO or RHI  |
| Generating station  | An electricity generating station that has been accredited under the RO to receive ROCs on what is burnt in that station.  |
| Installation  | A heat installation that has been accredited under the RHI Regulations.  |
| ISAE 3000   | International Standard on Assurance Engagements performance assessment scheme  |
| Land Criteria (for solid biomass, also known as “woodfuel”) | The woodfuel land criteria requires compliance with the Timber Standard for Heat & Electricity, sustainable source definition (Principles S1 – S10), including compliance with the 70/30 threshold   |
| Legal Source  | woodfuel which is in conformance to EU Timber Regulation No. 995/2010  |
| ‘Legal and sustainable’                                     | Woodfuel which complies with both the definition of legal source and sustainable source  |
| List Manager  | oversees the BSL and assesses compliance of suppliers listed   |
| Mass Balance Approach                                       | a system which requires that, at each step in the chain, parties can only use/sell biomass with the same sustainability characteristics and in the same volume as the biomass they took in originally, less any biomass they have recorded as being used or sold previously. |
| Mixed Claim   | a mixture of woodfuel from a BSL supplier to a generator with a portion that is in full compliance with the Timber Standard Category A and the other portion considered to meet the definition of ‘legal only’ source  |
| Node  | A node in the supply chain refers to any entity who legally owns the wood at some stage in the supply chain  |

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| Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OfGEM) | a non-ministerial government department and an independent National Regulatory Authority that regulates all gas and electricity markets in the UK  |
| Operator                                      | see “Generator”  |
| Participant                                   | the owner of an accredited RHI installation or, where there is more than one such owner, the owner with authority to act on behalf of all owners, or a producer of biomethane who has been registered  |
| PEFC  | Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification; voluntary, international forest certification scheme who sets standards for sustainable forest management   |
| RHI   | Renewable Heat Incentive   |
| RO  | Renewable Obligation   |
| ROC   | Renewable Obligation Credits   |
| Self-supplier                                 | Participants can be defined as a self-supplier if their installation is less than 1MW capacity and if they source woodfuel (which they have the legal right to source, through ownership, rental or other relevant arrangement) from the same Estate as the boiler   |
| Supplier                                      | entity which supplies woodfuel to the generator  |
| Sustainability characteristics                | Characteristics that clarify if the origin of the woodfuel is from a ‘legal and sustainable’ source or from a ‘legal only’ source  |
| Sustainable Forest Management                 | forest management practices, independently verified in conformance to Timber Standard Category A or Category B Bespoke Evidence  |
| Sustainable source                            | originates from a forest which is managed in accordance with a definition of sustainable source that meets the requirements S1-S10 in the Timber Standard  |
| Threshold, 70/30                              | Generators and suppliers must ensure that a minimum of 70% of the woodfuel reported to Ofgem is from a ‘legal and sustainable’ source with the balance from a ‘legal only’ source. See also sustainable source and legal source. Note that whilst woodfuel must be reported to Ofgem in ‘consignments’, the 70/30 threshold must be met across all woodfuel reported to Ofgem. |
| Timber Standard                               | <a href="#">Timber Standard for Heat and Electricity</a>   |
| Timber Standard Category A evidence           | Evidence provided by approved schemes that woodfuel land criteria as set out in the Timber Standard are complied with (see ‘approved schemes’)   |

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| Timber Standard Category B bespoke evidence | All forms of credible evidence other than certification schemes that indicate that the forest source meets the woodfuel land criteria as set out in the Timber Standard  |
| UK-TPP                                      | United Kingdom Government's Timber Procurement Policy  |
| Virgin Wood                                 | wood and other products such as bark and sawdust which have had no chemical treatments or finishes applied.  |
| Waste Wood                                  | Guidance on Waste Wood can be found <a href="#">here</a>   |
| Woodfuel                                    | solid fuel that is wood or derived from wood which has not been previously used for some other purpose; e.g. recycled construction material, wood pallets, wood decking. |
| Woodfuel land criteria                      | see Land Criteria  |

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