



TÜVRheinland®

DIN CERTCO

Precisely Right.

# Certification Scheme

## Sustainable Biomass

according to

ISCC certification system

(Edition: February 2024)

## Foreword

DIN CERTCO was founded in 1972 by DIN Deutsches Institut für Normung e. V., is now part of the TÜV Rheinland Group and is the certification body for issuing DIN marks and other certification marks for products, persons, services as well as companies based on DIN standards and similar specifications. Due to its independence, neutrality, competence and many years of experience, DIN CERTCO enjoys a high reputation both at home and abroad.

In order to prove the functionality of the system and our competence as a certification body, we have been accredited, certified or recognised by independent domestic and foreign bodies in both the voluntary and legally regulated areas. [Our accreditations](#).

Our certification work is made possible by recognition by the Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung (BLE) and certification agreements with certification system owner ISCC.

In conjunction with the General Terms and Conditions of DIN CERTCO, this certification scheme provides the basis for the certification of products which come under EU Directive (EU) 2018/2001.

All certificate holders can be viewed on the daily up-dated homepage of DIN CERTCO (<https://www.dincertco.tuv.com>).

## Amendments

Compared to the certification scheme “Sustainable Biomass ISCC” (2022-01), the following modifications were done:

- a) Update of relevant documents
- b) Adaptation of the references according to the new ISCC System documents
- c) Revision of chapter 3.7
- d) Revision of chapter 4.5: Gap procedures were deleted.
- e) Specification in 4.3.3 that ISCC and BLE are not obligated to take over costs for special audits.

## Previous Editions

Certification Scheme “Sustainable Biomass ISCC” (2022-07)  
Certification Scheme “Sustainable Biomass ISCC” (2022-01)  
Certification Scheme “Sustainable Biomass ISCC” (2021-06)  
Certification Scheme “Sustainable Biomass ISCC” (2021-03)  
Certification Scheme “Sustainable Biomass ISCC” (2020-10)  
Certification Scheme “Sustainable Biomass ISCC” (2020-06)  
Certification Scheme “Sustainable Biomass ISCC” (2020-01)  
Certification Scheme “Sustainable Biomass ISCC” (2019-04)  
Certification Scheme “Sustainable Biomass ISCC” (2019-02)  
Certification scheme “Sustainable Biomass ISCC” (2017-01)  
Certification scheme “Sustainable Biomass ISCC” (2015-01)  
Certification scheme “Sustainable Biomass ISCC” (2022-07)

## Remark

The German version of this certification scheme shall be taken as authoritative. No guarantee can be given to the English translation.

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## 1 Scope

This certification scheme applies to companies, which would like to receive certification under the specifications of Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001 and the ISCC certification system and, in addition to the documents set out below, contains all the requirements for completing certification procedures.

This certification scheme sets out requirements for the raw materials used and for the quality assurance systems of the processing, collecting or trading companies and for their inspection, monitoring and certification.

## 2 Test and Certification Specifications

The following referenced documents form the basis for auditing and certification. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document including any amendments applies.

- This certification scheme
- The General Terms and Conditions of TÜV Rheinland DIN CERTCO
- The Testing, Registration and Certification Regulation of DIN CERTCO
- The respective schedule of fees of DIN CERTCO

### 2.1 General:

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| RED II         | Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (recast)   |
| EEG            | German Renewable Energy Sources Act  |
| Biokraft-NachV | Ordinance on requirements for sustainable production of biofuels (Biokraftstoff-Nachhaltigkeitsverordnung)   |
| BioSt-NachV    | Ordinance on requirements for sustainable production of liquid biomass for electricity generation (Biomassestrom-Nachhaltigkeitsverordnung)  |
| BioSt-NachVwV  | Administrative regulation of electricity from biomass sustainability regulation for the acceptance of certification systems and certification bodies according to the sustainability ordinance from 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2009 of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety |
| KrWG           | Circular Economy Act   |

## 2.2 ISCC EU

ISCC EU 102 - Governance  
ISCC EU 103 - Requirements for Certification Bodies and Auditors  
ISCC EU 201 - System Basics  
ISCC EU 202 - Sustainability Requirements  
ISCC EU 202-1 - Agricultural Biomass: ISCC Principle 1  
ISCC EU 202-1 – Agricultural Biomass: ISCC Principle 1  
ISCC EU 202-2 - Agricultural Biomass: ISCC Principle 2-6  
ISCC EU 202-5 - Waste and Residues  
ISCC EU 203 - Traceability and Chain of Custody  
ISCC EU 204 - Risk Management  
ISCC EU 205 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions  
List of material eligible for ISCC EU certification

## 2.3 ISCC PLUS

ISCC PLUS System Document  
ISCC EU 203 – Traceability and Chain of Custody (v4.0, 01 July 2021)  
ISCC EU 202-4 –Forest Biomass: ISCC Principles 2-6 (v1, valid from 01 March 2023)  
Add- on ISCC PLUS 202-03 - SAI Gold  
Add- on ISCC PLUS 205-01 - GHG Emissions  
Add- on ISCC PLUS 205-02 - Consumables  
Add- on ISCC PLUS 205-03 - Non GMO food feed  
Add- on ISCC PLUS 205-04 - Non GMO technical markets  
Add- on ISCC PLUS 205-06 - Electricity and Heat from Biogas Plants  
Add- on ISCC PLUS 202-07 - Low ILUC-Risk Feedstock Certification  
List of material eligible for ISCC PLUS certification

## 2.4 Futher Documents

### ISCC Guidance Documents

ISCC Guidance Document: Waste and Residues from Palm Oil Mills  
ISCC Guidance Document: Wastewater from ship transport  
ISCC Guidance Document 202-9: Guidance for Algae Cultivation  
ISCC Guidance Document 201-5: Independent Smallholders  
ISCC Guidance Document 203-01: Co-Processing Requirements  
ISCC Guidance Document 201-6: Certification Process for wild collection of Shea  
ISCC Guidance Document 201-1: Deliveries of Biofuels to Japan  
ISCC Guidance Document 260-01: Short Rotation Coppice (SRC)

### Additionally for ISCC EU und ISCC PLUS:

- ISCC 251-02 General Terms of Certification
- ISCC Document 208 “Logos and Claims
- ISCC fees
- ISCC System Updates (<https://www.iscc-system.org/process/iscc-documents-at-a-glance/iscc-system-updates/>)

## 3 Requirements

The requirements for companies apply along the entire biomass chain. They include all companies involved in processing, collection and trade of sustainable biomass from the producer (agricultural business) or the place of creation (initial distributor).

Sustainable biomass in this sense is liquid biomass which is used to generate electricity under the Renewable Energies Law in keeping with the requirements of the Biomass Electricity Sustainability Regulation, and liquid or gaseous fuels for transport which are made from biomass in keeping with the requirements of the Bio Fuels Sustainability Regulation or bio fuels and liquid bio fuels made of various types of biomass in keeping with the definition in Annex V of the Renewable Energy Directive. Sustainable biomass is also biomass that is produced from agricultural commodities or waste and residues, if article 29 RED II is fulfilled..

Under ISCC PLUS further sustainable biomass types can be certified.

Verification of compliance with these requirements is provided by on-site audits.

### **3.1 Requirements for Agricultural Businesses**

Agricultural businesses which aim to distribute sustainable biomass must verify that it is produced using sustainable processes and in compliance with the statutory requirements.

#### **3.1.1 Cross Compliance**

In EU Member States which have implemented Cross Compliance, farmers that fulfil the Cross Compliance criteria through implementation and official recognition of Cross Compliance are only audited with respect to the requirements set out in ISCC Principle 1 and criteria that are not covered by EU legislation. (see ISCC 203 Traceability and Chain of Custody)

#### **3.1.2 ISCC EU**

For ISCC principle 1 the requirements of ISCC EU 202-1 - Agricultural Biomass: ISCC Principle 1 apply. For ISCC principle 2-6 the requirements from ISCC 202-2 - Agricultural Biomass: ISCC Principle 2-6 apply. Further, the requirements of ISCC EU 203 Traceability and Chain of Custody with specific requirements in section 3.4.1 apply.

#### **3.1.3 ISCC PLUS**

The requirements of the ISCC PLUS system document are applicable.

### **3.2 Requirements for First Gathering Points**

First gathering points are responsible for determining the origin, quality and volume of biomass, which they have received from agricultural businesses and wish to distribute as sustainable biomass.

#### **3.2.1 ISCC EU**

The requirements of ISCC EU 203 Traceability and Chain of Custody with the specific requirements in section 3.4.3 apply.

The classification as First Gathering Point is also valid for collectors of agricultural residues like e.g. harvesting residues (e.g. straw, bagasse, nutshells).

### **3.2.2 ISCC PLUS**

The requirements of ISCC PLUS apply.

## **3.3 Points of Origin for waste and residues**

### **3.3.1 ISCC EU**

The requirements of ISCC EU 203 Traceability and Chain of Custody with the specific requirements in section 3.4.4 and the requirements of ISCC 201-5 Waste and Residues apply.

### **3.3.2 ISCC PLUS**

The requirements of ISCC PLUS especially section 6 apply.

## **3.4 Collection Points for Waste and Residues**

### **3.4.1 ISCC EU**

The requirements of ISCC EU 203 Traceability and Chain of Custody with the specific requirements in section 3.4.6. and the requirements of ISCC 201-5 apply.

### **3.4.2 ISCC PLUS**

The requirements of ISCC PLUS especially section 6 apply.

## **3.5 Trader and Storage Facilities**

### **3.5.1 ISCC EU**

The requirements of ISCC 203 Traceability and Chain of Custody with the specific requirements in section 3.4.7 apply.

### **3.5.2 ISCC PLUS**

The requirements of ISCC PLUS apply.

## **3.6 Processing Units**

### **3.6.1 ISCC EU**

The requirements of ISCC EU 203 Traceability and Chain of Custody with the specific requirements in section 3.4.8 apply.

### **3.6.2 ISCC PLUS**

The requirements of ISCC PLUS apply.



### **3.7 Issuing of Proofs of Compliance: Proofs of Sustainability (PoS), Sustainability Declarations**

Proofs of sustainability and sustainability declarations are documents which prove compliance with the sustainability requirements for a volume of biomass or bio fuel at the time of their issue by a party involved in the system after which there are no further processing stages (apart from transport and storage).

The proofs of sustainability issued by the system user must be send to the BLE within 48 hours.

**Copies of all proofs of sustainability have to be send to DIN CERTCO ([nnw-biomasse@dincertco.de](mailto:nnw-biomasse@dincertco.de)).**

The following requirements for proofs of sustainability apply:

#### **3.7.1 ISCC EU**

ISCC 203 Traceability and Chain of Custody section 3.3.2 and 3.3.3.

#### **3.7.2 ISCC PLUS**

ISCC PLUS System Document section 9.1

### **3.8 Issuing of Partial Proofs of Compliance with Sustainability requirements**

At the owner's request, Partial Proofs of Compliance with Sustainability Requirements can be issued for partial consignments of bio liquids or biofuels for which a Proof of Compliance with Sustainability Requirements has already been issued.

The proofs of sustainability issued by the system user must be send to the BLE within 48 hours.

A copy of all sustainability verifications has to be send to DIN CERTCO.  
([nnw-biomasse@dincertco.de](mailto:nnw-biomasse@dincertco.de))

The following requirements for proofs of sustainability apply:

#### **3.8.1 ISCC EU**

ISCC 203 Traceability and Chain of Custody section 3.3.2 and 3.3.3.

#### **3.8.2 ISCC PLUS**

ISCC PLUS System Document section 9.1

### **3.9 Mass Balancing**

For mass balancing the following requirements apply:

### 3.9.1 ISCC EU

ISCC 203 Traceability and Chain of Custody section 4.4

### 3.9.2 ISCC PLUS

ISCC Plus System Dokument section 9.3

## 3.10 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Calculation

For the performance of GHG calculations, the following requirements apply:

### 3.10.1 ISCC EU

ISCC EU 205 – GHG Emissions for System Users handling waste and residues additionally ISCC 202-5 Waste and Residues section 4.2.

### 3.10.2 ISCC PLUS

GHG calculation is voluntary under ISCC PLUS certification.

Please refer to ISCC PLUS System Document section 11 and Add-on 205-01: GHG Emissions for requirements for GHG calculation.

## 4 Auditing

### 4.1 General

For the performance of the audits required as the basis for the assessment and certification of the products, DIN CERTCO avails itself of the auditors to which it has awarded recognition.

The requirements of ISCC EU 201-System Basics, ISCC 203 Traceability and Chain of Custody, ISCC EU 204 Risk Management for ISCC-EU certification apply.

### 4.2 Sample picking

The sample size of the verification of businesses in the biomass supply chain depends in the ISCC system on the type of business, the registration and the risk factors. These are described in ISCC EU 204 for ISCC EU and PLUS certifications.

“Supply Chain” elements: “First gathering point”, “Central Office”, “Collection Point”, “Trader” and “Processing unit”

- Have to be categorically audited individually
- The option of a verification as part of a sample does not exist

“Supply Chain” elements: “Farm/plantation, Point of Origin, Warehouse/collecting point belonging to a first gathering point, Trader/warehouse belonging to logistic network”

- can be either audited individually
- can be audited as single businesses
- can be audited as part of a sample, if they are registered as a group

## 4.2.1 ISCC EU

For group certification of „third party locations“ (like e.g. agricultural businesses, points of origin and storage facilities) the requirements of ISCC EU 203 Traceability and Chain of Custody 3.4 ff apply. Fundamentally, the sample size is calculated as follows:

$$s = r * \sqrt{n}$$

s: sample size

r: risk factor

n: total number of group members

The sample size is multiplied by the risk factor (Regular: 1, Medium: 1,5 or High: 2).

Starting from 1.05 the number has to be rounded up to the next full number.

(for this refer to: ISCC EU 203 Traceability and Chain of Custody Kapitel 3.5.5).

## 4.3 Types of Audits

ISCC audits are retrospective and focus on the verification of operations and claims made during the previous certification period. An exception to this rule is the first (initial) audit of a System User during which a retrospective audit of claims is not possible and therefore the focus of the audit is on the procedures required to appropriately implement and apply the ISCC requirements.

### 4.3.1 ISCC EU

#### 4.3.1.1 Certification Audits

The certification audit is conducted to establish whether the company is compliant with the requirements of section 3 of this certification scheme.

For the ISCC EU system the requirements of ISCC EU 201 System Basics, ISCC EU 204 Risk Management apply.

#### 4.3.1.2 Surveillance Audits

Certification Bodies are entitled to conduct surveillance audits (i.e. further audits in addition to the annual audits) if there is reasonable doubt of compliance with ISCC requirements or in order to verify substantiated allegations of fraudulent behaviour. Certification Bodies are entitled to conduct announced or unannounced surveillance audits at any time during the certificate's validity period.

#### 4.3.1.3 Surveillance Audits after first certification

All system users have to undergo surveillance according to Biokraft-NachV § 32 Kontrolle der Schnittstellen und Lieferanten (1) at the latest six months after the issuance of the first certificate in the first year of certification.

According to ISCC EU 203 Traceability and Chain of Custody Chapter 3.4.10 surveillance audits are required for high risk supply chains. These are economic operators that are collecting, processing, storing or trading materials, which may be eligible for extra incentives

in individual EU Member States (e.g. double-counting), such as waste and residues or waste and residue-based products. For these audits the deadline of the Biokraft-NachV needs to be complied with.

According to ISCC EU 203 Traceability and Chain of Custody Chapter 3.4.10 an additional surveillance audit after 3 months (it should be aimed for the 4<sup>th</sup> month after initial certification) is required for „collecting points“ and „traders“, if they collect/trade waste and residues and virgin vegetable oils.

Basis for the decision is the information reported to ISCC within of the registration. The correctness of this information is verified in the course of the first audit.

#### **4.3.1.4 Group Auditing and Sampling**

Sample audits follow the requirements of ISCC EU 203 Traceability and Chain of Custody and ISCC EU 204 Risk Management for ISCC EU certifications (please see section 4.2 of this certification scheme).

#### **4.3.1.5 Annual Audit**

The annual audit is conducted before the expiry of a certificate and serves to determine if the certified business still complies with the requirements of ISCC and if applicable detected non-conformities were corrected on time.

It follows the requirements of ISCC EU 201 System Basics.

### **4.3.2 ISCC PLUS**

#### **4.3.2.1 Certification Audit**

For certification audits in the ISCC PLUS system the requirements of the ISCC PLUS system document section 10 apply.

#### **4.3.2.2 Surveillance audits**

In justified cases, the certification body can appoint surveillance audits within the validity-period of a certificate to verify the compliance with the ISCC requirements. These audits may prioritise certain aspects of the ISCC requirements see ISCC PLUS document section 10.

#### **4.3.2.3 Sample Audits**

Sample audits follow ISCC PLUS system document section 12.

#### **4.3.2.4 Recertification Audit**

The recertification audit is conducted before the expiry of a certificate and serves to determine if the certified business still complies with the requirements of ISCC and if applicable detected non-conformities were corrected on time.

It follows the requirements of ISCC PLUS section 10.

### **4.3.3 Special Audit**

A special Audit is conducted:

- In case of justified instigation of DIN CERTCO
- when requested in writing by a third party if a particular interest in the maintenance of proper conduct of market procedures in relation to competition or quality is involved.

The type and scope of the special audit shall be laid down in accordance with the specific, respective purpose on a case by case basis by DIN CERTCO in conjunction with the auditor.

Should defects be detected during the special audit or because of the suspended production, the certificate holder shall bear the costs of the examination procedure.

Should the special audit at the request of a third party reveal no defects, the costs shall be borne by said third party (which does not apply to audits requested directly by ISCC or the BLE).

## **4.4 Audit Procedure**

The audit must be conducted in accordance with the specifications of the ISCC certification system using the ISCC Procedures relating to duration and audit contents.

The following requirements apply:

### **4.4.1 ISCC EU**

ISCC EU 201 – System Basics Chapter 4.2.

### **4.4.2 ISCC PLUS**

ISCC PLUS System documents section 10.

## **4.5 Audit Report**

The auditor informs the certification body about the result of the audit in an audit report generated in the Audit Procedure System (APS) provided by ISCC.

GAP procedures may be required during transitional phases in the document adaptation of ISCC. These must then be submitted in addition to the audit report.

# **5 Certification**

## **5.1 Application for certification**

The applicants are the various companies within the biomass chain.

The following documents must be submitted by the applicant to DIN CERTCO:

- Application for certification with a legally binding signature

The contract is concluded for the validity of the certification. It is automatically extended by a further certification period if and to the extent that the customer fulfils the certification requirements without having to submit a re-certification application.

In addition to the application to DIN CERTCO, registration with ISCC is required.

## **5.2 Conformity Assessment**

On the basis of the documents submitted, DIN CERTCO conducts the conformity assessment. The assessment is carried out by a person who was not involved in the evaluation process. The assessment is carried out using the submitted documents and information to determine whether the requirements of the certification scheme and the relevant ISCC documents are satisfied.

## **5.3 The Certificate and the Right to Use the Logo**

Once the inspection and the conformity evaluation of the application documents have been completed successfully, DIN CERTCO issues the applicant with a certificate, with the associated registration number.

ISCC document ISCC 208 Logos and Claims describes how the Logo may be applied.

## **5.4 Publications**

All certificate holders can be viewed on the daily up-dated homepage of DIN CERTCO [www.dincertco.tuv.com](http://www.dincertco.tuv.com) under Certificate Holders and under [www.iscc-system.org](http://www.iscc-system.org). Manufacturers, users and consumers use this research possibility for obtaining information on certified products.

Besides the contact details of the certificate holders (telephone, telefax, e-mail, homepage), this page also contains further information about the specific scope.

The interface directory is forwarded to BLE in the course of the yearly report.

## **5.5 Validity of the Certificate and Statements of Conformity**

The certificate is valid for 1 year. The period of validity is shown on the certificate.

## **5.6 Renewal of the Certification**

If the certification shall continue to apply beyond the date shown on the certificate, an up-to-date, positive audit report in the APS system must be submitted in good time to DIN CERTCO. On the basis of the documents submitted, DIN CERTCO conducts the conformity examination.

## **5.7 Expiry of the Certificate/Statement of Conformity**

At the end of the validity period, the certificate with the corresponding registration number and the right to use the ISCC logo expires without the necessity for explicit notification from DIN CERTCO.

Furthermore, the certificate can also expire if:

- the certificate is misused by the certificate holder,
- requirements laid down in the certification scheme or its accompanying documents are not fulfilled,
- certification fees are not paid on the due date,
- prerequisites for the issuing of the certificate are no longer fulfilled

If an extension of the certification is not desired, the registration at ISCC has also to be cancel by the certificate holder.

## **5.8 Alterations/Amendments**

### **5.8.1 Alterations to the testing standard**

If the testing standard of the certification change, an application for modification of the certification must be submitted within 6 months of notification by DIN CERTCO, unless a deviating transitional regulation has been specified. As a rule, a positive audit report must be submitted after 12 months to demonstrate conformity with the changed testing standard.

### **5.8.2 Alteration in the Scope of the Certificate**

If during the one year validity period of a certificate changes are planned an application for amendment needs to be send to DIN CERTCO.

DIN CERTCO verifies the possibility of an amendment of the scope of the certificate.

## **5.9 Non-Conformities**

Non-conformity means the non-fulfilment or violation of an ISCC requirement by a System User. Non-conformities are classified based on their impact on the ISCC System. ISCC distinguishes between minor, major and critical non-conformities as described in ISCC EU 201 4.2.3.

### **ISCC PLUS**

The requirements of ISCC PLUS apply.

## **5.10 Reporting to ISCC and the Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung (BLE) in ISCC EU System (only applicable to ISCC EU)**

The certification body is obligated to inform ISCC and the authority BLE about first or renewed certifications including scope, mayor non-conformities and withdrawal if certificates.

Further, the certification body is obliged to inform the authority BLE about all planned audit dates.

## **6 Surveillance by the System User**

The system user must ensure, by suitable quality management measures, that the product characteristics confirmed by the certification are maintained. This can be accomplished by means of an in-house factory production control (FPC) focussed on the product itself or on the production and, in addition, can be guaranteed within the framework of a quality management system (QM-System) in accordance with the standard series DIN EN ISO 9000 ff. This must be reasonably documented.

This also relates to the documentation and structure of the complaints system. This must, among other things, regulate how complaints, non-conformities from the requirements of the certification scheme and the standards set out above are handled.

The requirements of ISCC EU 102 Governance for ISCC-EU certification apply.

The relevant records must be submitted to DIN CERTCO or its representatives on request.

## **7 ISCC Integrity Assessments**

In order to evaluate the work of certification bodies ISCC regularly conducts follow-up audits at certified companies. System users are obligated to allow these assessments. More information can be found in the document ISCC 103 Requirements for Certification Bodies and Auditors section 4.9 and in ISCC 102 Governance section 11.