Sustainability criteria for biomass in the UK

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Introducing the UK Government’s Timber Procurement Policy (TPP)

- “Only timber and wood-derived products originating from an independently verifiable Legal and Sustainable source (which can include from a licensed FLEGT partner) will be demanded for use on the government estate – appropriate documentation will be required to prove it”

- Evidence will be assessed against the ‘UK Government’s TPP Definition of Legal and Sustainable’
Renewable energy policy in the UK

• Renewables Obligation (RO)
  ➢ Provides incentives for large-scale renewable electricity generation by requiring UK suppliers to source a proportion of their electricity from eligible renewable sources

• Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)
  ➢ Pays commercial, industrial, public, not-for-profit and community generators of renewable heat
Upcoming ‘Land Criteria’ for virgin woodfuel

- Based on the UK Government’s TPP definition of Legal and Sustainable
- Likely to enter into UK law in April 2014 and require
  - From April 2014, report on performance of compliance against ‘Land Criteria’
  - From April 2015 ensure compliance against ‘Land Criteria’
- However, European Commission may publish mandatory SFM criteria 2014/15
How to demonstrate compliance?

• Evidence of compliance with Definition of Legal and Sustainable includes:
  
  ➢ Category A (Forest certification schemes approved by CPET) - most straightforward!
    ▪ Biomass certification scheme review 2014?
  ➢ Category B (equivalent credible evidence)
  ➢ Note that for woodfuel, mass balance of 70% sustainable, 30% legal allowed
Category B evidence

Supply chain information
Checklist 1

Legality: Checklist 2 (Forest source information on legality)

Sustainability: Checklist 3 (Forest source information on sustainability – challenging to demonstrate & requires 3rd party verification)
Checklist 3: Forest source information on sustainability

• A locally applicable definition of sustainability is required

• Specific requirements for how the definition was developed (multi-stakeholder process etc)

• Overall criteria
  ➢ Forest management must
    - minimise harm to ecosystems
    - maintain forest productivity
    - ensure forest ecosystem health and vitality
    - maintain biodiversity
  ➢ Include social criteria
How to demonstrate compliance through Category B

• Site specific evidence for Checklist 3
  ➢ Management Plans, e.g. Forestry Commission England Woodland Management Plan
  ➢ Forest Stewardship Plans?

• Potential for suppliers risk based assessment (state/counties) for each P&C in Checklist 3?
  Combination of below – but Checklist 3 must be complete!
  ➢ Implementation of BMPs?
  ➢ Contractor training?
  ➢ Biodiversity risk assessments?
  ➢ FSC Controlled Wood?
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