



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

WOODFUEL MASS BALANCE AND CONSIGNMENT

Version 2

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1. Introduction – consignments and a mass balance approach

This document provides guidance on using a Mass Balance Approach (MBA) to help comply with the woody biomass land criteria (as defined in the RO, RHI and in the CfD¹ contracts).

Second Edition

- 1.1. In the first edition of the Mass Balance and Consignment Guidance it was stated that generators and participants must comply with the Timber Standard's sustainability principles. These principles have now been incorporated directly into the Renewables Obligation Order 2015 ('RO') and Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme Regulations 2011 (as amended) ('RHI'), and will be incorporated into the contracts of the Contract for Difference ('CfD') and Investment Contracts. Generators and participants must comply with this language, which differs slightly from the Timber Standard. This guidance provides information only on how to comply with the woody biomass land criteria for RO, RHI and CfD. It is important for generators, RHI participants, their biomass suppliers and auditors to understand that their obligations are now set out in the legislation or CfD contract rather than in the Timber Standard.
- 1.2. This edition of the Mass Balance and Consignment Guidance contains some re-referencing and some minor changes to the terminology to account for this change. To improve the clarity of the guidance some changes have been made to the ordering and phrasing but the intention was to avoid substantial changes to the recommended sustainability practices set out in the first edition of the Mass Balance and Consignment Guidance.
- 1.3. Throughout this document 'woody biomass land criteria' is used as a shorthand to refer to the requirements set out in the RO and RHI regulations and in the CfD, except where stated. Note that 'woody biomass' is referred to as 'solid biomass' in the RHI Regulations.
- 1.4. This is a guidance document only. The onus is on generators and participants to ensure that they are aware of, and are complying with, relevant government legislation (or contracts). This guidance is not intended to provide comprehensive legal advice on how the Orders, Regulations or contracts should be interpreted.

¹ Throughout this document 'CfD' refers to both the Financial Investment Decision enabling for Renewables (FIDeR) investment contract and the Contract for Difference contract.

Where necessary, generators and participants should seek their own technical or legal support.

Mass balance approach overview

- 1.5. As stated in the Woodfuel Advice Note, all wood supplied in the UK, must comply with the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR). So 100% of woody biomass supplied under the RO, CfD and RHI must be legal². *At least* 70% of all woody biomass must meet the definition of 'legal and sustainable'³ (this minimum requirement is called the '70/30 threshold' in the following). Generators, RHI participants and biomass suppliers are encouraged to maximise the proportion of 'legal and sustainable' biomass they use.
- 1.6. Generators and self-reporting participants may use a "mass balance approach" (MBA) to keep track of the amount of sustainable biomass in their system and to apportion their sustainability data to the wood within their system. Generators and participants should discuss this approach with Ofgem or BSL where in doubt.
- 1.7. A mass balance approach is a means of accounting for the flows of woody biomass 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. However, a node⁴ 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.
- 1.8. Such a system is a practical approach which permits the physical wood and the sustainability data associated to it to become separated – sustainability data may be allocated to wood going out of the system, but in doing so the amount of sustainability data within the system reduces by the same amount. The amount of legal and sustainable wood biomass exiting a mass balance system is never more than what enters the system.
- 1.9. The sustainability information needs to be traceable down a supply chain to ensure that the sustainable and legal proportion of biomass being burnt meets or exceeds the 70/30 threshold. This information should also be traceable down the chain of custody so that the end user (the generator, participant or supplier to the BSL) have evidence that the woody biomass is sustainable.
- 1.10. To report compliance with the 70:30 threshold and to accurately account for the ratio between 'legal and sustainable' sources and 'legal only' sources (which should occur either per consignment, or across all consignments reported in a month (RO and CfD) or quarter (RHI)), the information about the ratio of sources

² See the Woodfuel Advice Note for a definition of legal source

³ See the Woodfuel Advice Note for a definition of 'legal and sustainable'

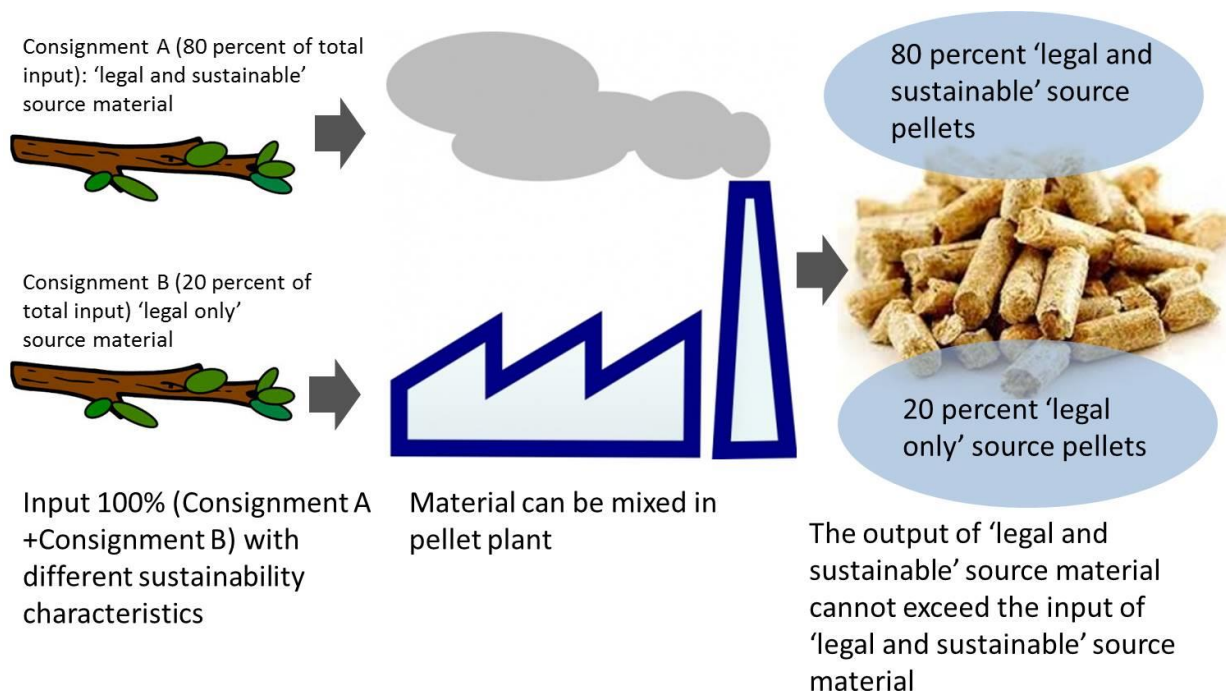
⁴ A node in the supply chain refers to any entity who legally owns the wood at some stage in the supply chain

1. Introduction – consignments and a mass balance approach

must be traceable through the supply chain. The concept of traceability from raw material to end product is known as the 'chain of custody'.

- 1.11. 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.
- 1.12. Operating a MBA may be necessary if a biomass supplier, generator or RHI participant:
 - does not always source 100% 'legal and sustainable' material or sources different types of biomass which would have to be reported as separate consignments
 - buys from many different sources
 - have limited internal processes to avoid mixing of 'legal and sustainable' and 'legal only' material
 - already account for some or all of their biomass using mass balance methods (including credit systems)

Figure 1: A Mass Balance Approach



- 1.13. In a mass balance system, sustainability data outputs should be allocated to a specific time period. For those reporting to OFGEM this time period should be a month (for RO/CfD) or a quarter (RHI). A MBA approach does not permit calculations based on future or anticipated inputs, and must not assume future

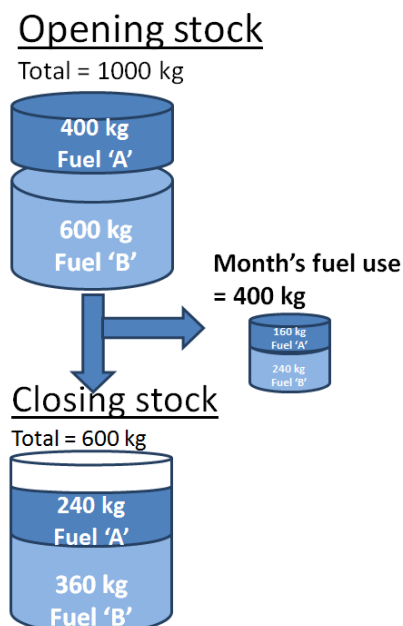
sustainability information will bolster the proportion of legal and sustainable biomass. Inputs cannot be carried back in time to balance historic stocks. The 70/30 threshold must be met every month or quarter.

- 1.14. Compliance with the 70:30 threshold must occur at the time when the woody biomass is burnt at the generating station or heat installation, on a monthly basis for RO and CfD and a quarterly basis for RHI. Calculations cannot include material at other sites or at other generation stations or installations – these would need to be part of separate mass balance systems.
- 1.15. A MBA may occur at any stage in the supply chain, include at aggregators, but it is important that relevant sustainability information can be passed up the supply chain to the generator, participant or to OFGEM/BSL as required. Ultimately the RO, CfD and RHI require an accurate system for accounting for the amount of sustainable biomass being burnt, or allocated for burning, in a generating station or installation per month or quarter.

Types of mass balance systems

- 1.16. There are typically two ways of reporting claims through a mass balance approach.

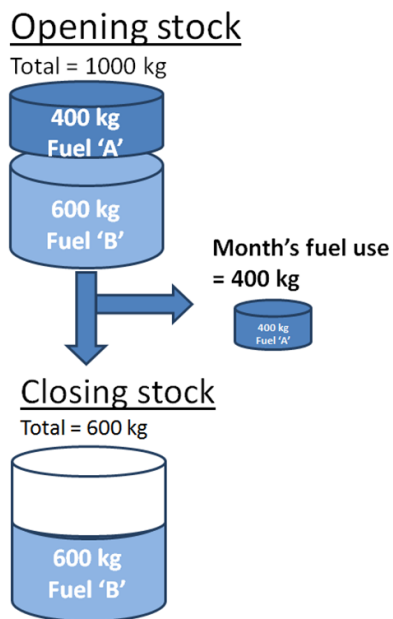
Figure 2: Proportional Mass Balance Approach



- 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. Measurements should be in kg or tonnes. For example, if a woody biomass mixture is 400

tonnes of 'A' and 600 tonnes of 'B' when a weight of woody biomass 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 2 above.

Figure 3: Non-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 woody biomass mixture is 400 tonnes of 'A' and 600 tonnes of 'B' when you extract a weight of woody biomass 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 3 above.
- 1.17. 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.
 - 1.18. 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.

- 1.19. The RO, RHI and CfD contracts 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' woody biomass to all of their customers or who physically separate legal and sustainable sources do not need to use a mass balance approach to determine the 70:30 threshold.
- 1.20. 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.

Consignments

- 1.21. In claiming incentives, Ofgem requires RO generators and CfD contract holders to report monthly, and RHI participants to report quarterly, against the greenhouse gas savings (GHG) criteria and woody biomass land criteria, as part of each claim.
- 1.22. Woody biomass 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 all consignments reported in a month or quarter as applicable.
- 1.23. Whilst the RO and RHI legislation do not define 'consignment', Ofgem have set out guidance⁵ on what constitutes a consignment. For practical reasons the definition of a consignment for GHG and meeting the woody biomass land criteria are the same under RO, RHI and CfD. Each consignment should constitute the *same* characteristics in terms of:
 - Feedstock type⁶
 - Biomass form (solid biomass only)

⁵ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/renewables-obligation-sustainability-criteria>

⁶ 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.

- Country of origin⁷
 - Classification of the fuel (residue, product etc.)
 - Compliance with woody biomass land criteria
 - Compliance with GHG criteria
- 1.24. Provided materials have identical consignment characteristics (as listed above), these can be considered as a single consignment for the purposes of data collection and reporting. For example, where there are a number of source locations in the same region or country of origin⁸ (e.g. forestry residue sourced from numerous locations in the UK) and where compliance with the woody biomass land criteria are the same, these combined sources can be considered as a single consignment.
- 1.25. For most, the consignment type will be very similar month by month or quarter by quarter, especially where the generator has contractual agreements for specific wood types or for biomass fuels made from specific blends. For others where the wood composition changes on a monthly/quarterly basis, generators, participants and biomass 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 and to meet the 70/30 threshold across these month/quarter. 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. Ofgem will prepare guidance setting out exactly what information generators and participants will have to report on their systems per consignment.
- 1.26. 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 ≤ 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.
- 1.27. When calculating the proportion of woody biomass 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.
- 1.28. Suppliers who wish to be registered on the BSL need to demonstrate that the woody biomass they supply meets the 70:30 threshold. The BSL will be publishing
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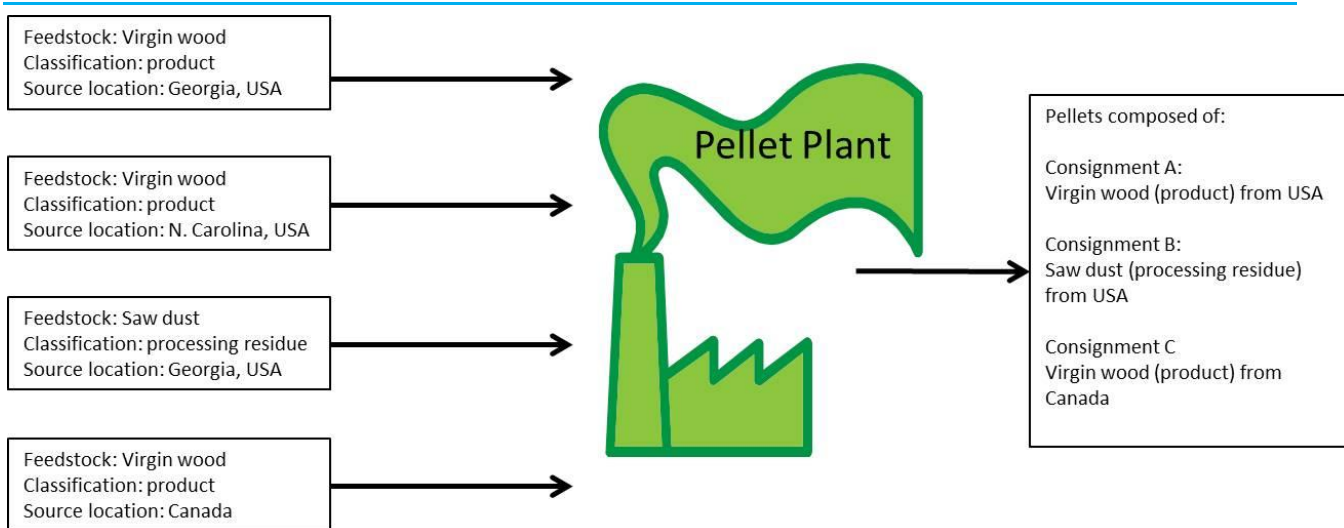
⁸ UK considered as a single country of origin

1. Introduction – consignments and a mass balance approach

its own guidance setting out its processes. Approved BSL wood is deemed to meet the 70:30 threshold so participants buying solely from a BSL supplier do not need to demonstrate that they meet the RHI land criteria 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).

- 1.29. The BSL will set out the processes for how suppliers on the BSL can report by consignment or mix of consignments under the RHI.

Figure 4: Consignments



- 1.30. 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 woody biomass land criteria. Consignment A within the pellet includes virgin wood from both 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.

- 1.31. 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 woody biomass 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.

2. Demonstrating compliance using a mass balance approach

- 2.1. Generators using **Biomass Category A** and **Biomass Category B evidence (bespoke evidence)** 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 woody biomass fuel carrying a percentage claim from a third party voluntary certification scheme used to provide Biomass 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 RHI, and the correct use of a mass balance approach, will be assessed by the List Administrator. RHI Participants using woody biomass from the BSL may assume their biomass complies with the GHG and woody biomass 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 website⁹.
- 2.3. For generators operating under the RO, CfD and RHI participants who self-report to Ofgem, calculation of percentage inputs must 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 wood, whether raw material, or and woody biomass fuel must be 'legal' and therefore 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 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 for more details¹⁰.

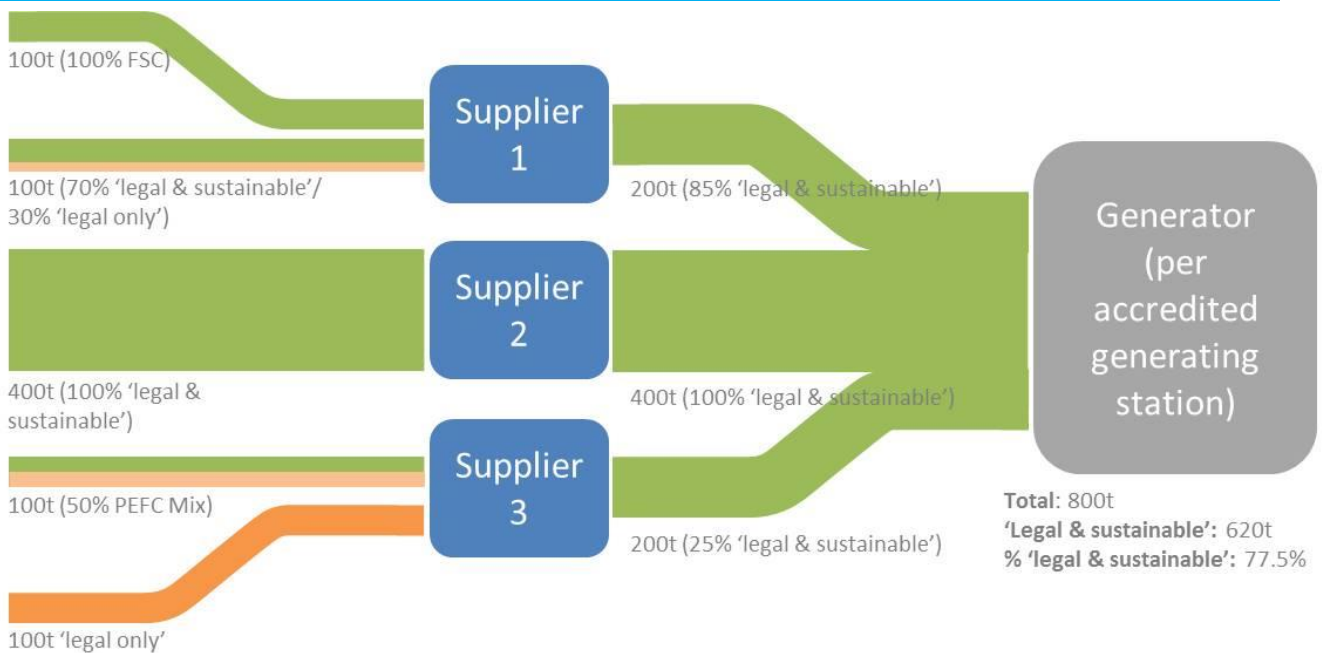
⁹ <http://biomass-suppliers-list.service.gov.uk/>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-timber-regulation-guidance-for-business-and-industry>

2. Demonstrating compliance using a mass balance approach

- 2.5. Example of a generator operating under the RO or CfD: This generator can demonstrate that the woody biomass 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.

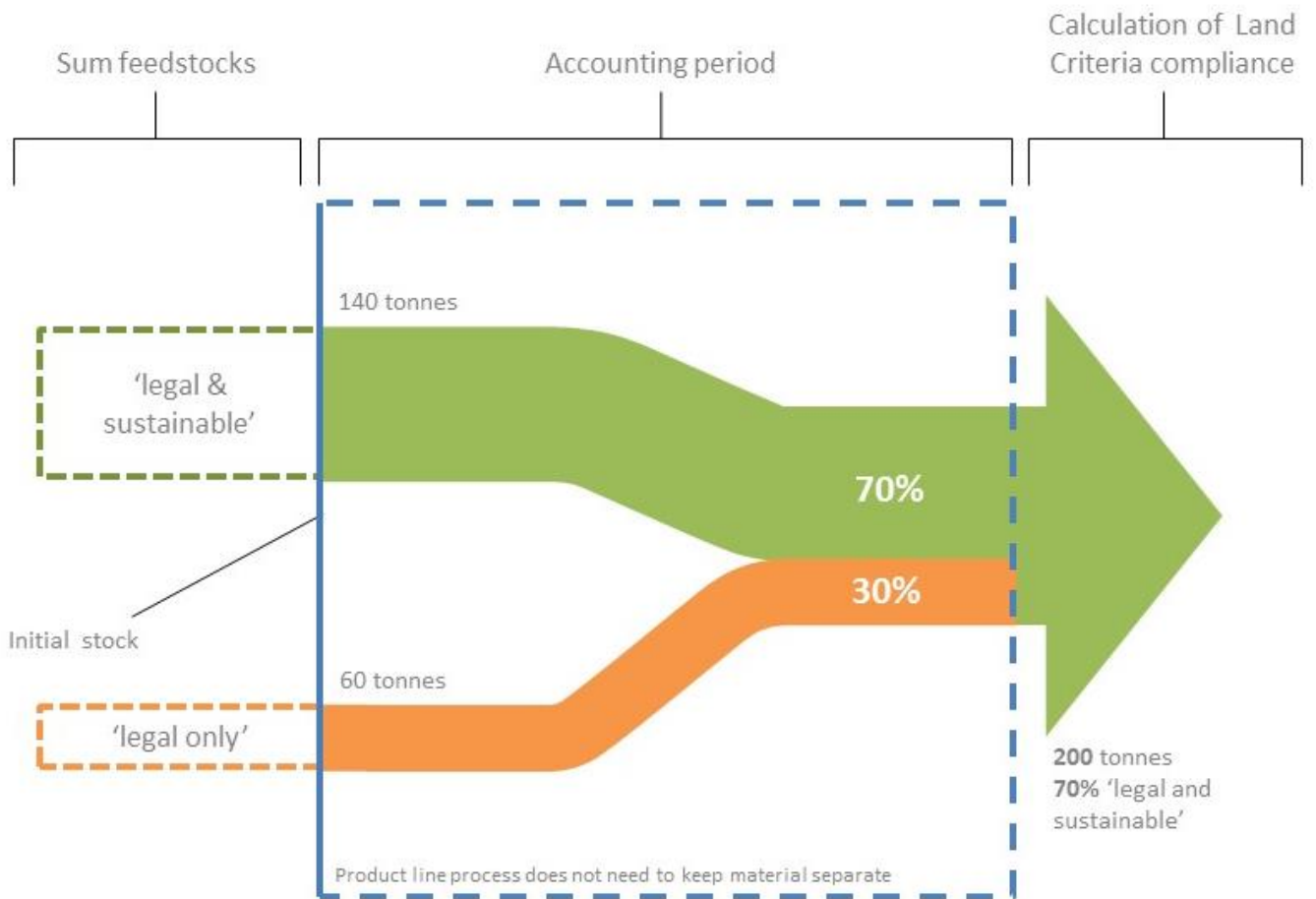
Figure 5: Example of a generator operating under the RO or CfD using a mass balance approach to account for different sources of 'legal only' and 'legal and sustainable' feedstocks from three suppliers



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

2. Demonstrating compliance using a mass balance approach

Figure 6: Example of a BSL supplier operating under the RHI using a mass balance approach to account for different sources of 'legal only' and 'legal and sustainable' feedstocks



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 woody biomass 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. Generators, participants and suppliers of raw material and biomass fuel 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 biomass fuel that they supply are justified.
- 3.5. Mass balance approach can combine flows of raw material and biomass fuel that carry both Biomass Category A claims (approved certification scheme) and Biomass Category B claims (bespoke forms of evidence). 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?

- 3.6. Where material is supplied under Biomass 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 woody biomass land criteria. As noted above, supplying third party certified material does not automatically mean meeting EUTR legal requirements.
- 3.7. Where raw material and biomass fuel is supplied outside of the scope of a Biomass Category A scheme then evidence of operating an effective mass balance approach along the supply chain is required (i.e. as part of the Biomass Category B bespoke evidence).
- 3.8. In such a case, the CPET Practical Guide [Supply Chain practical guide for Category B evidence](#) 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.
- 3.9. The approved certification schemes (at time of writing Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and Sustainable Biomass Partnership (SBP)) and other sustainability certification

schemes specific to biomass (e.g. the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB)), have clear requirements for effective mass balance approach control systems.

- 3.10. For more information please see the documents *Woodfuel Advice Note* and the *Risk-based regional assessment: A Checklist approach*.

Do I need to have my evidence verified?

- 3.11. If you are a generator or participant reporting directly to Ofgem and a generating station $\geq 1\text{MW}$, you need to demonstrate in your sustainability audit report that the woody biomass you have used meets the woody biomass land criteria as set out in the RO, RHI and CfD contracts. 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 3000¹¹ or an equivalent standard.
- 3.12. If you are registered on the 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 woody biomass land criteria, on raw material and biomass fuel, are justified. You will need to demonstrate that you always supply woody biomass at or above the 70/30 threshold.

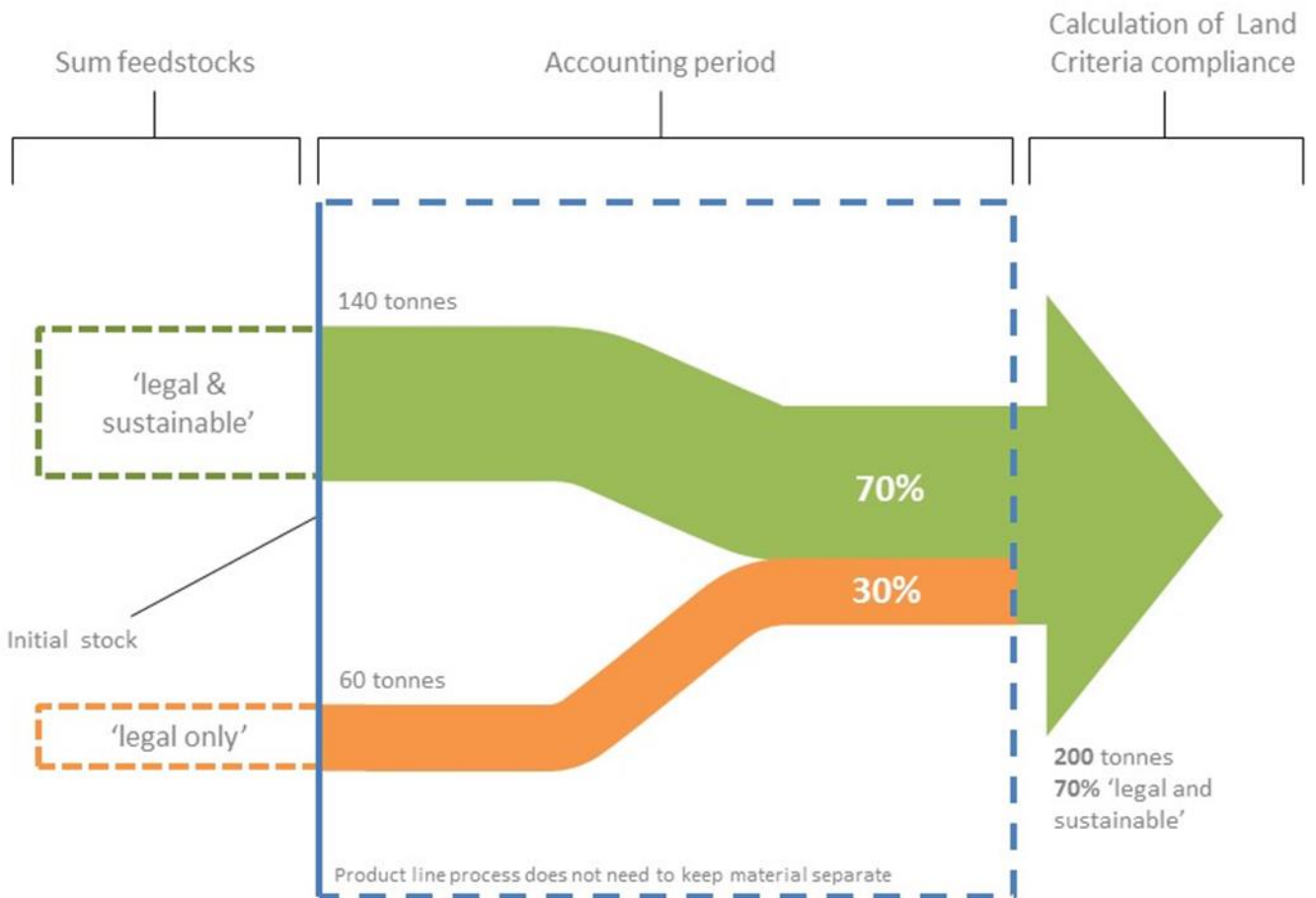
Examples of mass balance approaches

- 3.13. Various scenarios have been presented in this section to indicate how a mass balance approach works in practice from the perspective of both generators/participants 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. Note also that an 'accounting period' in the text below is likely to refer to a month for RO and CfD, or a quarter for RHI, but could be a different period of time elsewhere in the supply chain.

¹¹ ISAE 3000 Revised standard is now in force and should be used for assurance engagements conducted after 15th December 2015

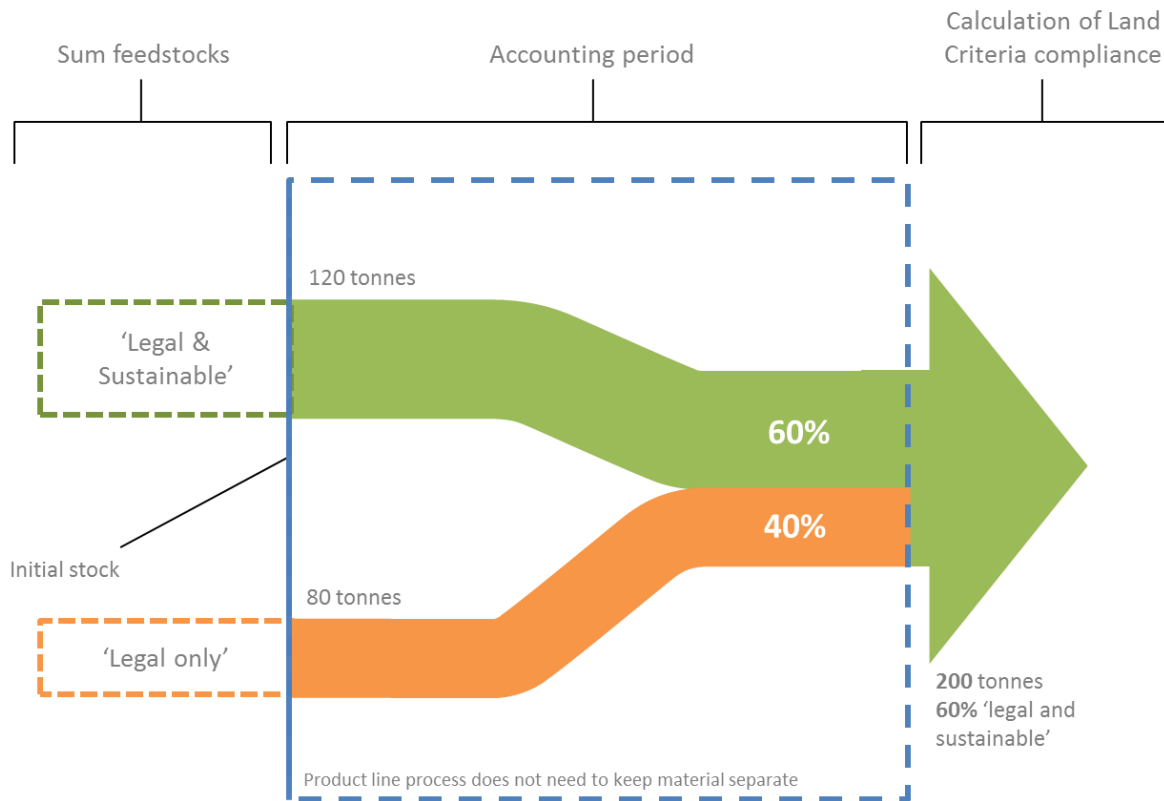
3. A mass balance approach in practice

Example 1a) Woody biomass (200t) supplied by a BSL supplier carrying a 70% 'legal and sustainable' claim.

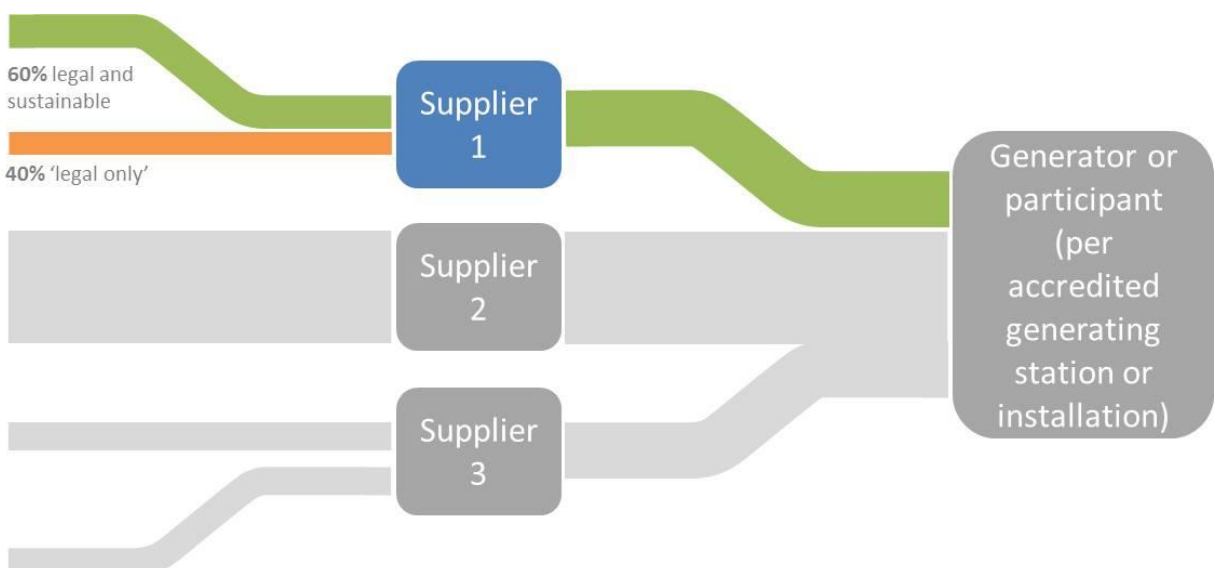


3. A mass balance approach in practice

Example 1b) Woody biomass (200t) supplied by a supplier over the accounting period carrying a 60% '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, CfD or to a RHI participant can supply this material with a 60% ratio 'legal and sustainable' to legal mix claim.

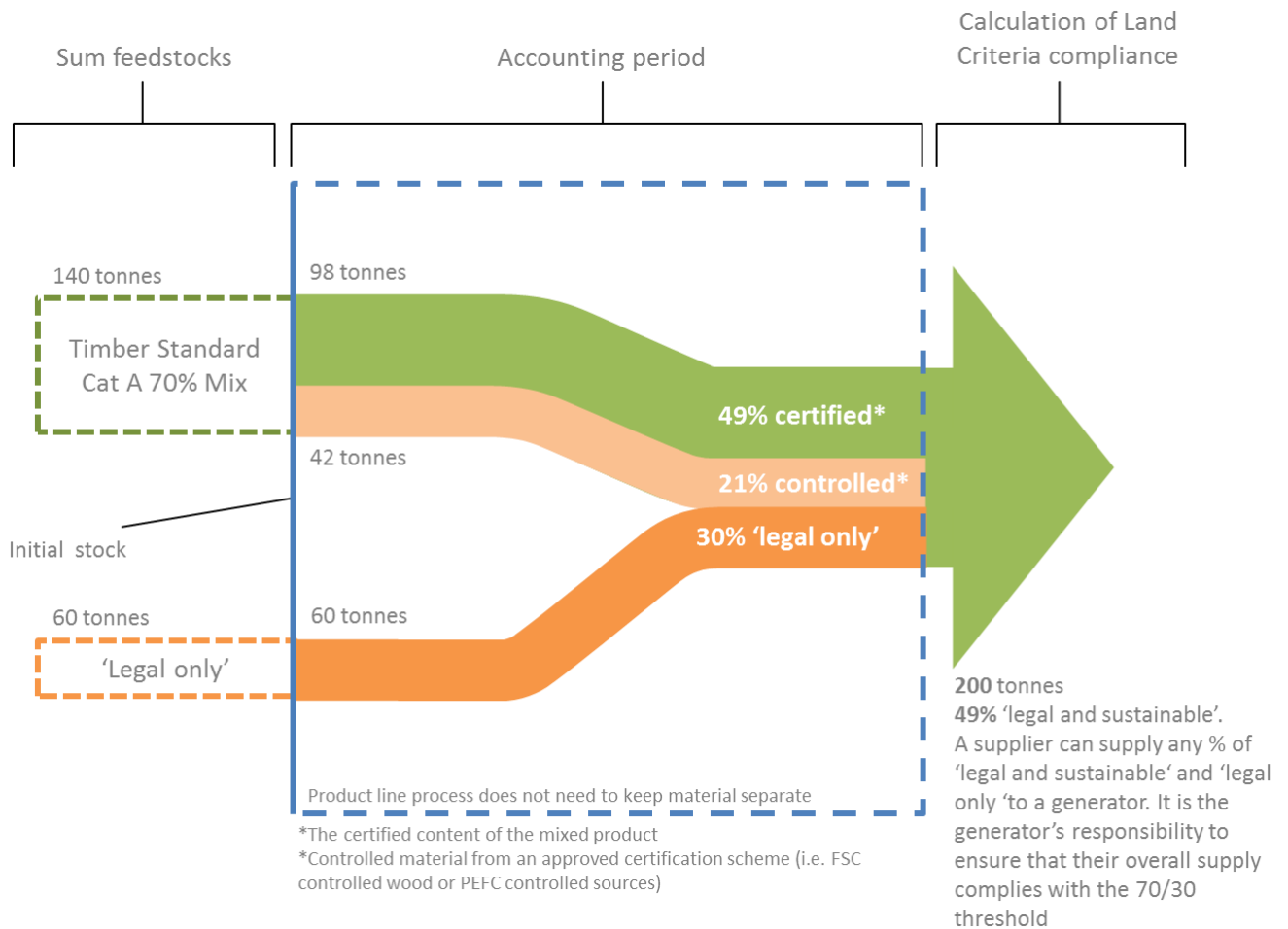


Example 2) Woody biomass from a supplier can be supplied at any ratio of 'legal and sustainable' and 'legal only' to a generator under the RO or CfD or participant that self-reports under the RHI. It is the generator or participant's responsibility to ensure the overall supply they use over the accounting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



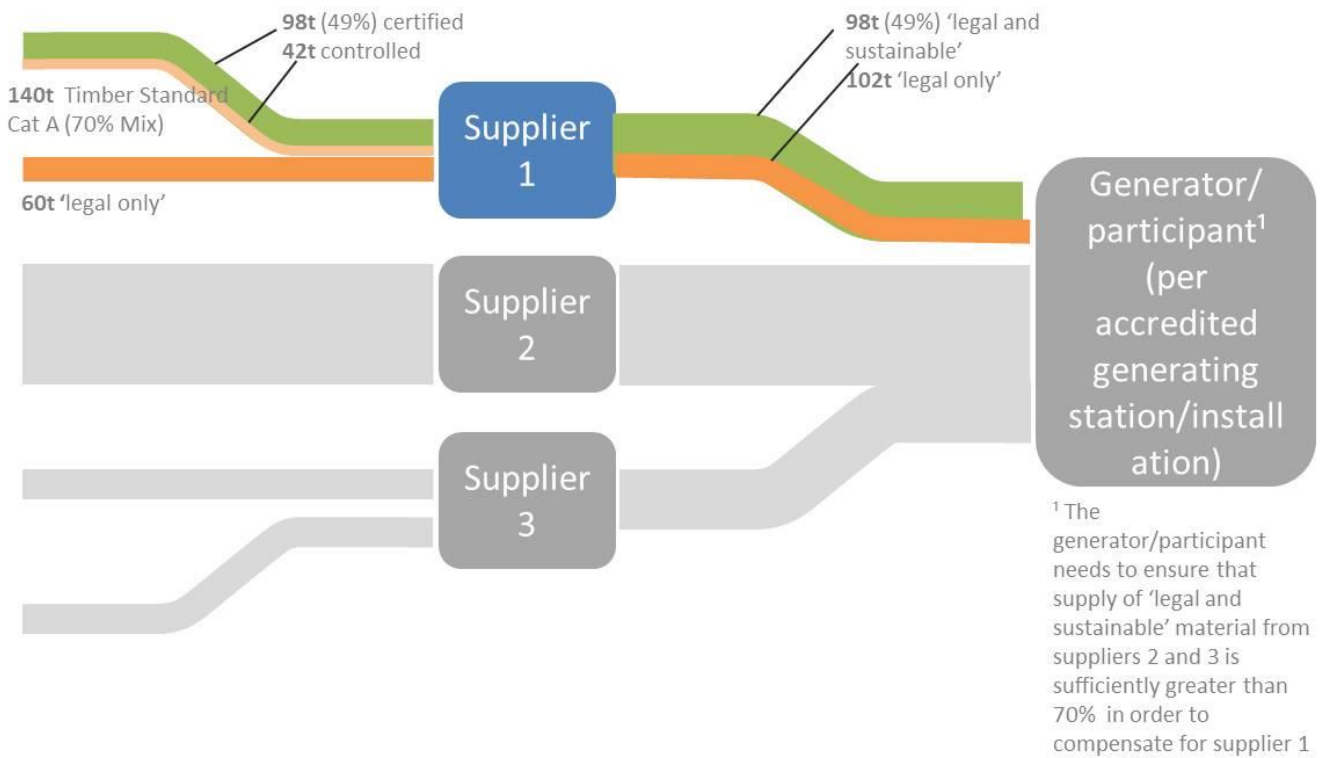
3. A mass balance approach in practice

Example 3a) For material supplied with a mixed claim from a Biomass 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, CfD or participant who self-reports under the RHI can supply this material with a 49% ratio ‘legal and sustainable’ to legal mix claim.



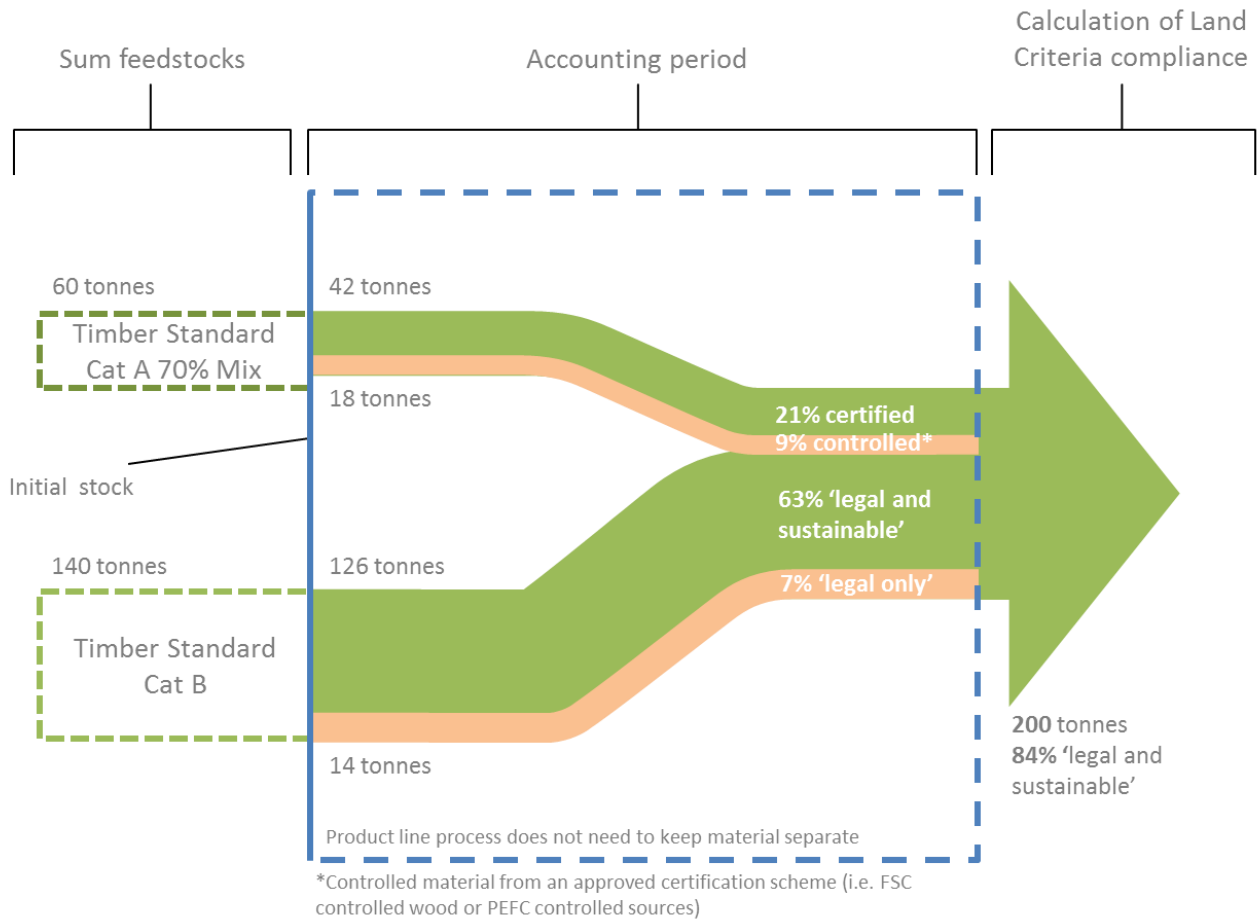
3. A mass balance approach in practice

Example 3b) For a generator under the RO or CfD or participant who self-reports under the RHI: If material is received with a mixed claim from a Biomass 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 woody biomass supplied above the 70/30 threshold.



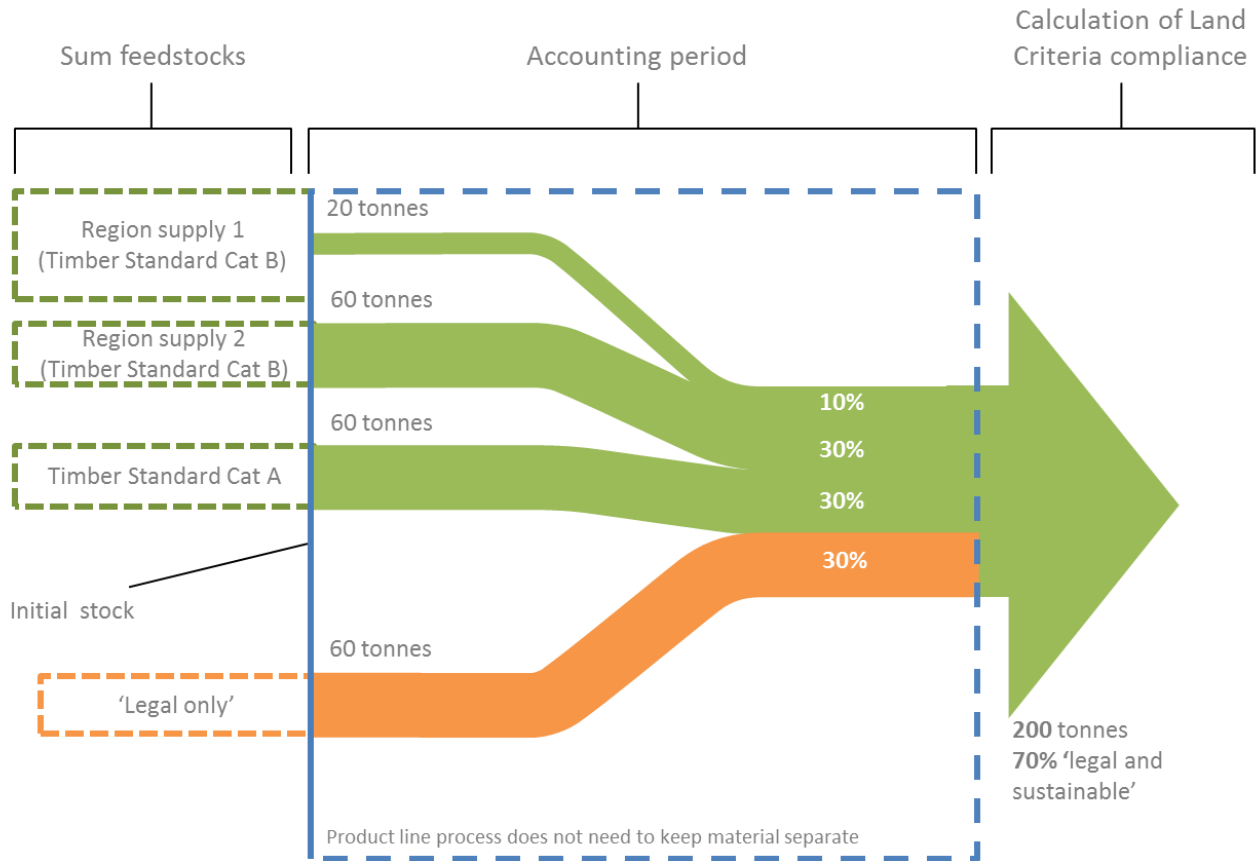
3. A mass balance approach in practice

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, CfD or participant who self-reports under the RHI can supply this material with an 84% ratio 'legal and sustainable' to 'legal only' mix claim.



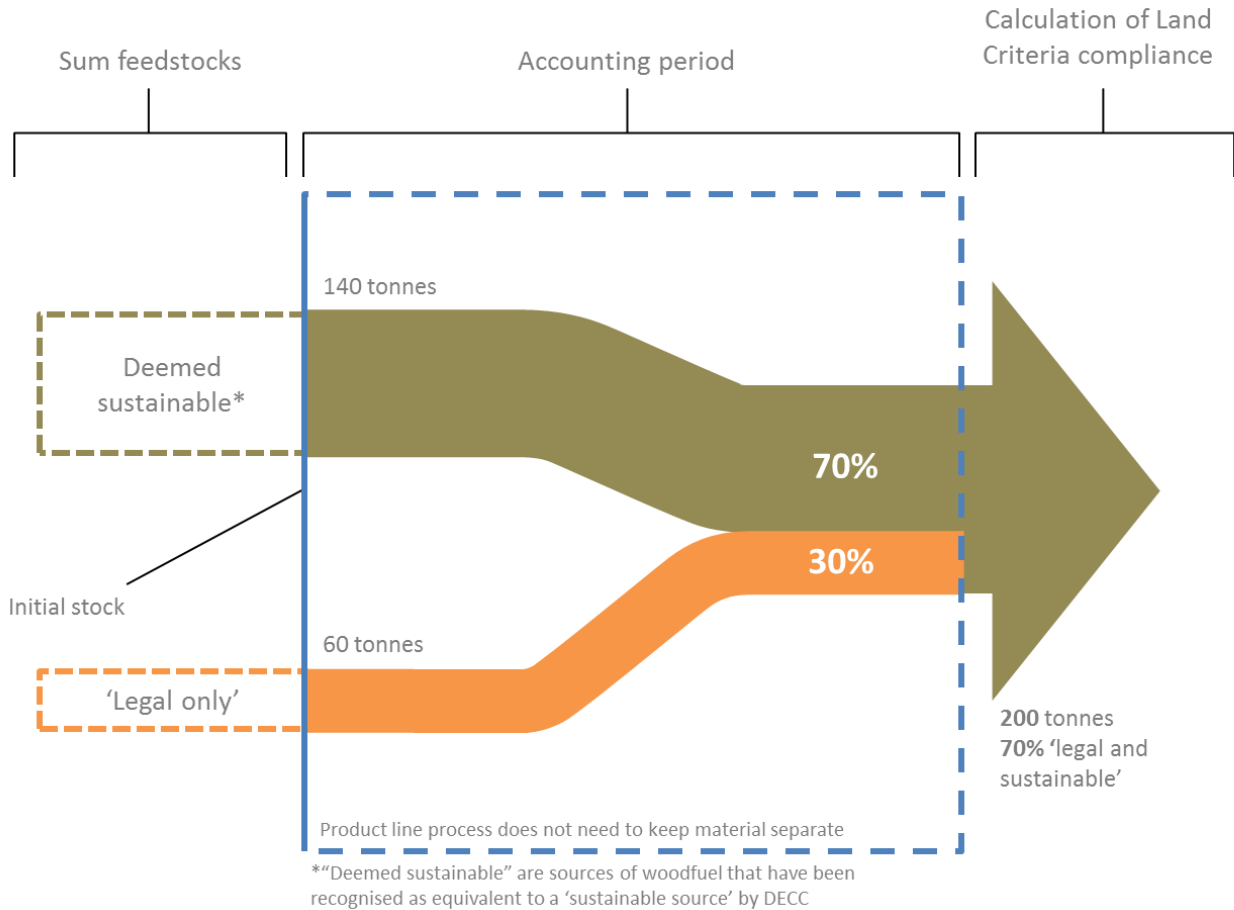
3. A mass balance approach in practice

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 CfD or participant who self-reports under the RHI can supply this material with a 70/30 threshold.



3. A mass balance approach in practice

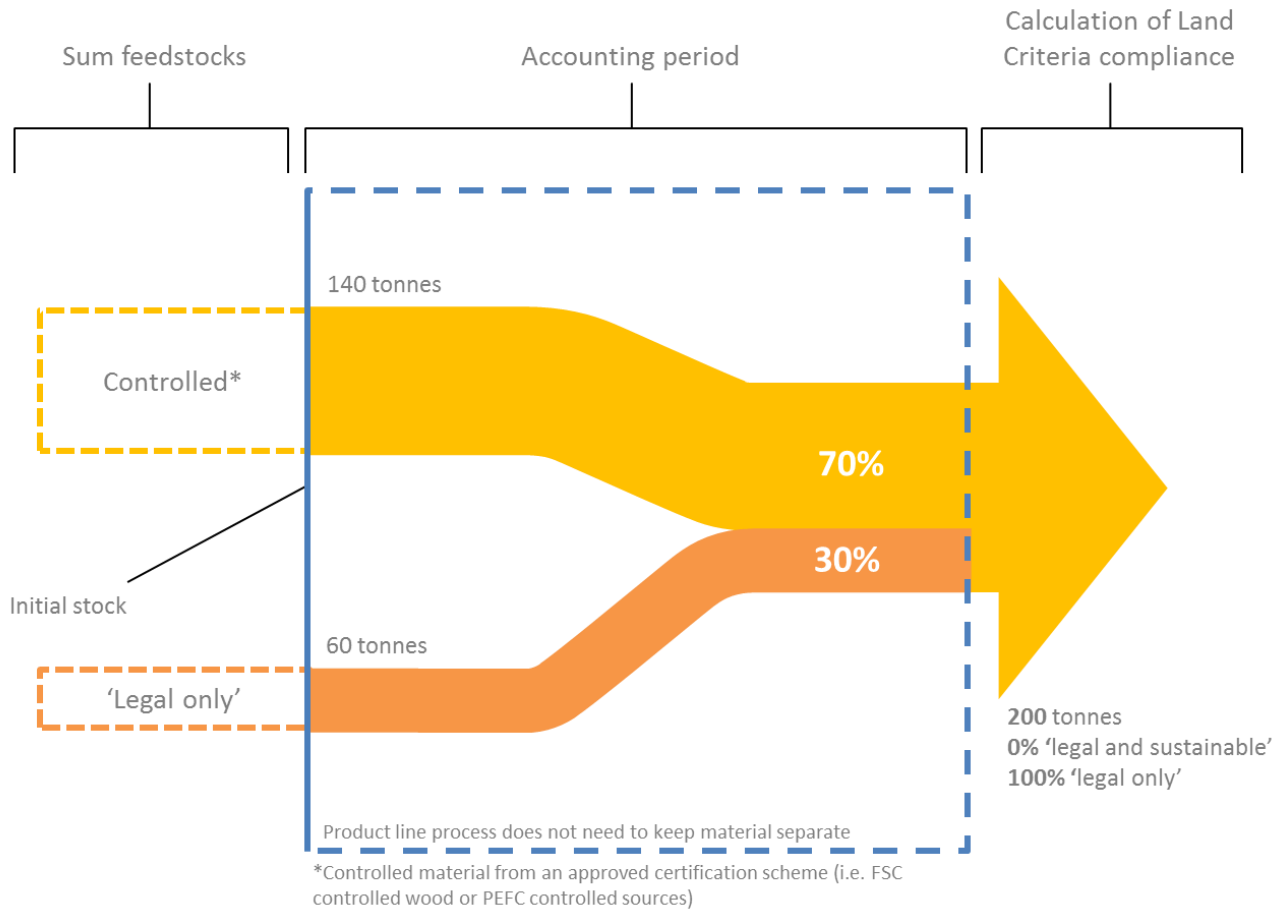
Example 6) Woody biomass from sources which are “deemed sustainable”¹² can be included within a mass balance approach to meet the 70/30 threshold over the accounting period. A BSL supplier can supply this material under the RHI. A supplier to a generator under the RO or CfD or participant who self-reports under the RHI can supply this material with a 70% ratio ‘legal and sustainable’ to ‘legal only’ mix claim.



¹² See the Woodfuel Advice note for further guidance on “deemed sustainable” sources of woody biomass

3. A mass balance approach in practice

Example 7) Biomass 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 CfD or participant who self-reports under the RHI can supply this material with a 0% ratio 'legal and sustainable' to legal mix claim.



4. Where can I get more help?

- 4.1. The Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme Regulations and Renewables Obligation Order can be found on the government [legislation website](#)¹³.
- 4.2. *Timber Standard for Heat & Electricity*: This document sets out how the land criteria will apply to the use of woody biomass under the Renewable Heat Incentive and Renewables Obligation.
- 4.3. *Woodfuel Advice Note*: The Woodfuel Advice Note provides background information about the Timber Standard and guidance on how to implement the RO and RHI Orders and CfD contracts woody biomass land criteria.
- 4.4. *Risk-Based Regional Assessment: A Checklist Approach*: this document provides guidance on the Biomass Category B risk based regional approach.
- 4.5. *Timber Standard for Heat & Electricity*: This document sets out the government's intention on sustainable woody biomass. The sustainability criteria (S1-10) set out in the Timber Standard have subsequently been incorporated into the Renewables Obligation and Renewable Heat Incentive Orders (and CfD contracts). It is the legislation which must be complied with, but this document can give an insight into the approach.
- 4.6. [Checklist for Regional Supply Base Evaluation](#): The checklist for regional supply base evaluation helps woody biomass buyers and suppliers provide evidence for compliance with the woody biomass land criteria without the use of certification.
- 4.7. **The BSL Helpdesk** provides advice and support to suppliers and participants of the Renewable Heat Incentive. BSL 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 woody biomass 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.

¹³ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>

4. Where can I get more help?

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

Email: bslhelpdesk@gemserv.com

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

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

- 4.8. **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.

Web: www.ofgem.gov.uk

For Renewables Obligation (RO):

Email: renewable@ofgem.gov.uk

Tel: 020 7901 7310

For Domestic RHI Applicants:

Email: 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

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

For CfD:

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

- 4.9. 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.
- 4.10. 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 and for guidance click [here](#).

5. Glossary of Terms

Approved schemes	Independent certification schemes which have been benchmarked as meeting the woody biomass land criteria set out in the RO, RHI and CfD contracts. Evidence from these approved schemes are considered as Biomass Category A evidence
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 Category A (Biomass Category A) evidence	Evidence provided by approved schemes which have been benchmarked against the woody biomass land criteria in the RO, RHI and CfD contracts (see 'approved schemes').
Biomass Category B (Biomass Category B) bespoke evidence	All forms of credible evidence (other than from approved schemes) that indicate compliance with the legal and sustainability requirements.
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 track a product and/or its sustainability data from its point of origin through the supply chain to end product
Consignment	Ofgem have set out guidance on what constitutes a consignment. Each consignment should constitute the <i>same</i> characteristics in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feedstock type¹⁴• Biomass form (solid biomass only)• Country of origin¹⁵

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ UK considered as a single country of origin

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- Classification of the fuel (residue, product etc.)
- Compliance with woodfuel land criteria
- Compliance with GHG criteria

Controlled	Material certified as either FSC controlled wood or PEFC controlled sources
EU Timber Regulation No 995/2010 (EUTR)	European Union legislation prohibiting the placement of illegally harvested timber or their products on European markets. Guidance found here .
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade; The EU's FLEGT Action Plan was established in 2003 and aims to reduce illegal logging by strengthening sustainable and legal forest management, improving governance and promoting trade in legally produced timber
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council; is a voluntary, international forest certification scheme who sets standards for sustainable forest management. At time of writing it is an approved scheme
Generator	UK electricity power producer operating under the RO or CfD
Generating station	An electricity generating station that has been accredited under the RO to receive ROCs or under a CfD contract
Installation	A heat installation that has been accredited under the RHI Regulations.
ISAE 3000	International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000. The revised standard is now in force and should be used for assurance engagements conducted after 15 th December 2015
Land Criteria	Land criteria refer to the sustainability requirements that must be met for biomass to receive government subsidy. There are different types of land criteria depending on the type of biomass. This document provide guidance primarily on complying with the woody biomass land criteria, i.e. as set out in the sustainable source definition in the RO and RHI Orders and within the CfD contracts, including compliance with the 70/30 threshold.
Legal Source	Woody biomass which is in conformance to EU Timber Regulation No. 995/2010.
'Legal only'	Biomass originating from a legal source
'Legal and sustainable'	Woodfuel which complies with both the definition of legal source

5. Glossary of Terms

	and sustainable source
List Administrator	Oversees the BSL and assesses compliance of suppliers listed
Mass Balance Approach (MBA)	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 woody biomass from a BSL supplier to a generator/participant 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.
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. At time of writing it is an approved scheme
RHI	Renewable Heat Incentive scheme – a UK government subsidy scheme to support renewable heat generation
RHI 2011	RHI 2011 is used as shorthand above for Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme Regulations 2011 (as amended)
RO	Renewables Obligation – a UK government subsidy scheme to incentivise renewable electricity generation
ROO	Renewables Obligation Order – the legislation that underpins the RO.
ROO2015	"ROO2015" is used a shorthand for the Renewables Obligation Order 2015 (England and Wales), the Renewables Obligation (Scotland) Order 2009 and the Renewables Obligation Order (Northern Ireland) 2009. The three Renewables Obligation

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	Orders have equivalent sustainability requirements.
ROC	Renewable Obligation Certificates
SBP	Sustainable Biomass Partnership is a biomass sustainability certification scheme set up by industry which sets standards for sustainable forest management. At time of writing it is an approved scheme.
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. Also referred to as a 'biomass supplier'.
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 Biomass Category A or Category B Bespoke Evidence.
Sustainable source	A source of biomass that originates from a forest which is managed in accordance with a definition of sustainable that meets the land criteria requirements in the RO, RHI, and CfD contracts
Threshold, 70/30	Generators and suppliers must ensure that a minimum of 70% of the woody biomass 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 woody biomass must be reported to Ofgem in 'consignments', the 70/30 threshold must be met across all woody biomass reported to Ofgem.
Timber Standard	Timber Standard for Heat and Electricity
UK-TPP	United Kingdom 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	"Waste" has the meaning given to it in section 75(2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990([1]) but does not include gas derived from landfill sites or gas produced from the treatment of sewage. Guidance on Waste Wood can be found here . Waste wood may include wood which has previously been used for some other purpose; e.g. recycled construction material, wood

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pallets, wood decking.

Woody biomass or woodfuel

Solid fuel that is wood or derived from wood

Woody biomass land criteria

The sustainability requirements set out in the RO and RHI Orders and CfD contracts which relate to biomass from woody feedstocks. See land criteria above.