


## 6. Factsheets

### 6.1 Factsheet ISCC PLUS

This factsheet aims to provide accessible and factual information on the ISCC PLUS scheme. This factsheet presents the actual status of the scheme in April 2023. For more detailed information on the system, the reader may visit the website of the certification scheme or contact the scheme owner.

*Disclaimer: The information contained in this factsheet is for informational purpose only and cannot be used in replacement of the official ISCC standards and procedures*

Table 9 Factsheet ISCC Plus

Scheme Feature	Description
<b>General</b>	
Name of scheme	ISCC Plus
Scheme owner	The ISCC Association (ISCC e.V.) is the legally registered body responsible for governing ISCC – The International Sustainability and Carbon Certification System. ISCC is a standard setting organisation responsible for the development, surveillance, revision and continuous improvement of the ISCC Certification Systems. ISCC operates different certification systems for different markets. These systems are ISCC EU, ISCC PLUS, ISCC CORSIA, ISCC CORSIA PLUS, and ISCC Solid Biomass NL.
Website	<a href="https://www.iscc-system.org/">https://www.iscc-system.org/</a>
Label provided	
Operational since	2012
Number of active certificates	2768 (Feb 2023)
Standard ownership	Private
General objective	The ISCC objective is 'Contributing to the implementation of environmentally, socially and economically sustainable production and use of all kinds of biomass in global supply chains'.
<b>Scope</b>	
Biomass feedstock coverage	The ISCC certification system covers all sustainable feedstocks, including agricultural and forestry biomass, biogenic wastes, circular materials and renewables.
Sector/Product group coverage	ISCC PLUS certification is applicable for the bioeconomy and circular economy for food, feed, chemicals, industrial applications (e.g., plastics or packaging) and energy from renewable sources used outside of the European Union (i.e. markets that are not regulated by the RED II).
Supply chain coverage	The ISCC Certification Systems are applicable to all elements of the supply chains
Geographic focus of the standard	Global
<b>Governance, Standard Development and Certification Requirements</b>	

## D1.2 Catalogue of sustainability certifications schemes and labels, 30/04/2023

Scheme governance	ISCC is governed by the ISCC Association (ISCC e.V.) with more than 175 members, including international associations, corporations, research institutions and NGOs. The day-to-day operations, management and development of the ISCC system are assigned to the ISCC System GmbH. More details on the governance of ISCC can be found on the ISCC EU System Document 102 "Governance"
Standard documents	ISCC provides System Documents defining the general and technical requirements of each system on its website: <a href="https://www.iscc-system.org/process/iscc-documents-at-a-glance/iscc-system-documents/">https://www.iscc-system.org/process/iscc-documents-at-a-glance/iscc-system-documents/</a> . ISCC EU System Documents also serve as system documents for the ISCC PLUS scheme. The few differences and requirements that are specific to ISCC PLUS are described in the ISCC PLUS System Document. ISCC also develops Guidance Documents and additional documents to further specify requirements for System Users, Certification Bodies and auditors.
Transparency and accessibility of standard documents	Transparency through freely accessible ISCC Documents and information about certificate holders e.g., through publication of certificates and Summary Audit Reports
Multi-stakeholder participation in standard development	ISCC is an independent multi-stakeholder initiative that has been developed and is being continuously improved with the involvement of its stakeholders
Compliance with ISEAL's Standards-Setting, Impacts and Assurance Codes of Good Practice	During the development of its systems, ISCC takes into account and complements best practice initiatives like the ISEAL Alliance. ISCC is currently not an ISEAL community member.
Compliance with regional, national, international laws	This is covered by the ISCC Principle 5: compliance with, all applicable local, regional and national laws and ratified international treaties
Reference to standards and policies	ISCC EU System Document 201 "System Basics" lists the Reference Documents from the European Commission including binding legislation and communications
Obligation for certification	All relevant elements of the supply chain must obtain a certificate in order to handle sustainable materials. Farms/plantations, forest operations and points of origin for waste and residues, first gathering points or central offices and collecting points, processing units, traders and storage facilities are subject to certification.
Certification process	There are four steps to achieving ISCC certification. Step 1. Company registers with ISCC as System User, Step 2. Company prepares for the audit, Step 3. Certification body conducts the audit, Step 4. Certification body issues the certificate
Traceability and Chain of custody	Biomass shall be traceable throughout the complete supply chain, following the rules laid down in ISCC EU System Document 203 "Requirements for traceability". Under ISCC, there are two chain of custody methods which can be applied to correctly assign all relevant information to the physical amounts of material: physical segregation or mass balance. Book and claim is not allowed. All supply chain operators taking ownership of biomass need to be ISCC certified.
Verification of compliance	The verification of compliance with the ISCC requirements as well as the issuance of ISCC certificates are performed by recognised third-party certification bodies cooperating with ISCC. Self-declarations are forms that have to be completed and signed by farms or plantations and points of origin for waste and residues materials before they can deliver sustainable material into the supply chain. This is a mandatory requirement for farms/plantations and points of origins which are not individually certified.
Accreditation of Certification Bodies	ISCC works with Certification bodies (CBs) that are recognised by a competent national public authority or that are accredited against ISO/IEC 17065 or ISO/IEC 17021. CBs and auditors must comply with the requirements specified in the ISCC EU System Document 103 "Requirements for Certification Bodies and Auditors".
Training of auditors and staff and qualification and evaluation of competencies	ISCC provides an extensive training programme for auditors and other relevant staff at Certification Bodies, as well as for System Users and other interested parties. Further information provided in ISCC EU System Document 103 "Requirements for Certification Bodies and Auditors"
Audit process	ISCC certificates are issued following a successful audit during which the Certification Body verifies the System User's compliance with all applicable ISCC requirements. A risk-based audit approach has to be applied to ISCC audits by the Certification Body.
Frequency of audit	Annual audit
Internal audit	Each System User registered for certification under ISCC must conduct an internal assessment (self-assessment) of their compliance with ISCC requirements at least once a year.
Certification claims and labels	Certified ISCC System Users may use the ISCC logo and claims for relevant communications and documentation following a written request to ISCC. The ISCC seal must not be used for any application other than the ISCC certificate. The requirements for the use of claims and logos

## D1.2 Catalogue of sustainability certifications schemes and labels, 30/04/2023

	(off-product and on-product), a style guide for the use of ISCC logos and examples of ISCC claims are provided in ISCC EU System Document 208 "Logos and Claims".
Sanctions, non-conformities and suspension	Non-conformities with ISCC requirements are classified according to the impact of the non-conformity. Categories of non-conformities are: Minor, Major and Critical. The CB assesses non-conformities of System Users as minor, major or critical and applies the respective sanctions and measures as described in EU System Document 102 Governance
Complaint and appeal mechanisms	ISCC's conflict resolution process consists of the two levels complaints and appeals. A complaint describes an expression of dissatisfaction with decisions or other activities of ISCC or an indication of non-compliance of System Users and CBs or other persons involved in an ISCC certification system with ISCC requirements or of a failure to follow ISCC policies and operating procedures. An appeal is a request for reconsideration of a decision made by ISCC based on a complaint.
Guarantee smallholder inclusiveness of the standard	Within ISCC, group certification can be applied to homogeneous groups of producers of raw material and feedstock, i.e., farms/plantations, points of origin for waste and processing residues, and storage or logistic facilities. This approach is particularly important for the certification of smallholder farmers, producer organisations and cooperatives.
Promote continuous improvement	ISCC is committed to continuously improving its system. The quality and risk management in the ISCC framework contributes to this continuous improvement process. The System Users should adhere to the principle 6: Good management practices and commitment to continuous improvement: The management regularly monitors and reviews all activities and takes actions to continuously improve management with respect to environmental, social and economic sustainable development.
Assurance of quality	The quality management of the ISCC include core features including ISCC Integrity Programme, participation in benchmarking processes, multi-stakeholder dialogue, participation in sustainability conferences and feedback from CBs and system users.
Impact assessment	The goal and mission of ISCC is to induce positive long-term social, environmental and economic impacts. The ISCC Impact Assessment has the goal to monitor the outcomes and impacts of ISCC certification and to evaluate if ISCC's strategies are effective to reach ISCC's mission and goals and lead to the desired outcomes and impacts. The ISCC Impact Assessment covers all of ISCC's Certification Systems and is conducted on a regular basis. The Impact Reports are publicly available on the ISCC website.
Risk management	Risk management is an integral part of the ISCC system. In order to credibly and reliably ensure the fulfilment of the certification system requirements, ISCC defines procedures and specific indicators for risk assessment and management. Further information provided in ISCC EU System Document 204 "Risk Management".
Cost of certification	There are different type of fees for getting certified. *The certification fee is due once per issued certificate. Certification fees are based on the total turnover of the registered operational unit. They cover the costs for the registration process and the certificate. Additionally, a Quantity-dependent fee is to be paid for the amount (metric ton) of outgoing material declared by the System User as sustainable according to ISCC. An up-to-date overview of the fee structure can be obtained from <a href="http://www.iscc-system.org">www.iscc-system.org</a> . Additional costs occur for the audit, charged by the CB.

### Sustainability Principles and Criteria

Reference Document	The sustainability requirements for all materials that can be certified under ISCC are described in ISCC EU System Document 202 "Sustainability Requirements" and subdocuments where the respective requirements for different kinds of raw materials are described in detail: ISCC EU 202-1 – Agricultural Biomass: ISCC Principle 1, ISCC EU 202-2 – Agricultural Biomass: ISCC Principles 2-6, ISCC EU 202-3 – Forest Biomass: ISCC Principle 1, ISCC EU 202-4 – Forest Biomass: ISCC Principles 2-6 and ISCC EU 202-5 – Waste and Residues.
Major Must and Minor Must	The sustainability criteria fall into two categories: Major Musts and Minor Musts. As stated in the Annex "ISCC Requirements at a Glance", all Major Musts and at least 60% of the Minor Musts must be fulfilled to comply with the ISCC sustainability requirements.
<b>Environmental</b>	
General	Covered under ISCC EU System Document 202 "Sustainability Requirements" and subdocuments - Principle 1: Protection of Land with High Biodiversity Value or High Carbon Stock, Principle 2: Environmentally Responsible Production to Protect Soil, Water and Air.
Reduce GHG emissions	Within ISCC PLUS, the verification of GHG emissions is voluntary and can be added by applying the add-on ISCC EU 205 "Greenhouse Gas Emissions": Application, Calculation and Verification Methodology of Greenhouse Gas Emissions.
Protection of land with high carbon stock	ISCC EU 202-1 Agricultural Biomass, Criteria 1.2 Biomass is not produced on land with high carbon stock. Raw material shall not be obtained from land with high carbon stock, namely land that had one of the following statuses in January 2008 and no longer has this status: (1) Wetlands, (2) Continuously forested areas, and (3) Forested areas with 10-30% canopy cover.

## D1.2 Catalogue of sustainability certifications schemes and labels, 30/04/2023

	ISCC EU 202-4 Forest Biomass, Criteria 2.1.3 Conversion of natural and semi-natural forests to plantation forests. The conversion of natural and semi-natural forests after the cut-off date, January 2008 within the sourcing area of an economic operator to other forms of land use, including plantation forests, is not permitted.
Protection of peatland	ISCC EU 202-1 Agricultural Biomass, Criteria 1.3 Biomass is not produced on peatland. Raw material for biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels produced from agricultural biomass shall not be obtained from land that was peatland in January 2008 or thereafter and no longer had this status.
Promote sustainable forest management	ISCC EU 202-3 Forest Biomass, Principle 1 Sustainable harvesting on national and management level, Land-Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Criteria. The requirements of ISCC Principle 1 for forest biomass ensure the legality of harvesting operations, forest regeneration, the protection of areas designated for nature protection purposes, that harvesting is carried out taking soil quality and biodiversity into account and to ensure the maintenance and improvement of the long-term production capacity of the forest. Additionally, beyond the legal requirements of the RED II, ISCC EU 202-4 Forest Biomass, include Criteria on 2.1.2 Management Plan and 2.2 Maintaining the production capacity and harvesting of wood and non-timber forest products.
Protection of land with a high biodiversity value	ISCC EU 202-1 Agricultural Biomass, Criteria 1.1 Biomass is not produced on land with a high biodiversity value. Raw material shall not be obtained from land with high biodiversity value, namely land that had one of the following statuses in or after January 2008, whether or not the land continues to have that status: (1) Primary forests and other wooded land, (2) Highly biodiverse forest and other wooded land, (3) Areas designated by law or by the relevant competent authority for nature protection purposes, (4) Areas for the protection of rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems or species, and (5) Highly biodiverse grassland spanning more than one hectare. ISCC EU 202-4 Forest Biomass, Criteria 2.1.1 Protection of land with high conservation value forests. The following land categories and their respective protection are of relevance for forest biomass production: Primary forest, Species diversity forests, Indigenous tree species, and Areas designated by law or by the relevant competent authority for nature protection purposes.
Restoration, preservation and strengthening of biodiversity	ISCC EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass, Criteria 2.1 Conservation of natural resources and biodiversity: 2.1.1 Environmental impact assessment, 2.1.2 Avoidance of damage or deterioration of habitats, 2.1.3 Implementation of ecological focus areas for the protection of pollinators and biodiversity, 2.1.4 A biodiversity action plan is in place, 2.1.5 Natural vegetation areas around springs and natural watercourses are to be maintained or re-established, and 2.1.6 Cultivation of highly invasive species and genetically modified (GM) varieties. ISCC EU 202-4 Forest Biomass, Criteria 2.1.4 Environmental impact assessment, and within 2.3 Protection and promotion of biodiversity in forests: 2.3.1 Natural regeneration and indigenous tree species, 2.3.2 Avoidance of damage or deterioration of habitats, 2.3.3 Highly invasive species, 2.3.4 Cultivation of genetically modified (GM) trees, 2.3.5 Harvesting of non-timber forest products, 2.3.6 Mixed stands, 2.3.7 Rare and endangered species, and 2.3.8 Deadwood.
Sustainable use of water	ISCC EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass, Criteria 2.9 Maintaining and improving water quality and quantity. Good agricultural practices should be implemented with respect to reducing unsustainable water use, the abstraction of unsustainable water sources and minimising diffuse and localized pollution from chemical residues, fertilisers, soil erosion or other sources of ground and surface water. ISCC EU 202-4 Forest Biomass, Criteria 2.6 Maintaining and improving water quality and quantity. The water balance and quality of water in the management system at the sourcing area level and downstream outside the unit are at least maintained and where necessary improved.
Maintaining and enhancing water quality	Covered also under ISCC EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass, Criteria 2.9 and ISCC EU 202-4 Forest Biomass, Criteria 2.6: Maintaining and improving water quality and quantity.
Maintaining and enhancing soil quality and productivity	Good agricultural/forest management practices concerning soil quality, soil contamination and soil erosion are addressed as part of soil management. This is covered under: ISCC EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass, Criteria 2.2 Maintain and improve soil fertility: 2.2.1 Improvement of soil fertility (include erosion, soil nutrient balance, soil organic matter, soil pH, salinization), 2.2.2 Avoidance of soil erosion and compaction, 2.2.3 Annual crops follow crop rotation procedures. ISCC EU 202-4 Forest Biomass, Criteria 2.4 Soil fertility (include maintaining or improving soil structure, and soil biodiversity).
Soil quality consideration for use of residual flows	ISCC EU 202-1 Agricultural Biomass, Criteria 1.4 Monitoring of impacts on soil quality and carbon. In accordance with the RED II regulation Article 29(2) the monitoring of impacts on soil quality and carbon must be implemented. ISCC provides the soil management practices that can be applied e.g., crop rotation, cover/catch crops, no burning of arable stubble.
Prohibition on the use of hazardous/toxic chemicals	The use of chemicals classified as Type 1A and 1B by the World Health Organization (WHO), chlorinated hydrocarbons as well as in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention (UNEP's Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Program list) are not permitted under ISCC. This is covered under ISCC

## D1.2 Catalogue of sustainability certifications schemes and labels, 30/04/2023

	EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass, Criteria 2.4 Restrictions on plant protection products and seeds: 2.4.1 Prohibition of chemicals, 2.4.3 Local restrictions on the use of plant protection products are followed, and 2.4.4 Seed origin is legitimized; and ISCC EU 202-4 Forest Biomass, Criteria 2.5.1 Restrictions on chemical pesticides.
Implement best practices for the use of (agro)chemicals	ISCC EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass, Criteria 2.3 Fertiliser application, 2.5 Avoiding plant protection products with integrated pest management, 2.6 Plant protection product application, 2.7 Handling and disposing of plant protection products, fertilisers and wastes, and 2.8 Storing of operating resources ISCC EU 202-4 Forest Biomass, Criteria 2.5 Pest, disease and weed management: 2.5.2 Usage of chemical pesticides are registered, 2.5.3 Staff handling the chemical pesticides must be skilled and must apply the chemical pesticides appropriately, and 2.5.4 Handling, disposing and storing of chemical pesticides (in line with 2.7 and 2.8 of 202-2 Agricultural biomass).
Restrict air pollution, promote good air quality	ISCC EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass, Criteria 2.10.1 Reduction of air pollutants and emissions and 2.1.7 Restriction on burning: The burning of arable stubble or other crop residues is not allowed except where authority (e.g. local, regional or national) has granted an exemption for plant health reasons. Burning as part of land and/or vegetation clearance is prohibited. ISCC EU 202-4 Forest Biomass, Criteria 2.3.9 Burning. The burning of forest residues or parts of the forest is allowed only with the permission of the competent authority and only for the case that biodiversity of nature shall be promoted through the controlled use of fire.
Limit the risk of Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC)	ISCC PLUS voluntary add-on addresses ILUC: "Low ILUC-risk feedstock certification". Measures and verification requirements for low iLUC risk feedstock, additional biomass production through cultivation on unused land and additional yield increase.
<b>Circularity</b>	
General	Covered under ISCC EU System Document 202 "Sustainability Requirements" and subdocuments - Principle 2: Environmentally Responsible Production to Protect Soil, Water and Air. There is also a specific chapter in ISCC PLUS System Document Chapter 7 "The Circular Economy"
Promote waste reduction and responsible waste management	ISCC EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass, Criteria 2.7.7 The premises must have adequate provisions for waste disposal. National and regional legislation must be followed when storing and disposing of waste. The risks of different types of waste are identified, and waste is stored according to risk identification; 2.7.8 Waste management includes reduction, reuse and recycling. It reduces waste and avoids the use of landfills or burning. ISCC EU 202-4 Forest Biomass, Criteria 2.3.10 Inorganic litter. The accumulation of inorganic waste, plastic waste and litter is prevented, or such waste and litter is collected, stored in approved areas and disposed responsibly.
Raw material efficiency	Implicitly covered under ISCC EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass, Criteria 2.7.8 where waste reduction, reuse and recycling is promoted. Additionally, with Criteria 2.3.5 Use of wastes and agricultural residues: Agricultural waste is reduced, reused and/or recycled. Agricultural waste and co-products can be, for example, composted on-farm and used as soil conditioning, sold to alternative markets or used for alternative purposes.
Efficient use of energy	ISCC EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass, Criteria 2.10.2 Efficient energy management. Energy consumption should be as efficient as possible to protect the climate. An energy management plan shall document current and future sustainable practices and identify measures to improve the efficiency.
Promote use of renewable sources	Covered within ISCC EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass, Criteria 2.10.1 and 2.10.2: Fossil fuel and energy reduction, the use of renewable energies, e.g., biofuels, biogas, solar or wind energy, are encouraged.
Promote material circularity	Implicitly covered under ISCC PLUS System Document Chapter 7 "The Circular Economy". The ISCC EU System Document 202-05 "Waste and Residues" provides the principles for the certification of raw materials and feedstocks qualifying as "waste" or "residue".
<b>Social</b>	
General	Covered under ISCC EU System Document 202 "Sustainability Requirements" and subdocuments - Principle 3: Safe Working Conditions, Principle 4: Compliance with Human and Labour Rights and Responsible Community Relations
Compliance with labour rights	Covered by Criteria 4.2 Employment conditions of ISCC EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass and ISCC EU 202-4 Forest Biomass. Criteria on Child labour (4.2.2 There is no child labour), Forced and compulsory labour (4.2.1 There is no forced labour), Fair salary and remuneration (4.2.10 A living wage is paid which meets at least legal or industry minimum standards), Association and collective bargaining (4.2.12 Labour organisations and collective bargaining are allowed for negotiating working conditions), Equal opportunities/discrimination (4.2.3 There is no discrimination, 4.2.4 Employment conditions comply with equality principles, and 4.2.5 Respect and ensure gender equity), and Grievance mechanism (4.1.6/9 Workers and affected communities must be able to make a complaint).

## D1.2 Catalogue of sustainability certifications schemes and labels, 30/04/2023

Respect wellbeing of workers	Criteria on Contract (4.2.8 All workers are to be provided with fair legal contracts), Training (3.1 Training and competence to ensure health and safety), Occupational health and safety (3.2 Prevention and handling of accidents: Workers are equipped with suitable protective clothing; Potential hazards are clearly identified; Accident procedures and equipment are available), Harassment/violence (4.2.7 Workers are treated with dignity and respect), and Work and overtime (4.2.9 The employment conditions of individual workers comply with legal regulations and/or collective bargaining agreements, 4.2.16 Working times and overtime are documented) of ISCC EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass and ISCC EU 202-4 Forest Biomass.
Respect property and usage rights	The Legitimacy of land use is covered in ISCC EU 202-3 "Forest Biomass: Principle 1" and ISCC EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass, Criteria 5.1. The producer should be able to prove that the land is being used legitimately and that traditional and customary land rights or tenure have been secured. Additionally, ISCC EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass, Criteria 2.9.1 Respect existing water rights concern water use rights.
Respect wellbeing of the local population	Covered by Criteria 4.1 Rural and social development of ISCC EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass and ISCC EU 202-4 Forest Biomass. All environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts for surrounding areas, communities, users and landowners are taken into account. Access to basic services and to quality primary school education is provided. Other forms of social benefits are offered by the employer to workers and their families and/or community (e.g., medical care/health provisions). Workers and affected communities must be able to make a complaint.
Food security	Covered under Criteria 4.1 Rural and social development - 4.1.4 Biomass production does not impair food security of ISCC EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass. Biomass production shall not replace stable crops or impair local food security. In cases whereby local food prices are expected to rise as a direct effect of biomass production, the farm/plantation shall introduce mitigation measures.
<b>Economic</b>	
General	Covered under ISCC EU System Document 202 "Sustainability Requirements" and subdocuments - Principle 5: Compliance with Land Rights, Laws and International Treaties and Principle 6: Good Management Practices and Continuous Improvement.
Financial and economic viability	Covered by ISCC Principle 6 – Good Management Practices and Continuous Improvement, Criteria 6.1 Economic stability, and 6.2 Management of ISCC EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass and ISCC EU 202-4 Forest Biomass. Economic operators shall develop a business plan that reflects a commitment to long-term economic viability.
Fair business practices, Integrity	A written anti-bribery and -corruption statement must be in place provided in Criteria 5.3 of ISCC EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass and 5.2 of ISCC EU 202-4 Forest Biomass.
Promote local development, Inclusive economic growth	Covered under ISCC EU 202-2 Agricultural Biomass, 4.1.8 Other forms of social benefits are offered by the employer to workers and their families and/or community: Preferentially offer local businesses the opportunity to supply goods and services and support local community development programs; If appropriate, the employer should make employment opportunities known locally.
Use of knowledge and technology	Implicitly covered under Principle 2 using best available technology to reduce the use of plant protection products, reduce the risk of soil quality degradation, and reduce air pollution. Also, consideration for precision agriculture techniques, and application of technical and local knowledge.
Fair trade and market practices	-
Risk assessment and management	Covered under Principle 6.1.2 Business plan: risk mitigation strategies shall be taken into account.

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Sources:

- ISCC website <https://www.iscc-system.org/> (Last visited: 26 April 2023)
- ISCC System Documents <https://www.iscc-system.org/process/iscc-documents-at-a-glance/iscc-system-documents/> (Last visited: 26 April 2023)