

## 6.2 Factsheet RSB Advanced Products

This factsheet aims to provide accessible and factual information on the RSB Global Advanced Products certification scheme. This factsheet presents the actual status of the scheme in March 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 RSB standards and procedures*

Table 10 Factsheet RSB Advanced Products

Scheme Feature	Description
<b>General</b>	
Name of scheme	RSB Global Advanced Products Certification
Scheme owner	The Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB) is a global, multi-stakeholder independent organisation. Originally established to ensure the sustainability of biofuels, RSB expanded in 2013 to cover biomaterials and now offers the most comprehensive system for certifying bio-based feedstock. The RSB has members from a worldwide movement of businesses, NGOs, academics, government and UN organisations. For fuel producers, RSB offers RSB Global and RSB EU RED. For biomaterials producers, RSB offers the RSB Advanced Product Standard. For groups of smallholders, RSB offers a Smallholder Standard. RSB's low Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC) Standard is a voluntary addition.
Website	<a href="https://www.rsb.org/">https://www.rsb.org/</a>
Label provided	
Operational since	2013
Number of active certificates	21 ( <a href="https://rsb.org/certification/rsb-certificates/">https://rsb.org/certification/rsb-certificates/</a> , 24 March 2023)
Standard ownership	Private
General objective	Driving the development of the bio economy for a better world through certification, sustainability solutions, innovation and partnerships.
<b>Scope</b>	
Biomass feedstock coverage	Any biobased feedstock. Besides biobased feedstock, scheme also includes as feedstock recycled fossil feedstock and end of life products.
Sector/Product group coverage	Any industrial application. RSB Global Advanced Products Certification enables the certification of non-energy products like plastics, textiles, pharmaceuticals, packaging, tableware, cosmetics, nutritional supplements, food, feed, pulp, paper and many others. RSB Certified Advanced Products are split into 3 distinct categories: Category I: Products that are biobased they need to have a share of bio-based content not less than 25% present in the product; Category II: Products produced with recycled content (non-biogenic end-of-life products or production residues) and Category III: Production systems that process bio-based feedstock or non-bio-based end-of-life products or production residues in combination with virgin fossil feedstocks (either biobased or non-biobased).
Supply chain coverage	Applicable to all elements of the supply chains. Biomass production, feedstock processing, intermediary and final product production
Geographic focus of the standard	Global
<b>Governance, Standard Development and Certification Requirements</b>	
Scheme governance	The RSB members are organised into five Chambers that elect the governing body of the organisation – the Assembly of Delegates. Membership Chambers represent different sectors of business, civil society, trade unions, government, academia and multi-lateral organisations. The five chambers are: 1. Growers & producers, 2. End users, blenders & investors, 3. Social, 4. Environmental, 5. UN, Governments & Research. Each

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

	chamber elects three delegates forming the Assembly of Delegates. The Assembly appoints a Board of Directors which is responsible for the management of the RSB and provide oversight to the Secretariat. Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day running of the organisation.
Standard documents	RSB Global Advanced Products Certification is composed of a variety of procedures and methodologies that describe how to produce and trade advanced products. The standards and procedures are provided on its website: <a href="https://rsb.org/rsb-certification-for-products/">https://rsb.org/rsb-certification-for-products/</a> RSB Principles and Criteria (RSB-STD-01-001), Standard for Advanced products (RSB-STD-02-001), GHG Calculation Methodology (RSB-STD-01-003-01), Procedure for Participating Operators (RSB-PRO-30-001), Procedure for Traceability (Chain of Custody) (RSB-PRO-20-001), Procedure for Communication & Claims (RSB-PRO-50-001), Procedure for Risk Management (RSB-PRO-60-001) and Requirements for woody biomass (RSB-SA-01).
Transparency and accessibility of standard documents	Transparency through freely accessible standards and procedure documents and information about certificate holders e.g., through publication of certificates and Summary Audit Reports
Multi-stakeholder participation in standard development	RSB is an independent multi-stakeholder organisation 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	RSB is an ISEAL Code Compliant Member implementing ISEAL's Standards-Setting, Impacts and Assurance Codes of Good Practice.
Compliance with regional, national, international laws	This is covered by the RSB Principle 1: Legality. Operations shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations of the country in which the operation occurs and with relevant international laws and agreements.
Reference to standards and policies	RSB Standard for Advanced products (RSB-STD-02-001) provides reference to relevant standards.
Obligation for certification	RSB certification applies to all operators of the product value chain. The RSB standard specifies requirements for different operator types: Primary biomass producers, Points of origin, First collectors, Industrial operators, Mechanical operators and Trader.
Certification process	There are four steps to achieving RSB certification. Step 1. Apply online, Step 2. Arrange an audit with certification body, Step 3. Prepare for audit. Step 4. Audit. After concluding that the operation complies with RSB's requirements the Certification Body issues the certificate.
Traceability and Chain of custody	All RSB certified operators that legally and/or physically control RSB certified material along the supply chain are required to establish effective and transparent chain of custody tracking systems, following the rules laid down in the RSB Procedure for Traceability (Chain of Custody) (RSB-PRO-20-001) RSB provides five different options for the chain of custody system that shall be put in place: Identity Preserved, Product Segregation, Mass Balance, Content Ratio Accounting and Book & Claim.
Verification of compliance	The verification of compliance with the RSB requirements as well as the issuance of RSB certificates are performed by recognised third-party certification bodies cooperating with RSB this is done in compliance with RSB Procedure for Certification Bodies and Auditors (RSB-PRO-70-001). The participating operator shall carry out a self-risk assessment and a self-evaluation of the operations against all applicable requirements of the RSB standards.
Accreditation of Certification Bodies	Accreditation of Certification Bodies in the RSB system is provided by ASI – Assurance Services International in line with ISO 17011. ASI is an international assurance organisation providing oversight of the RSB certification system and independent accreditation. The CB shall comply with all requirements of the international standard ISO 17065.
Training of auditors and staff and qualification and evaluation of competencies	The CB shall make sure that all auditors taking part in evaluation and certification of participating operator (PO) have the required training and qualifications in the scope of certification as provided in the RSB Procedure for Certification Bodies and Auditors (RSB-PRO-70-001). The CB shall ensure that the personnel working for the RSB audit programme receive adequate training to maintain a level of knowledge that ensures the correct implementation of RSB standards. Every auditor will complete the annual RSB Auditor test and attend any events the RSB makes available to the auditors, especially where regulatory updates are concerned.
Audit process	RSB certificates are issued following a successful audit during which the Certification Body verifies the PO's compliance with all applicable RSB requirements. The CB determines the frequency of audits based on a risk-based approach according to the RSB procedure for Risk Management [RSB-PRO-60-001]
Frequency of audit	The CB shall determine the frequency and schedule of audits based on the risk class of the participating operator. Main audit is carried out every 5 years for low-risk class, every 3 years for medium risk class and every 2 years for high risk class. Surveillance audit is carried out annually.

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

Internal audit	The PO shall carry out and keep updated a self-evaluation of the operations, to comply with RSB standards and procedures. Additionally, the PO shall carry out a self-risk assessment of the operations which is used as input by CB in determining the audit schedule. In line with RSB Procedure for Participating Operators [RSB-PRO-30-001].
Certification claims and labels	Upon issuance of a valid certificate by the certification body, the PO can use RSB trademarks according to the requirements described in the RSB Procedures on Communications and Claims [RSB-PRO-50-001].
Sanctions, non-conformities and suspension	Areas where the PO does not meet the requirements of the RSB standard shall be defined by the lead auditor as either a minor noncompliance or a major non-compliance. The PO shall define corrective action measures to address the nonconformities and their root causes. The lead auditor shall monitor and evaluate all actions taken by the PO to address non-compliances identified during evaluation. Major non-compliances found during the audit shall be corrected within 90 days of the audit closing meeting. The CB shall ensure that minor non-compliances are addressed according to the corrective action plan within 12 months.
Complaint and appeal mechanisms	The CB shall put in place a grievance mechanism in line with the RSB Grievance Procedure [RSB-PRO-65-001] to address cases of grievance (i.e., complaint, dispute, challenge, conflict) filed by POs or by any third party about any element of RSB evaluations and certifications. Additionally, the PO shall have a system for settling disputes and complaints about the POs performance raised by staff or other people or organisations. The PO shall record how they have managed and settled all disputes and complaints.
Guarantee smallholder inclusiveness of the standard	RSB Certification for Smallholder Groups is designed to support smallholders (areas <75 hectares) to access third-party certification by reducing economic barriers that might prevent small scale farmers from demonstrating compliance with sustainability criteria. The certified smallholder groups can supply RSB biomass to fuels and/or any bio-based product processor. RSB's Certification for Smallholders is composed of a standard for Group Management and an adapted RSB Principles & Criteria for Smallholder Groups.
Promote continuous improvement	The regular monitoring and evaluation of the RSB certification outcomes enables RSB to continuously work to improve the RSB Standard and certification system. The participating operators should adhere to Principle 2 Sustainable operations are planned, implemented, and continuously improved through an open, transparent, and consultative impact assessment and management process and an economic viability analysis.
Assurance of quality	The RSB Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) System is designed to measure success in achieving the desired long-term goals. RSB monitors its performance by processing data collected among its certified operators through a set of "outcome indicators", which cover all the environmental, social and economic issues and the context in which operators work. Results from the M&E system feed into the continuous improvement of the RSB Standards, Policies, Guidance and Tools of the certification system, as well RSB strategies and activities.
Impact assessment	RSB's 2021 Integrated Impact Report looks not only at certification impacts, but also at how the Standard supports outcomes in project work, how RSB Advisory Services are supporting partners to improve and develop new systems and approaches based on RSB's approach, and how the continuous improvement of the Standard via RSB's multi-stakeholder community is building partnerships, consensus, and understanding to further its impact. The Impact Report is publicly available on the RSB website.
Risk management	The CB shall develop, document and implement a risk management approach to minimise risks which could compromise comprehensive, consistent and transparent implementation of the RSB Standards. The approach includes four (4) main stages: risk identification; risk evaluation; risk management; and risk monitoring. Further information is provided in the RSB procedure for Risk Management [RSB-PRO-60-001].
Cost of certification	There are different type of fees for getting certified. The Certification costs are divided into Application fee (to RSB, one-off fee), Auditor fee (to the certification body), Licence fee (to RSB for being certified and using the label). For all industrial operators a volume-based fee is applicable. For traders a licensing fee is charged for each office and/or site. Volume-based fees are not applied. Retailers pay fees when they repackage or relabel finished RSB-certified products calculated based on the volume and value of the product. An up-to-date overview of the fee structure can be obtained from <a href="https://rsb.org/certification/fees/">https://rsb.org/certification/fees/</a>
<b>Sustainability Principles and Criteria</b>	
Reference Document	The sustainability requirements for all materials that can be certified under RSB are described in the document RSB Principles & Criteria (RSB-STD-01-001). For Advanced Products additional specific requirements are provided in the RSB Standard for Advanced Products (RSB-STD-02-001). Operators using end-of-life products or production residues shall apply, in addition, the requirements of the RSB Standard for Advanced Fuels (RSB-STD-01-010). Furthermore, RSB Standard Amendment for Woody Biomass clarify the requirements that apply to specific types of woody biomass (RSB-SA-01).
Major Must and Minor Must	The sustainability criteria fall into two categories: Minimum requirements (conditions to be met immediately) and Progress requirements (conditions to be met over time i.e., three years). A non-compliance with a minimum requirement is considered as major noncompliance

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

<b>Environmental</b>	
Reduce GHG emissions	Principle 3 in RSB Principles & Criteria provides specific GHG reduction requirements for biofuels. For Advanced Products, GHG emission requirements are provided in the RSB Standard for Advanced Products. Operators producing intermediate products or biomass shall calculate lifecycle cradle-to-gate GHG emissions of certified biomass and/or intermediate products. Whenever certified final products are intended to replace fossil derived products, these certified final products shall achieve at least 10% lower lifecycle GHG emissions calculated on a cradle-to-grave basis relative to the lifecycle GHG emissions of a comparable fossil product. RSB provides RSB GHG Calculation Methodology (RSB-STD-01-003-01) to be followed.
Protection of land with high carbon stock	Criteria 7a. Conservation values of local, regional or global importance within the potential or existing area of operation shall be maintained or enhanced. Minimum requirement: Areas that contain identified conservation values of global, regional or local importance or that serve to maintain or enhance such conservation values shall not be converted after the 1st of January 2008, or earlier as prescribed by other relevant international standards. "No conversion" areas include forests and land with high carbon stock, e.g., wetland and peatland
Protection of peatland	Covered above.
Promote sustainable forest management	No explicit criteria in RSB Principles & Criteria. Yet, the RSB Principles & Criteria ensures, inter alia, the legality of the operation, decent work conditions and well-being of the workers and that there is no negative impact on soil health, water resources, biodiversity, ecosystems and conservation values, including a strict ban on deforestation (including converting forests to plantations) and sourcing biomass from primary forests. RSB Standard Amendment for Woody Biomass state the Forest Management shall comply with the RSB Principles & Criteria, with the FSC Principles & Criteria or equivalent.
Protection of land with a high biodiversity value	Criteria 7a. Conservation values of local, regional or global importance within the potential or existing area of operation shall be maintained or enhanced. Minimum requirement: Areas identified as "no-go areas" shall not be used for operations after the 1st of January 2008, unless feedstock production or processing operations are legally authorised as part of the conservation management for the area concerned. No-go areas including protected areas, primary forest, and highly biodiverse grassland.
Restoration, preservation and strengthening of biodiversity	Criteria 7b. Ecosystem functions and services that are directly affected by the operation shall be maintained or enhanced; 7c. Operations shall protect, restore or create buffer zones; 7.d Ecological corridors shall be protected, restored or created to minimise fragmentation of habitats; 7e. Operations shall prevent invasive species from invading areas outside the operation site; 11b. The technologies used in operations including genetically modified plants, micro-organisms, and algae, shall minimise the risk of damages to environment and people, and improve environmental and/or social performance over the long term.
Sustainable use of water	Criteria 9b. Operations shall include a water management plan which aims to use water efficiently and to maintain or enhance the quality of the water resources that are used for the operations; 9c. Operations shall not contribute to the depletion of surface or groundwater resources beyond replenishment capacities.
Maintaining and enhancing water quality	Criteria 9d. Operations shall contribute to the enhancement or maintaining of the quality of the surface and groundwater resources.
Maintaining and enhancing soil quality and productivity	Criteria 8a. Operators shall implement practices to maintain or enhance soil's physical, chemical, and biological conditions. Include consideration for: Soil erosion, soil nutrient balance, soil organic matter, soil structure and implementing measures to improve soil health, such as following Conservation Agriculture practices
Soil quality consideration for use of residual flows	Minimum requirement under criteria 8.a The use of agrarian and forestry residual products for feedstock production, including lignocellulosic material, shall not be at the expense of long-term soil stability and organic matter content.
Prohibition on the use of hazardous/toxic chemicals	Minimum requirement under criteria 11d. None of the chemicals recorded in the WHO's 1a and 1b lists shall be used. None of the chemicals recorded in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention, in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer shall be listed (type and annual volume used) and a plan to phase out any such chemical over the three years following certification shall be described in the ESMP.
Implement best practices for the use of (agro)chemicals	Criteria 11d. Good practices shall be implemented for the storage, handling, use, and disposal of biofuels, fertilisers and chemicals. Minimum requirements include Integrated Pest Management and requirements for proper handling of chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides.
Restrict air pollution, promote good air quality	Criteria 10a. Air pollution emission sources from the operations shall be identified; 10b. Operations shall avoid and, where possible, eliminate open-air burning of residues, wastes or by-products, or open air burning to clear the land.
Limit the risk of Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC)	RSB provides additional standards as voluntary add-on to address ILUC: RSB Low iLUC Risk Biomass Criteria and Compliance Indicators [RSB-STD-04-001] and RSB Methodology for Displacement Emissions [RSB-STD-04-002]

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

<b>Circularity</b>	
Promote waste reduction and responsible waste management	Criteria 11e. Residues, wastes and byproducts from feedstock processing and biofuel or biomaterial production units shall be managed such that soil, water and air's physical, chemical, and biological conditions are not damaged.
Raw material efficiency	Recommendation under criteria 11d. The operator should use waste and co-products for a material purpose or for energy generation. Operators shall use waste and/or co-products for energy generation only if: the use for material purposes is not possible (e.g., no market is accessible), the use is in line with RSB Principle 10 (Air Quality)
Efficient use of energy	Minimum requirement under criteria 11e. Measures shall be taken to implement clean and efficient processes for conversion of residues, wastes or byproducts into energy appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operation
Promote use of renewable sources	This is implicitly considered in the minimum requirement under criteria 5a. Use of the locally produced bioenergy to provide modern energy services to local poor communities
Promote material circularity	Requirement under criteria 11e. by-products or wastes shall also be reused by the processing/production unit or transferred to other sectors whenever their use may improve the overall system's energy balance, greenhouse gas emissions, and/or economic viability.
<b>Social</b>	
Compliance with labour rights	Covered under Principle 4: Operations do not violate human rights or labour rights and promote decent work and the well-being of workers. Criteria 4a. Workers shall enjoy freedom of association, the right to organise, and the right to bargain collectively; 4b. No slave labour or forced labour shall occur; 4c.No child labour shall occur, except on family farms and then only when work does not interfere with the child's schooling and does not put his or her health at risk; 4d.Workers shall be free of discrimination of any kind, whether in employment or opportunity, with respect to gender, age, wages, working conditions, and social benefits; 4e. Workers' wages and working conditions shall respect all applicable laws and international conventions, as well as all relevant collective agreements. Men and women shall receive equal remuneration for work of equal value; 4h. Operators shall implement and maintain a transparent and easily accessible grievance mechanism, open for all workers and contracted workers
Respect wellbeing of workers	Occupational health and safety covered under Principle 4. Criteria 4f "Conditions of occupational safety and health for workers shall follow internationally recognised standards". Harassment and gender balance covered under criteria 4d. "Work sites shall be safe for women; free from sexual harassment and other discrimination and abuse; and promote access to jobs, skills training, recruitment and career development for women to ensure more gender balance in work and career development". Work and overtime covered under 4e. "The maximum number of regular hours worked per week must not exceed 48. Workers may work overtime which shall be voluntary, but total working hours shall not exceed 80 per week." Training covered under 5b." Training and capacity building shall be required". No explicit criteria found concerning contract, implicitly covered by criteria 1.
Respect property and usage rights	Land rights Criteria 12a. Existing land rights and land-use rights, both formal and informal, shall be assessed, documented, and established. The right to use land for the operations shall be established only when these rights are determined; 12b. Free, Prior, and Informed Consent shall form the basis for all negotiated agreements for any compensation, acquisition, or voluntary relinquishment of rights by land users or owners for operations. Water rights Criteria 9a. Operations shall respect the existing water rights of local and indigenous communities.
Respect wellbeing of the local population	Covered under Criteria 5a. At least one measure to significantly optimise the benefits to local stakeholders shall be implemented within a three-year period of the start of the operations, for instance: Social benefits for the local community such as the building or servicing of clinics, homes, hospitals and schools; 2c. Operators shall implement and maintain a transparent and easily accessible grievance mechanism for directly affected local communities
Food security	Criteria 6a. Operations shall assess risks to food security in the region and locality and shall mitigate any negative impacts that result from their operations; 6b. In food insecure regions, operations shall enhance the local food security of the directly affected stakeholders.
<b>Economic</b>	
Financial and economic viability	Covered by Principle 2: Sustainable operations are planned, implemented, and continuously improved through an open, transparent, and consultative impact assessment and management process and an economic viability analysis.
Fair business practices, Integrity	Minimum requirement under Criteria 1. A system that ensures that all forms of bribery, conflicts of business interest and fraudulent practices are prohibited, including a written policy by the management and appropriate staff training
Promote local development, Inclusive economic growth	Criteria 5a. In regions of poverty, the socio-economic status of local stakeholders impacted by the operations shall be improved. Include requirements for skills training, creation of year-round and/or long-term jobs, supporting empowerment of farmers and rural communities.

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

	Additionally, criteria 5b. In regions of poverty, special measures that benefit and encourage the participation of women, youth, indigenous communities and the vulnerable in the operations shall be designed and implemented, including training and capacity building.
Use of knowledge and technology	Principle 11. The use of technologies shall seek to maximise production efficiency and social and environmental performance and minimise the risk of damages to the environment and people.
Fair trade and market practices	-
Risk assessment and management	No explicit criteria under Principles & Criteria standard. Rather given in RSB procedure for Risk Management [RSB-PRO-60-001].

Date completed: 25 March 2023

Sources:

- RSB website <https://rsb.org/> <https://www.iscc-system.org/> (Last visited: 24 March 2023)
- RSB standards and procedures <https://rsb.org/rsb-certification-for-products/> (Last visited: 24 March 2023)