



The world-leading wood
pellet certification

Article for external media

The ENplus® certification introduces new documentation with revised requirements and procedures

The world-leading certification scheme for wood pellet quality, ENplus®, has published new documentation, which brings in enhanced procedures, an expanded set of requirements, and improvements to all the aspects of the scheme's management.

The European Pellet Council has been working on this revision for more than 3 years, involving a wide variety of stakeholders from all over the world, to ensure ENplus® constructive development and successful adaptation to the constantly evolving global pellet market.

More on the revision process

To guarantee the revision is fair and open to discussion, EPC organised the process in such a way that every opinion was acknowledged and a consensus in decision-making was always sought. An appointed Advisory Committee was the main responsible body, being composed of various wood pellet stakeholders - from governing and certification bodies to certified companies and end-users organisations.

To give an opportunity to every actor on the pellet market to comment on the draft of the new documentation, two public consultations were also organised and carried out. Some of the key objectives of the revision were to introduce even stricter quality requirements (taking into account ISO Standards revision), better monitoring, enhanced management and simplified procedures saving time and resources for both certified and applying companies.

Key changes for the companies

The revised documentation provides new solutions for the certified companies. For instance, a single company with multiple production or trading sites, or a group of legal entities (production or trading activities) managed by a central office can now take advantage of the option for a single certificate as a multisite company.

Companies are also no longer required to contract separately listed ENplus® inspection and testing bodies because the appointed certification body is now fully in charge of the certification process, from arranging inspections and lab tests to checking the conformity and issuing the certificate.

With the revision, the control over the quality of the certified products is improved through more detailed guidelines and instructions for self-monitoring by the certified companies. In addition to the initial, annual surveillance and re-certification inspections onsite, one unannounced annual collection of samples and testing of pellets has been introduced for certified producers, as well as traders and service providers with bagging activities.

In line with the revised ISO 17225-2 Standard, pellets will be analysed also for three new parameters – particle density, coarse fines, and share of pellets below 10mm. The certified pellets of different classes and diameters should be physically separated during the production and trading process. This requirement alongside those for strictly stored delivery documentation on sold pellets and a mass balance account provide basis for chain of custody requirements. The latter come to ensure that no ENplus® certified company sells more certified products than it has actually produced or bought.

We are a world-leading, transparent, and independent certification scheme for wood pellets. From production to delivery, we guarantee quality and combat fraud along the entire supply chain.

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To easily track quality issues and address complaints, the certified companies should add to the bag design of their certified product a serial number that will allow identification of the company that bagged the pellets, the site and the date of the bagging.

Next level management and control

The scheme revision introduces a better organised and more detailed structure of the ENplus® documentation. The ENplus® Standards now list and explain the requirements for the scheme's key players (the certified companies and the conformity assessment bodies), the ENplus® Procedural Documents define the procedures in the development and the governance of the scheme, while the Guidance Documents will set out information/interpretations on specific topics like storage and bag design translations.

ENplus® is renowned for its fraud management and constant trademark protection. To provide clarity and avoid unintentionally incorrect or unauthorized use of the trademark, the new documents set out more detailed rules who and in what circumstances could use the trademark in its different forms (ENplus® logo, quality seal, etc).

The certification scheme management continues to be a responsibility of the ENplus® International Management and the ENplus® National Licensers in 12 specific countries (including DEPI in Germany) with the support of the ENplus® National Promoting Associations in Sweden and Poland. However, the revision puts in place a new Governance Integrity Programme, which will evaluate and record, at least on annual basis, the performance of the aforementioned.

The revision introduces another level of credibility and accountability through accreditation. The certification scheme itself will become accredited by the European co-operation for Accreditation. All Conformity Assessment Bodies operating the scheme must also have a specific ENplus® accreditation, which is defined and explained in the new documentation. In addition, a Certification Integrity Programme will keep track and assess the performance of the Conformity Assessment Bodies.

Important dates

Although the revision has officially been concluded, the certified companies can take advantage of a transition period to meet the new requirements. The companies, which have been certified prior to 1 January 2023, shall comply with the requirements of document ENplus® ST 1001 by the transition date of 1 January 2024 and the conformity with the new requirements will be assessed by the ENplus® certification body as a part of the next regular inspection after the transition date.

All applying companies that are expected to obtain their certificates after the date of entry into the force (1 January 2023) must comply with the requirements of the new document ENplus® ST 1001.

ENplus® is the world-leading quality certification scheme for wood pellets that certifies the entire supply chain, from the early stages of production to the delivery process. In over a decade of existence, the ENplus® scheme has become a widely recognised brand, trusted globally by professionals and consumers alike. As of October 2022, there are more than 1220 ENplus® certified companies in 48 countries.

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About Bioenergy Europe

Founded in 1990, Bioenergy Europe is a non-profit, Brussels-based international organisation active at EU level. Bioenergy Europe's primary mission is to develop the market for sustainable bioenergy and ensure favourable business conditions for its members. Bioenergy Europe holds a strong position in the bioenergy sector and brings together approximately 40 national bioenergy associations and over 140 private-sector companies from all over Europe.

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