



## Biomass Suppliers List

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### Supplier Fuel Quality Regulations FAQs

Issue 1.1

This FAQ document is intended to answer questions for suppliers currently registered on the BSL associated with the new fuel quality regulations published on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

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## 1. Background and Fuel Quality Policy

### 1.1 What does the new fuel quality policy require me to do and by when?

The legislation relating to the Domestic and Non Domestic RHI was amended in January 2021<sup>1</sup>. It means that from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 all BSL applications<sup>2</sup>:

- All BSL registered fuels must be certified by a recognised certification scheme<sup>3</sup> to specified fuel quality standards.
- All pellets must be certified ENplus<sup>®</sup> A1 standard.
- All other woodfuel must be certified by the Woodsure Certification Scheme.
- Fuels derived from waste wood are exempt.

See Figure 1 on the next page, flow diagram to see what to do next.

Email your compliance evidence with your BSL number(s) to the BSL Administrator at: [bslfuelquality@woodsure.co.uk](mailto:bslfuelquality@woodsure.co.uk)

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<sup>1</sup> Schedule 4 A of the RHI regulation can be found here

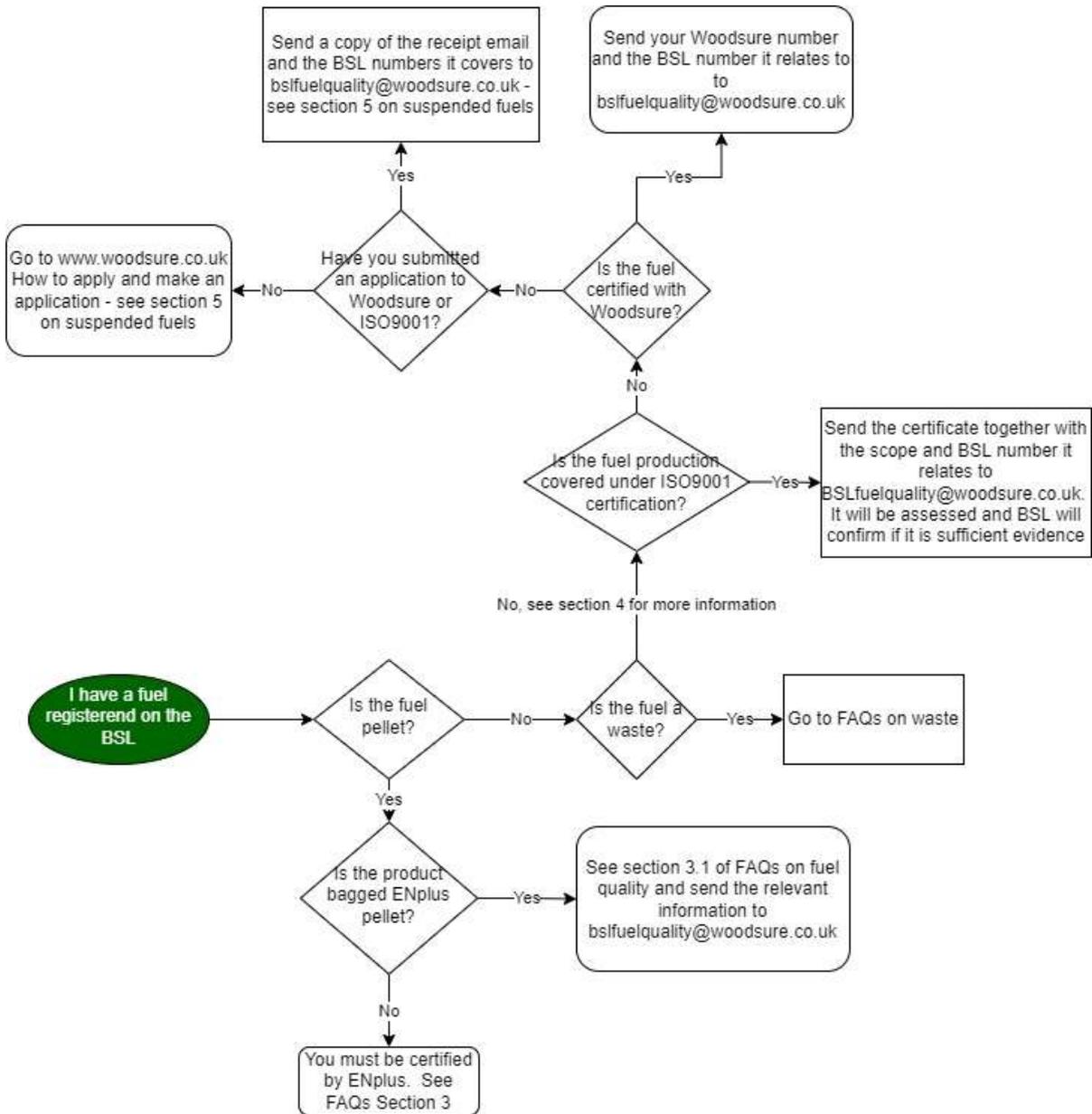
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2021/76/regulation/39/made>

<sup>2</sup> All existing and new applications must comply by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022.

<sup>3</sup> The schemes that have been recognised in the legislation are ENplus for pellets and Woodsure Certification Scheme. The legislation allows for equivalent schemes to be approved but this must be assessed by an independent organisation appointed by BEIS. At the date this guidance was released there were no appointed equivalents. See the BSL website for approved equivalents.

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Figure 1: Flow diagram of simplified FAQs





## 1.2 What happens if I am not certified by a recognised fuel quality certification scheme by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022?

If you do not join a fuel quality certification scheme the BSL cannot update your details on the BSL portal, your BSL numbers will be removed on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022. You will be warned that this is about to happen before final removal. Once removed you will need to apply and pay again for a new BSL number, your original number cannot be reinstated.

If you have already received an email saying your number is 'Suspended' go to section 5 on what to do next. Note: suspended fuels are still reported to Ofgem as active, they are the final stage before a fuel is removed or re-instated and will not affect your customer's or your RHI payments.

## 1.3 Are there any alternative fuel quality schemes I can join?

If you are ISO9001 certified and the fuel production is specified in your scope, the BSL administrator can assess this as an equivalent scheme. There are no other schemes mentioned in the legislation and any other schemes will have to be assessed by an independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party appointed by BEIS. At the date this guidance was released there were no appointed equivalents. See the BSL website for approved equivalents.

## 1.4 I supply fuel to my own boiler and don't sell the fuel, do I still need to join a scheme?

Yes – depending on your fuel: for pellets see sections 2 and 3, for other fuels see section 4 below for more information.

## 1.5 I supply fuel to my own boiler but my RHI payments have ended, do I still need to keep my BSL number?

If your RHI payments have ceased, you are no longer obliged to remain on the BSL, email [bslhelpdesk@woodsurre.co.uk](mailto:bslhelpdesk@woodsurre.co.uk) to be removed from the scheme with

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the BSL number that you wish to remove. This must come from the master user's email address (this cannot be processed on the phone).

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## **2. I am ENplus® certified, what do I need to do?**

### **2.1 I supply bulk pellets and am ENplus® certified, what should I do?**

Check if all your BSL depots and BSL listed pellets are covered by your ENplus® certification. Inform the Certification Body you are registered with of any changes that need to be made, for example additional depots or fuels. The scope of your ENplus® audit will then be adjusted to incorporate the pellets you are selling. Email your ENplus® certification evidence with your bsl number(s) to [bslfuelquality@woodsure.co.uk](mailto:bslfuelquality@woodsure.co.uk). Those that have not done this by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 will be removed after the fuel has been suspended (see section 5).

### **2.2 I supply bagged pellets and am ENplus® certified, what should I do?**

Check that all your BSL numbers relating to your pellets are relating to the ENplus® certified pellets. If you are unsure whether the bags you are trading are included in your certification, check if they are shown on the ENplus® website <https://ENplus-pellets.eu/en-in> and search for the ENplus® ID for the bags you have listed on the BSL website. Only bag designs approved by ENplus® can be accepted.

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### **3. I sell pellets and am not ENplus® certified**

#### **3.1 I sell bagged ENplus® pellets?**

As long as the bags are sealed and there is the ENplus® ID on the bag and the design is shown on the ENplus® website, then the pellets are covered by the ENplus® certification scheme. You will need to demonstrate to the BSL that you have checked the following:

- A photograph of the bags you have – the BSL administrator will check that the bag design is on the ENplus® website.
- Confirm with the BSL Administrator the ENplus® ID number associated with each of the BSL fuels listed.
- Confirm with the BSL Administrator that you comply with the storage and handling guidelines e.g. ripped or open bags are not sold with a BSL number, bags are not stored outside prior to delivery to the end user, etc.

Email the evidence detailed above evidence with your BSL number(s) to the BSL Administrator at: [bslfuelquality@woodsure.co.uk](mailto:bslfuelquality@woodsure.co.uk)

#### **3.2 I bag and sell ENplus® pellets?**

Unless you are ENplus® certified the fuel is not ENplus® certified. You need to apply to get your bagging line certified.

Contact: [mstafford@pelletcouncil.org.uk](mailto:mstafford@pelletcouncil.org.uk) to begin the application process. Your ENplus® certificate will be the evidence required for your BSL listed fuels and must include all the pellets that you bag.

#### **3.3 I sell ENplus® pellets in bulk (blown, tipped, etc) from my own store or using my own vehicles. What should I do?**

Unless you are an ENplus® certified company, the ENplus® scheme does not cover the pellets that you handle.

Contact [mstafford@pelletcouncil.org.uk](mailto:mstafford@pelletcouncil.org.uk) to apply for ENplus® certification for your fuels to remain listed on the BSL from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022.

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### 3.4 I sell ENplus® pellets in bulk (blown, tipped, etc) but I do not handle the pellets myself (known as a paper trader). What should I do?

There are a few different routes available to you:

- If you use one certified ENplus® company to fulfil your deliveries, you should obtain ENplus® sublicense agreement with that company. This sublicense agreement must be submitted by the ENplus® certified company to the UK Pellet Council within 14 days of it being signed for approval. This sublicense contract will be your evidence for BSL and will be verified with the UK Pellet Council. Note: this route is likely to be discontinued once the new ENplus® handbook is released.
- If you use more than one certified ENplus® company to fulfil your deliveries, you must become certified by ENplus® as a trader. Contact: [ENplus@hetas.co.uk](mailto:ENplus@hetas.co.uk) to begin the application process. Your ENplus® certificate will be the evidence required for your BSL listed fuels and must include all the pellets that you trade.

### 3.5 I sell non ENplus® certified pellets in bulk. What should I do?

The only pellets that are allowed to be listed on the BSL from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 are ENplus® certified pellets<sup>4</sup>. Contact: [mstafford@pelletcouncil.org.uk](mailto:mstafford@pelletcouncil.org.uk) to begin the application process. Your ENplus® certificate will be the evidence required for your BSL listed fuels and must include all the pellets that you trade.

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<sup>4</sup> Or a recognised equivalent. At the time of publication, there are no equivalents recognised. If this changes, it will be published on the BSL website.

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#### **4. I sell/use fuel other than pellets**

##### **4.1 I sell chip/logs/briquette fuels from virgin materials and am Woodsure certified, what should I do?**

Check that all your BSL depots and BSL listed fuels are covered by your Woodsure certification (location and quality classification(s)). Inform Woodsure of any changes that need to be made such as adding fuels or depots by emailing [registrations@woodsure.co.uk](mailto:registrations@woodsure.co.uk) with the changes required. The scope of your Woodsure audit will then be adjusted to incorporate the other depots/fuels you are selling and/or fuels to be tested.

##### **4.2 I sell chip/logs/briquette fuels from virgin materials and I believe I have an equivalent scheme, what should I do?**

The legislation allows for equivalent schemes to be recognised. This recognition is done via BEIS. Currently, no schemes are recognised by BEIS. If you have ISO9001, please ensure that the following is included before submitting evidence to the BSL.

- Your ISO9000 certification must be in date.
- Your scope of certification must be clear that it covers the quality requirements for the production and supply of the fuel offered, and must cover the depots where your BSL numbers are registered.
- The BSL Administrator will acknowledge if your ISO9001 certification is acceptable.

##### **4.3 I sell chip/logs/briquette fuels from virgin materials and am not Woodsure certified, what should I do?**

If you are not Woodsure certified, go to the Woodsure website <https://woodsure.co.uk/how-to-apply/> and begin the application process as soon as possible. If you are not certified by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 your fuels will be removed from the BSL website.

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#### 4.4 I sell chip/logs/briquette fuels from waste or waste blend materials. What should I do?

Refer to the [Waste Wood Guidelines](#) on the BSL website.

You will need to inform the BSL Administrator that you have the correct permits or exemptions in place and send their respective reference numbers to [bslwaste@woodsure.co.uk](mailto:bslwaste@woodsure.co.uk) from your master user email address, identifying which BSL number(s) this relates to.

If you are unsure if your fuel is defined as waste in the eyes of the RHI, please see this document here: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/renewables-obligation-fuel-classification-flow-diagram>

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## **5. If you have BSL number(s) that have been suspended**

### **5.1 My BSL number has been suspended. Why is this and what steps must I take to make sure my number is not removed on 1<sup>st</sup> June?**

From 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022, new legislation comes into force and all BSL registered fuels must be certified by a recognised fuel quality certification scheme.. The suspension is a warning system from the BSL Administrator that your fuel is about to be removed and that you must take action. Your BSL number can still be used for RHI quarterly reporting and can be reversed to an approved status. Once a BSL number for a fuel is removed it cannot be reinstated.

Depending on your fuel type, you have a number of options open to you. View the flow diagram figure 1 on page 4 to see which option applies to you.

### **5.2 What happens if my number is removed after June 1st? My BSL number has been removed on 1<sup>st</sup> June what are my options?**

Once your BSL number has been removed it cannot be reinstated. You will need to submit and pay for a new application with appropriate evidence including registration with a fuel quality certification scheme.

If you feel the removal of your BSL number is a mistake and that you have provided evidence to the BSL prior to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022, then you should contact the BSL Administrator ASAP by replying to the email from [bslhelpdesk@woodsurre.co.uk](mailto:bslhelpdesk@woodsurre.co.uk). that notified you of the removal together with any supporting evidence. The BSL Administrator will acknowledge your response and advise on your next steps.

If you wish to make a complaint, see: [Application and audit guidance](#)

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### 5.3 I have submitted an application to Woodsure / ENplus®, but my BSL number has still been suspended. What do I do?

When you applied to Woodsure/ENplus® you should have received an email thanking you for your application. You can use this as evidence to the BSL that you are engaged with a fuel quality certification scheme. If you have not received an email from the certification scheme, you can use a copy of the email you sent to Woodsure/ENplus® as evidence. You must send this evidence to [bslfuelquality@woodsurre.co.uk](mailto:bslfuelquality@woodsurre.co.uk) together with the BSL numbers this evidence relates to. Without the BSL number it is difficult to associate the fuel quality certification scheme evidence with a particular BSL number. This is the first step to certification, you must be fully certified by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022.

### 5.4 I have received a suspension email but I have already emailed the BSL helpdesk all the relevant information. What do I do?

This is a busy period for BSL administration, there is a time delay while the information is processed. However, if you believe you have provided all the correct information, check that the email is sent from your master user account<sup>5</sup> with all the BSL numbers that the evidence relates to. Forward the same information to [bslfuelquality@woodsurre.co.uk](mailto:bslfuelquality@woodsurre.co.uk).

### 5.5 I have submitted an application to Woodsure / ENplus® do I need to have paid them before my number is valid? If so how do I pay?

Payment terms need to be agreed with the fuel certification scheme. When you applied to Woodsure/ENplus® you should have received an email thanking you for your application. You can use this as evidence to the BSL that you are engaged with a fuel quality certification scheme. If you have not received an

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<sup>5</sup> A master user account is the person who is your main administrator for your BSL applications and quarterly returns.

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email from the certification scheme, you can use a copy of the email you sent to Woodsure/ENplus® as evidence of your engagement to BSL. You must send this evidence to [bslfuelquality@woodsurre.co.uk](mailto:bslfuelquality@woodsurre.co.uk) together with the BSL numbers this evidence relates to. Without the BSL number it is difficult to associate the fuel quality certification scheme evidence with a particular BSL number. This is the first step to certification, you must be fully certified by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022.

### **5.6 My BSL number has not been suspended, but my supplier's BSL number my BSL number relies on has been suspended. Is my number still valid? If not what do I do?**

Contact your supplier and check they intend to remain compliant with BSL. If they have chosen to leave BSL or are not able to comply with the new BSL fuel quality requirements you will no longer be able to sell that fuel with a BSL number.

BSL will be running checks on parent / child BSL numbers (your BSL number is the child to your supplier's parent BSL number). Applications where this relationship has broken-down will be considered using a pragmatic approach, but for a fuel to remain on the BSL it relies on compliance by both parties to the BSL requirements. Email [bslfuelquality@woodsurre.co.uk](mailto:bslfuelquality@woodsurre.co.uk) with your BSL number associated with this issue. Please put 'Parent/child BSL application issue' in the Subject heading.

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