

BSL Newsletter



Welcome to the first issue of the BSL newsletter

We are pleased to present you with the first issue of our newsletter. This is where we will provide regular updates on policy changes, statistics, ongoing developments and improvements within the scheme.

Key Facts

The total number of fuel applications authorised on the BSL list up until 31st December 2018 is 10,296. This includes both self-suppliers and commercial suppliers.

So far on the RHI Scheme, 14,481 participants are using the BSL route to demonstrate compliance with the sustainability criteria to claim the RHI incentive. This includes both domestic and non-domestic participants.

The Biomass Suppliers List (BSL) is a list of woodfuel that has been proven to meet the eligibility requirements for the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme. The Scheme effectively connects biomass consumers with RHI compliant wood fuel. Through the BSL, consumers are provided with an assurance that a financial investment in biomass over fossil fuels will be supported by a government incentive scheme.

Scheme Updates

New Fuels added to the Scheme

The BSL is pleased to announce that we have added a new fuel category to the Scheme. On 17th December 2018, thermally modified fuels (also known as Torrefied wood) became accessible on the Application Portal under the following fuel types, Thermally Modified Pellets, Chips and Briquettes.

Adding this new fuel will bridge the gap in the market, enabling suppliers to sell their thermally modified wood to participants who will be able to register their fuel with the Renewable Heat Intensive (RHI) as a sustainable and legal source of fuel.

Thermally modified fuel is wood that undergoes pyrolysis treatment which is converted into an energy source that is a coal-like material. This fuel has a typical moisture content between 0-5%.

Suppliers (except Self-Suppliers) who wish to register their torrefied wood can now submit their application on the BSL Portal. Suppliers using virgin wood will be able to use the UK Solid and Gaseous Biomass and Biogas Carbon Calculator (www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/uk-solid-and-gaseous-biomass-carbon-calculator) to calculate the GHG emissions associated with their fuel. Waste wood suppliers are only required to provide their waste evidence.

We are in the process of updating our guidance documents to align with this change. Please visit our [Document and Guidance](#) page for more details.

Authorisation Letters

From 19th December 2018, a revised version (v5.0) of the authorisation letters was published.

The authorisation letters have been updated to provide clarification and additional information regarding your reporting obligations and it will act as a guide to ensure that your woodfuel remains compliant to the BSL.

Update to the Land Criteria Guidance Document

In addition to the update of the Guidance Documents regarding the new fuels, the Land Criteria Guidance document have been updated to version 1.3 to align with the BSL obligations and legislation.

Category A and Category B evidence have been updated to include the following amendments:

Section 4.1 - If using Category A evidence, you must be able to demonstrate that the fuel when sold with a BSL number, is FSC, PEFC or SBP certified as described in our guidance (controlled wood and controlled sources are insufficient for Category A).

Purchased fuels imported from outside the UK must be supplied with the relevant evidence.

Section 4.2 - Fuels origins that are classed 'Unspecified Risk' by the [Global Forestry Registry](#) cannot complete a Bespoke RBRA.

Please see the full list of changes to the Land Criteria Guidance [here](#)

BACs payment procedure

Previously, bank transfer payment could take up to four weeks to accept the fund because of the workaround for transfers.

We can confirm that the Portal has now been updated so that BACs payment are processed every 5 days.

Paying using the bank transfer method should no longer cause major delays.

When paying via this payment method, reference the invoice number to prevent delays.

System Updates

Quarterly Reports

In response to feedback received from the BSL Industry Advisory Panel, the BSL has changed the way Quarterly Reports are completed on the portal. Further breakdown questions will appear on the portal, when completing the Quarterly Reports.

From Q1, January 2019, Producer-Traders and Taders submitting their Quarterly Reports will be required to enter the total amount of fuels sold to consumer and/or other industry participants.

Altering the Quarterly Report procedure aims to provide clarity on quarterly reports and identify the quantity of fuel sold to consumers.

Advisory Panel

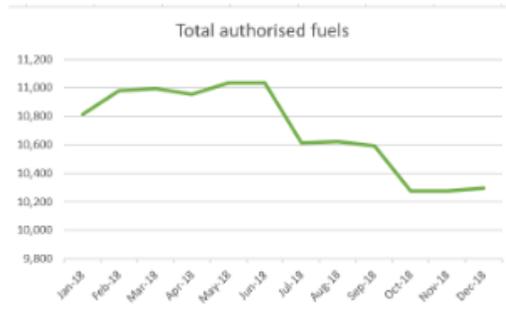
A call for nominations for the election of the BSL Advisory Panel was sent out on 8th June 2018. Nominations were received and an election was held to allow BSL suppliers to cast their vote for their preferred candidate. Thank you to those who voted, your participation in the process was greatly appreciated.

The full list of BSL Advisory Panel members can be viewed [here](#).

The newly elected BSL Advisory Panel members will attend their first meeting on 16th January 2019. You can access the Decisions and Actions reports from the meeting, via the BSL website three weeks after the meeting.

Statistics

Month	Total authorised fuels
Jan-18	10,813
Feb-18	10,979
Mar-18	10,995
Apr-18	10,952
May-18	11,033
Jun-18	11,034
Jul-18	10,613
Aug-18	10,622
Sep-18	10,594
Oct-18	10,275
Nov-18	10,274
Dec-18	10,296

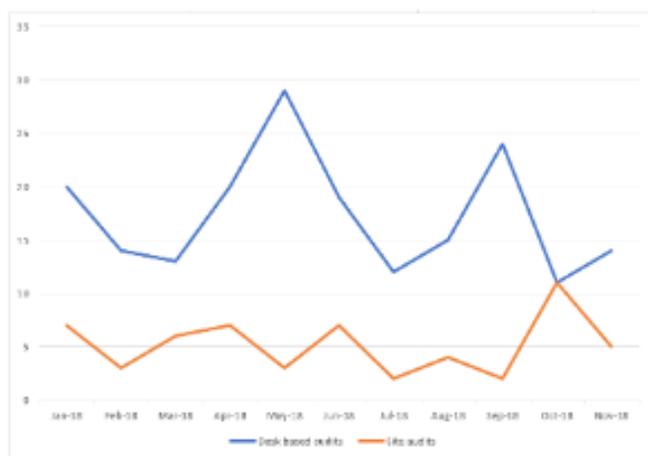


Month	Removals due to non-compliance
Jan-18	0
Feb-18	5
Mar-18	12
Apr-18	5
May-18	37
Jun-18	29
Jul-18	0
Aug-18	23
Sep-18	1
Oct-18	11
Nov-18	5
Total	128



Month	Number of desk based audits (Commercial and Self-Suppliers)
Jan-18	20
Feb-18	14
Mar-18	13
Apr-18	20
May-18	29
Jun-18	19
Jul-18	12
Aug-18	15
Sep-18	24
Oct-18	11
Nov-18	14
Total	191

Month	Number of site audits (Commercial and Self-Suppliers)
Jan-18	7
Feb-18	3
Mar-18	6
Apr-18	7
May-18	3
Jun-18	7
Jul-18	2
Aug-18	4
Sep-18	2
Oct-18	11
Nov-18	5
Total	57



Waste Wood

We are concerned that treated waste wood containing elevated concentrations of copper, chromium and arsenic is being distributed in wood fuel supply chains.

Burning treated waste wood as a fuel is subject to waste management controls and must only be done under an appropriate permit. Supplying or burning waste derived woodfuel in an unauthorised combustion plant is an offence.

If you manage waste wood, please review your procedures and ensure you, your suppliers and your customer hold an appropriate permit that authorises you to burn waste wood or has registered an exemption and is complying with the terms and conditions of that exemption.

Wood Quality

Although the BSL is not a fuel quality scheme, it allows authorised suppliers to state on their registration whether they are a member of a Quality Scheme.

Enplus - The quality of wood Pellets are managed throughout the entire supply chain including production, storage and transport all the way to the end consumer.

Woodsure - Certify suppliers of Woodchip, Firewood, Pellets and Briquettes. The scheme performs comprehensive checks, from sourcing of timber, to production and delivering of the wood fuel.

Consumers can check when a fuel is covered by these quality marks on the [Find a Fuel website](#).