

Supply Base Report Warmeston OÜ Purila

Second Surveillance Audit

Reporting Period: 1st Dec 2016 – 30th Nov 2017

https://sbp-cert.org



Version 1.2 June 2016

NOTE:

This template, v1.2, is effective as of the date of publication, that is, 23 June 2016. Template v1.1 may still be used for those audits undertaken prior to 23 June 2016 and where the certificate is issued to Certificate Holders before 1 October 2016.

For further information on the SBP Framework and to view the full set of documentation see https://sbp-cert.org

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1 Overview

Producer name:	Warmeston OÜ				
Producer location:	Purila village, Rapla Parish, Rapla County, Estonia				
Geographic position:	59° 4'59.21"N, 24°50'11.27"E				
Primary contact:	Viljo Aros, +372 528 8250, viljo.aros@warmeston.ee				
Company website:	http://warmeston.ee/				
Date report finalised:	8/Dec/2017				
Close of last CB audit:	24/Nov/2017; Kilksama village, Tori Parish, Pärnu County, Estonia				
Name of CB:	Nepcon				
Translations from Engli	sh to Estonian				
SBP Standard(s) used:					
SBP standard 1 v 1.0 (26/03/2015); SBP standard 2 v 1.0 (26/03/2015); SBP standard 4 v 1.0 (26/03/2015); SBP standard 5 v 1.0 (26/03/2015).					
Instruction Documents: Instruction Document 5A: version 1.1 (12/03/2016) Instruction Document 5B: version 1.1 (12/03/2016)					
Instruction Document 5C: version 1.1 (12/03/2016) Weblink to Standard(s) used: https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/standards					
(22/11/2017)					

SBP Endorsed Regional Risk Assessment: <u>https://sbp-cert.org/documents/risk-assessments/estonia</u> (22/11/2017)

Weblink to SBR on Company website: http://warmeston.ee/

Indicate how the current evaluation fits within the cycle of Supply Base Evaluations							
Main (Initial) Evaluation	First Surveillance	Second Surveillance	Third Surveillance	Fourth Surveillance			
		Х					



2 Description of the Supply Base

2.1 General description

2.1.1 Introduction

WARMESTON OÜ is an Estonian based wood pellet producer which owns two production facilities in Estonia. The current SBR describes the facility located in Purila village in Rapla Parish, Rapla County in northwestern Estonia. See Figure 1.



Figure 1. Location of Warmeston OÜ's Purila plant

Warmeston OÜ sources all its raw materials for pellet production through various suppliers from Estonia. The suppliers include forest harvesting companies, sawmills, planing mills, secondary producers and traders. According to the EUTR Regulation No. 995/2010 Warmeston OÜ acts as "trader" and not as "operator" as the feedstock is purchased from other organizations within EU. However the supply base may extend beyond the borders of Estonia. As such Warmeston OÜ defines its supply base, to cover all current and potential future suppliers, as follows:

- Estonia
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Finland
- Sweden
- Russia (North-West region)

Warmeston OÜ sources only feedstock that meets at least controlled feedstock criteria e.g. through FSC or PEFC certified Forest Management or Chain of Custody schemes. An overview of the proportions of SBP feedstock product groups from 1st **December 2016 to 30th November 2017** i.e over the last 12 months (hereinafter referred to as '*Reporting Period'*) is presented in the table below:



Feedstock product	Estimated	Indicative number	Species mix
groups	Proportion	of suppliers	
SBP-compliant Feedstock	41%	13	Alnus spp: Alnus glutinosa; Alnus
(Primary)			incana (L.) Moench; Betula spp: Betula
			Pendula, Betula verrucosa; Picea
			abies; Pinus sylvestris; Populus spp:
			Populus tremula;
SBP-compliant Feedstock	20%	8	Alnus spp: Alnus glutinosa; Alnus
(Secondary)			incana (L.) Moench; Betula spp: Betula
			Pendula, Betula verrucosa; Picea
			abies; Pinus sylvestris; Populus spp:
			Populus tremula;
SBP-compliant Feedstock	0%	1	Alnus spp: Alnus glutinosa; Alnus
(Tertiary)			incana (L.) Moench; Betula spp: Betula
			Pendula, Betula verrucosa; Picea
			abies; Pinus sylvestris; Populus spp:
			Populus tremula;
SBP-controlled Feedstock	3%	15	Alnus spp: Alnus glutinosa; Alnus
(Primary)			incana (L.) Moench; Betula spp: Betula
			Pendula, Betula verrucosa; Picea
			abies; Pinus sylvestris; Populus spp:
			Populus tremula;
SBP-controlled Feedstock	35%	13	Alnus spp: Alnus glutinosa; Alnus
(Secondary)			incana (L.) Moench; Betula spp: Betula
			Pendula, Betula verrucosa; Picea
			abies; Pinus sylvestris; Populus spp:
			Populus tremula;
SBP-controlled Feedstock	1%	4	Alnus spp: Alnus glutinosa; Alnus
(Tertiary)			incana (L.) Moench; Betula spp: Betula
			Pendula, Betula verrucosa; Picea
			abies; Pinus sylvestris; Populus spp:
			Populus tremula;

Table 1. Overview of Warmeston OÜ Purila Factory SBP feedstock profile 'Reporting Period'

2.1.2 Estonia

Estonia is a member of the European Union since 2004. The Estonian legislation is in compliance with the EU's legislative framework and directives. National legislative acts make references to the international framework. All legislation is drawn up within a democratic system, subject to free comment by all stakeholders¹. The Estonian legislation provides strict outlines in respect to the usage of forestry land and the

¹ http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/member-countries/estonia/index_en.htm



Estonian Forestry Development Plan 2020² has clear objectives and strategies in place to ensure the forestland is protected up to the standards of sustainable forest management techniques. The Ministry of the Environment coordinates the fulfilment of state duties in forestry. The implementation of environmental policies and its supervision are carried out by two separate entities operating under its governance. The Estonian Environmental Board monitors all of the work carried out in Estonia's forests whereas the Environmental Inspectorate exercises supervision in all areas of environmental protection.

The forest is defined in the Forest Act. There are three main forest categories are described in this legislation: commercial forest, protection forest and protected forests. According to the ownership, forests are also divided into private forests, municipality forests and state owned forests. The state owned forest represent approximately 40% of the total forest area³ and is certified according to FSC and PEFC forest management and chain of custody standard in which the indicators related to forest management planning, maps and availability of forest inventory records are being constantly evaluated and addressed⁴. The state forest is managed by State Forest Management Centre (RMK) which is a profit-making state agency founded on the basis of the Forest Act and its main duty lies in a sustainable and efficient management of state forest. Overall there is 1 428 767 ha⁵ of FSC certified and 1 174 511 ha⁶ of PEFC certified forest.

Currently more than 2 232 000 ha, equal to 49,3%⁷ of the Estonian land territory, is covered by forest as indicated in Figure 1 and the share of forest land is growing. According to FAO data, during 2000-2005, average annual change in the forest cover was +0.4 %⁸. Forestry Development Plan 2012-2020 and Yearbook Forest 2014, that gives annual reports and facts about the forest in Estonia, state that during last decade the cutting rate in Estonian forests is from 7 to 11 mill m³ per year⁹. The amount is in line with sustainable development principle when the cutting rate doesn't exceeds the annual increment and gives the potential to meet the long-term the economic, social and environmental needs. According to the Forestry Development Plan 2012-2020 the sustainable cutting rate is 12-15 mil ha per year.

² Original title: "Eesti metsanduse arengukava aastani 2020"; approved by Estonians parlament decision nr 909 OE 15.February 2011.a http://www.envir.ee/sites/default/files/elfinder/article_files/mak2020vastuvoetud.pdf

³ http://www.rmk.ee/organisation/operating-areas

⁴ http://www.rmk.ee/organisation/environmental-policy-of-rmk/certificates

⁵ FSC Facts and Figures, November 2, 2017

⁶ PEFC Global Statistics SSFM & CoC Certification, Sep 2017

⁷ State of Europe's Forests 2015. Published by: Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe FOREST EUROPE

Liaison Unit Madrid

⁸ http://www.fao.org/forestry/country/32185/en/est/

⁹ Yearbook Forest 2014 http://www.keskkonnaagentuur.ee/sites/default/files/aastaraamat_mets_2014.pdf (all key figures, graphs and tables are bilingual)







Figure 1. Forest cover of Estonia (FAO: <u>http://www.fao.org/forestry/country/en/est/</u>).

The distribution of growing stock by tree species in Estonia is shown in Figure 2.

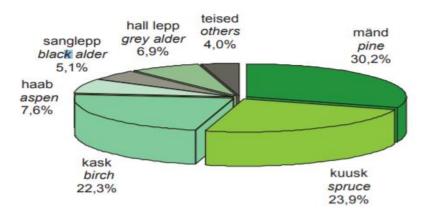


Figure 2. The distribution of growing stock by tree species (Yearbook Forest 2014).

For logging in any type of forest, it is required that a valid forest inventory or forest management plan, along with a felling permit issued by the Environmental Board, is available. All issued felling permits and forest inventory data is available in the public forest registry online database¹⁰.

Area of protected forests accounts to 25.3% of the total forest area whereas 10% is considered to be under strict protection. The majority of protected forests is located on state property. The main regulation governing the preservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources is the Nature Conservation Act¹¹.

10 http://register.metsad.ee/avalik/

¹¹ https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/517062015004/consolide



Estonia has signed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1992¹² and joined the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2007¹³. There are no CITES or IUCN protected tree species naturally growing in Estonia.

According to the Forestry Yearbook 2014 the wood, paper and furniture industry (646,4 million euro) contributed 23.7% to the total sector providing 3.8% of the total value added. Forestry accounted for 1.5% of the value added.

In Estonia, it is permitted to access natural and cultural landscapes on foot, by bicycle, skis, boat or on horseback. Unmarked and unrestricted private property may be accessed any time and pick berries, mushrooms, medicinal plants, fallen or dried branches, unless the owner forbids it. On unmarked and unrestricted private property camping is allowed for 24 hours. RMK creates exercising and recreational opportunities in nature and in recreational and protection zones and provides education about the natural environment which are free to access.¹⁴

2.1.3 Latvia

Latvia is a parliamentary republic that joined the EU in 2004. In Latvia, forests cover area of 3 356 000 hectares equal to 54,0%¹⁵ of the land territory. According to the data of the State Forest Service (concerning the surveyed area allocated to management activities regulated by the Forest Law), woodenness amounts to 55.8%. The Latvian State owns 1 755 000 ha of forest, while 1 594 000 ha is privately owned. The area covered by forest is increasing. The expansion happens both naturally and by afforestation of infertile land unsuitable for agriculture. Within the last decade, the timber production in Latvia has fluctuated between 9 and 13 million cubic metres.

Distribution of forests by the dominant species:

- pine 34.3%;
- spruce 18.0%;
- birch 30.8%;
- black alder & grey alder 10.0%;
- aspen 5.4%

The field of forestry In Latvia is supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture, which in cooperation with stakeholders of the sphere develops forest policy, development strategy of the field, as well as drafts of legislative acts concerning forest management, use of forest resources, nature protection and hunting.

Implementation of requirements of the national law and regulations issued by the Cabinet of Ministers notwithstanding the type of tenure is carried out by the State Forest Service under the Ministry of Agriculture.¹⁶

¹² http://www.envir.ee/et/cites

¹³ http://www.envir.ee/et/iucn

¹⁴ https://www.eesti.ee/eng/topics/citizen/keskkond_loodus/maa/metsandus_1

¹⁵ State of Europe's Forests 2015. Published by: Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit Madrid

¹⁶ https://www.vmd.gov.lv



Management of the state-owned forests is performed by the public limited company Latvijas Valsts Meži, established in 1999.¹⁷ The enterprise ensures implementation of the best interests of the state by preserving value of the forest and increasing the share of forest in the national economy. The share of forestry, wood-working industry and furniture production amounted to 6 % GDP in 2012.

For the sake of conservation of natural values, a total number of 674 protected areas have been established. Part of the areas have been included in the European network of protected areas Natura 2000. Most of the protected areas are state-owned. In order to protect highly endangered species and biotopes located without the designated protected areas, if a functional zone does not provide that, microreserves are established. According to data of the State Forest Service (2015), the total area of micro reserves is 40 595 ha. Identification and protection planning of biologically valuable forest stands is carried out continuously. On the other hand, for preservation of biological diversity during forest management activities, general nature protection requirements binding to all forest managers have been developed. They stipulate that at felling selected old and large trees, dead wood, undergrowth trees and shrubs, land cover around micro-depressions are to be preserved, thus providing habitat for many organisms. Latvia has been a signatory of the CITES Convention since 1997. CITES requirements are respected in forest management, but there are no CITES tree species naturally growing in Latvia.

Areas where recreation is one of the main forest management objectives add up to 8 % of the total forest area or 293 000 ha (2012). Observation towers, educational trails, natural objects of culture history value, picnic venues: they are just a few of recreational infrastructure objects available to everyone free of charge. Special attention is devoted to creation of such areas in state-owned forests. Recreational forest areas include national parks (excluding strictly protected areas), nature parks, protected landscape areas, protected dendrological objects, protected geological and geomorphologic objects, nature parks of local significance, the Baltic Sea dune protection zone, protective zones around cities and towns, forests within administrative territory of cities and towns. Management and governance of specially protected natural areas in Latvia is co-ordinated by the Nature Conservation Agency under the Ministry for Environmental Protection and Regional Development.

All forest area of Latvijas valsts meži as well as some part of forests in private and other ownership are FSC and PEFC certified. All together there is 1 022 196 ha¹⁸ FSC certified and 1 700 889 ha¹⁹ PEFC certified forest in Latvia.

2.1.4 Lithuania

Lithuania is a parliamentary republic that joined the EU in 2004. Forested land consists of about 34.8%, with 2.18 million ha²⁰. Approximately 837 000 ha of the forest is privately owned. The south-eastern part of the country is most heavily forested, and here forests cover about 45% of the land. The total value added in the forest sector (including manufacture of furniture) reached LTL 4.9 billion in 2013 and was 10% higher than in 2012.

¹⁷ https://www.lvm.lv

¹⁸ FSC Facts and Figures, November 2, 2017

¹⁹ PEFC Global Statistics SSFM & CoC Certification, Sep 2017

²⁰ State of Europe's Forests 2015. Published by: Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit Madrid



Forest land is divided into four protection classes: reserves (2%); ecological (5.8%): protected (14.9%); and commercial (77.3%). In reserves all types of cuttings are prohibited. In national parks, clear cuttings are prohibited while thinnings and sanitary cuttings are allowed. Clear cutting is permitted, however, with certain restrictions, in protected forests; and thinnings as well.

Lithuania has been a signatory of the CITES Convention since 2001. CITES requirements are respected in forest management. Lithuania is situated within the so-called mixed forest belt with a high percentage of broadleaves and mixed conifer-broadleaved stands. Most of the forests - especially spruce and birch - often grow in mixed stands. The dominant forest composition is the following:

- Scots pine 37.6%,
- spruce 24.0%,
- birch 19.5%,
- alder 11.2%,
- Ash 2.7%;
- Aspen 2.6%,
- Oak 1.8%,

There are no CITES tree species naturally growing in Lithuania.

To secure and maintain SFM both state and private forests are monitored and inspected by the Lithuanian State Forest Department, which also develops the main forestry management rules. Before commercial activities in the forests can commence, the State Forest Department requires a long-term forest management plan for every forest unit and owner. After acceptance of the plan, the State Forest Department issues a Harvesting License for separate sites. The Harvesting Licence determines what kind of forest felling system is allowed and which species and in what amount can be harvested in the area. It also determines the forest regeneration method at each harvesting site. The Harvesting Licence (licence number) is the main document for suppliers to track the supply chain and secure sustainable log purchases.

Total annual growth comes to 11 030 000 m³ and current harvest has reached some 9.0 million m³ per year. The consumption of industrial wood in the domestic forest industry, including export of industrial wood, is estimated to be less than 2.0 million m³. The remainder is used for fuel or stored in the forests, with a deteriorating quality as a result. The potential future annual cut is calculated at 5.2 million m³, of which 2.4 million m³ is made up of sawn timber and the remaining 2.8 million m³ of small dimension wood for pulp or board production, or for fuel. The figures refer to the nearest 10-year period. Thereafter a successive increase should be possible if more intensive and efficient forest management systems are introduced.

The total value added in the forest sector (including manufacture of furniture) reached EUR 1.2 billion in 2011 and was 25% higher than in 2010. Its share in the total national value added has increased from 3.7% (2010) to 4.2% (2011). The biggest share (EUR 520 million) of the value added in the sector was generated by the furniture industry.



There is ca 1 123 929 ha²¹ FSC certified forest in Lithuania, but no PEFC certified forest area.²²

2.1.5 Finland

Finland is a parliamentary republic that is a member of the EU since 1995.

Forests cover 73.1% of Finland's land are which accounts to ca 22 218 000 ha²³. Almost half of the volume of the timber stock consists of pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). The other most common species are spruce (*Picea abies*) downy birch (*Betula pubescens*) and silver birch (*Betula pendula*). These species make for 97% of total timber volume in Finland.²⁴

The Forest Act regulates the felling of timber in Finland. Regional Forestry Centres control the implementation of the forestry legislation and accept forest use declarations in which forest owners inform about the stand characteristics, intended measures, regeneration and ecological concerns on the site before the felling can take place. Regional Environment Centres control the implementation of Nature Conservation Act. The Finland's National Forest Programme also states the importance of legal wood and lists measures to promote sustainable wood and to control illegal logging both nationally and internationally.²⁵

Private forest owners (mostly families) own the majority (60%) of Finnish forests. Owner needs to get acceptance for forest use declaration from regional forest centres. The state owns 26% of the Finnish forests, private industries, such as forest industry companies 9% and other bodies 5%. The state forests are mainly situated in the north of Finland, and 45% of them are under strict protection. State lands are managed by Metsähallitus.

Certification is voluntary for the forest owner however around 75% of Finnish forests have been certified under the PEFC certification system (Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification). Certification criteria are stricter than decrees or legislation, which means that in practise, certification determines the standard of silviculture in Finland. Some Finnish forests have also been certified under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), however this forms only approximately 6% of the total forest area.

There is ca 1 478 032 ha²⁶ FSC certified forest and 17 660 520 ha²⁷ PEFC certified forest in Finland.

According to a report by UNECE²⁸ the amount of illegal logging in Finland is negligible. An extensive national forest inventory, national forest programme and regional forest programmes, widely spread individual forest management plans and large share of private non-industrial ownership of forests contribute to almost non-existence of markets for illegal timber and negligible amount of illegal logging in Finland.

²¹ FSC Facts and Figures, November 2, 2017

²² http://www.fao.org/docrep/w3722e/w3722e22.htm

²³ State of Europe's Forests 2015. Published by: Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit Madrid

²⁴ http://www.smy.fi/en/forest-fi/finnish-forests-resources/

²⁵ http://fsc.force.com/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=00P3300000YU8ihEAD

²⁶ FSC Facts and Figures, November 2, 2017

²⁷ PEFC Global Statistics SSFM & CoC Certification, Sep 2017

²⁸ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/docs/sem/2004-1/full_reports/Finland.pdf



Finland joined CITES in 1976. Nowadays the national legislation for the implementation of CITES and relating EU regulations is the Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996), which came into force in the 1st of January 1997. IUCN National Committee of Finland was approved by IUCN Council in 1999.

The forest sector is one of key supporters of Finland's economy. In 2011 it employed directly about 70,000 people in Finland, which was 2.8% of all employees. One fifth of Finland's export income comes from forest industries. More than 60% of the value added generated by the forest industries came from pulp and paper industries and the rest from wood products industries in 2011. Regionally, the importance of the forest sector is largest in southeastern corner of Finland and in Etelä-Savo and Central Finland regions, where the sector produces some 10% of the regional GDP.

Similar to Estonia, Finland has a relatively rare concept of Everyman's rights (Jokamiehenoikeus) which gives everyone, Finns and other nationalities alike, the right to move freely outdoors. Picking berries and mushrooms is permitted even on privately owned land; thus free forest access provides, in addition to products for local or family consumption, income-earning opportunities for those who sell non-wood forest products. Everyman's right has traditionally been exercised with due concern for the environment and common courtesy to the landowner or those living in the vicinity.

A group considered as an indigenous people in Finland is the Sámi. Their rights have been secured in many laws e.g. the Constitution, the Sámi Parliament Act, the Act on the Finnish Forest and Park Service and the Act on Reindeer Husbandry. The Sámi Parliament is the supreme political body of the Sámi in Finland. The Sámi Parliament represents the Sámi in national and international connections, and it attends to the issues concerning Sámi language, culture, and their position as an indigenous people. The Sámi Parliament can make initiatives, proposals and statements to the authorities. The Sámi Parliament Act also states that the authorities have an obligation to negotiate with the Sámi Parliament for all important measures that concern the Sámi people. These include for example the use of state land and conservation areas.

2.1.6 Sweden²⁹

Sweden is a parliamentary constitutional monarchy that joined the EU in 1995.

The Swedish Forest Agency is the national authority responsible for matters relating to the forest. It strives to ensure that the nation's forests are managed in such a way as to yield an abundant and sustainable harvest while at the same time preserving biodiversity. Its most important tasks are to give advice on forest-related matters, supervise compliance with the Forest Act, provide services to the forest industry, support nature conservation efforts and conduct inventories.

Sveaskog is Sweden's largest forest owner and is owned by the State. Sveaskog owns 14% of forest land in Sweden, spread across the entire country.

Sweden has Europe's second biggest afforested area after Russia. Sweden's productive forests cover about 28.073 million hectares which is 68.4% of land area in Sweden³⁰. Spruce and pine are by large the predominant species in Swedish forests. These two species count for more than 80% of the timber stock. In northern Sweden pine is the most common species, whereas spruce, mixed with some birch, dominates in southern Sweden.

²⁹ http://www.nordicforestry.org/facts/Sweden.asp#En

³⁰ State of Europe's Forests 2015. Published by: Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit Madrid



Due to effective and far-sighted forest management the timber stock in Sweden has increased by more than 60% in the last one hundred years and it is now 3000 million m3. In recent years felled quantities have been between 85 and 90 million m³, whereas annual growth amounts approximately to 120 million m³.

The amount of protected forests in Sweden amounts to circa 1.9 million hectares. A great extent, about 90% of these forests are the kind of forests in which minor interventions are allowed. The share of strictly protected forests, where no human interventions are allowed is 0.3 % from the forest area. National parks, nature reserves and nature conservation areas cover an area of 4.2 million hectares, i.e. 10% of Sweden's land area. There are at least 220.000 hectares of protected forests which still in terms of forest growth are productive. In addition, there are about 12.000 hectares of protected habitat types and 25.000 hectares of wood land set aside and protected by environment conservation agreements. Large forest areas are also protected through forest owners' voluntary activities. Sweden signed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in August 1974 and the convention entered into force in July 1975. Sweden has also established an IUCN National Committee.

Private forest owner families hold about 50% of Swedish forests, privately owned forestry companies about 25% and the State and other public owners have the remaining 25%. The ownership of forests in Sweden varies between regions. In Southern parts of the country forests are mainly owned by private persons whereas in Northern Sweden companies own more significant amounts of forests.

FSC certified forests amount to 12 255 794 ha³¹ and PEFC certified to 11 549 700 ha.³²

The forest products industry plays a major role in the Swedish economy, and accounts for between 9-12% of Swedish industry's total employment, exports, sales and added value.

Similar to Estonia and Finland, Sweden everyone has the Right of Public Access to roam the Swedish countryside including walking, camping, climbing and picking flowers.

2.1.7 Russia (North-West region)

Some tertiary feedstock from spruce and pine may originate from Northwest Russia (appr. 60 million ha). Russian forests are semi-natural managed forests with native tree species. Plantation is not a form of forest management widely practiced in Russia. Forest area has favourable environment for natural regeneration of coniferous species (pine and spruce).

³¹ FSC Facts and Figures, November 2, 2017

³² PEFC Global Statistics SSFM & CoC Certification, Sep 2017





The Russian Federation has the world's largest forests, comprising 1/5 of the Earth's total forest cover, 71% of which are coniferous. Half of the country's territory is covered with forests; however, only 50% of these forests are economically accessible. Russian forests are usually divided into four major geographic regions: European Russia, Western Siberia, Eastern Siberia, and the Russian Far East.

The total area of forest land in Russia is approximately 809.090 million hectares which is 49.4% of land area.³³ Annual allowable forest cut in Russia is 597 million cu. m, less than 30% of which is annually utilized.

Most Russian forests are represented by boreal forest ecosystems dominated by pine, larch, spruce and fir. The most widespread tree species in Russia is larch, which grows primarily in Siberia and the Russian Far East. The mostly prevalent broad-leaved species are aspen and birch. Relatively small areas are covered with oak, elm, beech, walnut and hornbeam. Overall, more than 180 aboriginal tree and shrub species are found in Russia.

Considerable forests, especially in Siberia, remain undeveloped due to the absence of the necessary infrastructure. Development of roads is difficult due to climatic (esp. permafrost) and financial challenges. On the one hand, this makes it possible to keep large areas of virgin boreal forests intact; on the other hand, this situation results in a shortage of good-quality timber in accessible forests.

Over 40% of Russian forests have very low productivity due to climatic conditions and low economic accessibility. However, these forests have important protective functions, necessary to balance the climate, regulate water flow and prevent soil degradation. They are also of key importance to biodiversity preservation. To ensure these protective functions of forests, 204 federal protected areas have been established in Russia

³³ State of Europe's Forests 2015. Published by: Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit Madrid



with a total area of about 58 million hectares and several thousands of regional protected areas. There are 43 005 468 ha³⁴ FSC certified forests and of PEFC certified 12 875 382 ha³⁵ in Russia.

Virtually all of the forests in the Russian Federation remain state-owned and are referred to by Russians as belonging to the 'Forest Fund.' A small percentage of forests do exist outside this Fund and include city forests, forests controlled by the Ministry of Defence, forests of protected areas, and former forests of rural municipalities. The Forest Code of the Russian Federation is the foundational body of laws and regulations outlining the management and use of forests. The new version of the Forest Code was approved in December 2006 and put into force on January 1, 2007. The Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation has overall responsibility to develop government policy and forest legislation. Russian Federal Forest Agency implements state forest policy and has control functions over forest agencies in Russia's region to supervise their progress with respect to forest management and control.

Forest management units ('lesnichestvo') and forest parks are responsible for forest management at the local level. However, they only have functions of management. Forestry activities are implemented either by leaseholders on their leased forest lands or by contracted organizations selected through a competitive basis by auction and paid for by the state budget.

The right to harvest timber is provided either by rent agreements, or by forest stand sale agreements in cases when the forest land is not actually rented. There are several principle differences between these two legal norms: a rent agreement is valid for 10 to 49 years, whereas a forest stand sale agreement is valid for 1 year or less. Moreover, a renter is responsible for all activities regarding forest protection and regeneration, and must provide documents regarding planning and actual fulfilment of activities. Due to unwillingness or inability of renters to fulfil these obligations, more than 50 % of timber in Russia is harvested through short terms for forest stands sale agreements.³⁶

Russia accounts for over 20 percent of the world forests, but its share in the world forest products trade is below 4 percent. Semi-processed roundwood and sawnwood make up over 54 percent of its exported wood products. The share of the forest sector in the gross domestic product (GDP) is only 1.3 percent; in industrial production, 3.7 percent; in employment, 1 percent; and in export, revenue 2.4%.³⁷

Illegal logging is a serious problem in the Russian Federation. There is no single reliable figure to describe its scale, but comparison of data from various sources of information and experts' estimations suggests that 10 to 35 % of all timber logged in Russian is illegal.

According to Russian Federation law regarding the Red Data Book, any use of or damage to listed species is considered a crime, including the damaging of environment where these species grow. In addition to the Red Data Book, the Government of the Russian Federation has approved The List of Tree and Shrub Species for which Timber Harvesting is forbidden in the Russian Federation. There are 5 CITES listed tree species naturally growing in Russia.²⁰

³⁴ FSC Facts and Figures, November 2, 2017

³⁵ PEFC Global Statistics SSFM & CoC Certification, Sep 2017

³⁶ "Keep It Legal Country Guide: Practical Guide for Verifying Timber Origin Legality" Russia. 2010, WWF Russia, available at http://www.wwf.ru/resources/publ/book/eng/409).

³⁷ "The Russian Federation Forest Sector Outlook Study to 2030" 2012, FAO, available at:

http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/i3020e/i3020e00.pdf



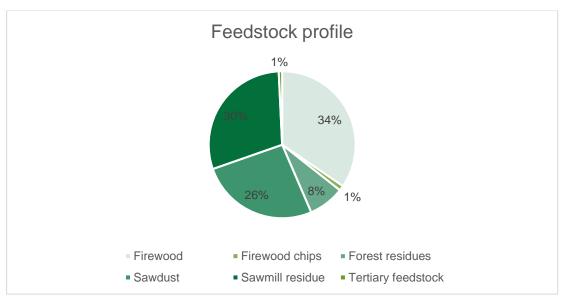
2.2 Actions taken to promote certification amongst feedstock supplier

Warmeston OÜ is promoting FSC/PEFC certification for Sustainable Forest Management. We explain to our suppliers its criteria and importance and give priority to FSC/PEFC certified suppliers. Warmeston OÜ has prepared an environmental policy and a supplier's code of conduct that will be signed with all suppliers. These two documents promote legal and sustainable forest management and exclude timber from undefined sources and from Woodland Key Habitants.

2.3 Final harvest sampling programme

The Estonian Environmental Agency, a governmental agency operating under the Ministry of Environment, analyses regularly the different types of fellings and proportion of sortments by collecting data from The State Forest Management Centre, private forest owners and Environmental Board. In addition a statistical forest inventory has been carried out by the authorities on selected sample sites to collect additional data for the statistical analyses. This data is published by the Environmental Agency in the "Yearbook Forest". According to the latest issue "Yearbook forest 2014ⁿ³⁸ the proportion of firewood from the final felling volume is estimated to be 25%. This is in accordance with other sources that have estimated the proportion to be between 20 to $25\%^{39}$.

2.4 Flow diagram of feedstock inputs showing feedstock type of '*Reporting Period*'



³⁹http://www.agri.ee/sites/default/files/public/juurkataloog/BIOENERGEETIKA/Biokytuste_2006a_turu_ylevaate_lopparuanne.pdf; http://www.eramets.ee/static/files/1356.Enn_Part_Puitu_on_ja_raiuda_tohib_14092012.pdf

³⁸ http://www.keskkonnaagentuur.ee/sites/default/files/aastaraamat_mets_2014.pdf



2.5 Quantification of the Supply Base

Supply Base

	- Composition	Shavings and offcuts	. , -
	- Origin	Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finla	ind, Sweden, Russia
m.	Volume of tertiary feedstock:	537 t	
	- type:	Sawdust (26%) and other sawn	nill residues (29%)
	- Origin	Estonia and Latvia	
I.	Volume of secondary feedstock:	39 621 t	
	SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme		n/a
k.	List percentage of primary feedstock from p		categories. Subdivide by
j.	Volume of primary feedstock from primary for	•	n/a
	Picea abies; Pinus sylvestris; Populus spp:		,,
	Alnus spp: Alnus glutinosa; Alnus incana (L.	•	endula, Betula verrucosa:
i.	List all species in primary feedstock, includir	Ũ	
	 Not certified to an SBP-approved Federation 	-	38%
	 Certified to an SBP-approved Fores 	t Management Scheme	62%
y. h.	Percentage of primary feedstock		
г. g.	Volume of primary feedstock:	30 967 tonnes	
f.	Total volume of Feedstock (5%):	71 125 tonnes	
Fe	edstock 'Reporting Period'		
e.	Certified forest by scheme (ha):	74 million ha FSC / 45 million h	a PEFC
d.	Forest by management type (ha):	118 million ha managed natura	I
C.	Forest by type (ha):	110 million ha boreal / 8 million	ha temperate
b.	Tenure by type (ha):	40 million ha private /78 million	ha public
a.	Total Supply Base area (ha):	118 million ha	
Nu	ppij Duse		



3 Requirement for a Supply Base Evaluation

SBE completed	SBE not completed	
x		

The demand for SBP-compliant biomass is exceeding the volumes of FSC/PEFC certified feedstock that is available for pellet production in the Baltic region. To meet the demand Warmeston OÜ will undertake a supply base evaluation for primary and secondary feedstock that is originating from Estonia according to the SBP Framework Standard 1: Feedstock Compliance Standard and Standard 2: Verification of SBP-compliant Feedstock.

The risk assessment of the SBE is based on the SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessment for Estonia. The risk assessment for Estonia has been approved by SBP's secretariat on 22nd April 2016 and is publicly available on at: <u>https://sbp-cert.org/documents/risk-assessments/estonia</u> (22.11.2017).

The scope of the SBE was chosen based on the availability of the SBP-endorsed Regional Risk assessments whereas the possibility to mitigate the identified "specified risk" with reasonable efforts was considered.



4 Supply Base Evaluation

4.1 Scope

Warmeston OÜ will carry out the SBE for primary feedstock (forest products) that is originating from Estonia and is sold without:

- a SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme claim;
- a SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme partial claim;
- or a SBP-approved Chain of Custody (CoC) System claim.

The risk mitigation measures will also be applied for secondary feedstock (e.g. sawdust from local sawmills) that originates from Estonian forest, is delivered with a SBP-approved Controlled Feedstock System claim and is to be used in the production on SBP-compliant biomass.

To mitigate the risks associated with primary feedstock, Warmeston OÜ will verify the origin of all primary feedstock (e.g. roundwood). For secondary feedstock, Warmeston OÜ will audit and work closely together with its suppliers who are purchasing and processing primary material. For a more detailed description of the risk mitigation measures please refer to Chapter 9 of the SBR.

4.2 Justification

Warmeston OÜ will rely on SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessment for Estonia (2016) that meets the requirements of SBP Framework Standard 1: Feedstock Compliance Standard and Standard 2: Verification of SBP-compliant Feedstock and has been approved by the SBP secretariat on 22nd April 2016.

Warmeston OÜ agrees with all the findings, conclusions and mitigation measures set out in the report and will not undertake an independent risk assessment.

4.3 Results of Risk Assessment

The risk evaluation and mitigation will be based on SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessment for Estonia (2016), where the only indicator evaluated as *specified risk* was indicator 2.1.2: "The BP has control systems and procedures to identify and address potential threats to forests and other areas with high conservation values from forest management activities"

According to the Estonian legislation, protection of Woodland Key Habitats (WKH) is optional for private forest owners. They can choose to sign a contract with the state to protect WKH. In this case, the state pays compensation to the owner for the protection of WKH. If the private forest owner does not want to protect WKH, the agreement ends and they are then allowed to cut it. In state forest and in FSC/PEFC certified private forest WKH are protected.

In cases where the sourced material derives from private forests, it is important to know exactly from where the material was cut (FMU, sub-compartment). Public databases that can be used to control if the material



comes from WKH or not, are available. In cases where no felling permits are issued and the FMU contains WKH, an on-site visit is required if the material is subject to the SBE.

All other indicators were assigned as "low risk". For more detail please refer to the SBE-endorsed Regional Risk Assessment for Estonia (2016).

4.4 Results of Supplier Verification Programme

According to article 14.1 of the SBP Framework Standard 2: Verification of SBP-compliant Feedstock a Supplier Verification Programme will not be undertaken, as none of the indicators in the final risk assessment were assessed as "*unspecified risk*". The need for a Supplier verification programme will be re-evaluated during the review of the risk assessment.

4.5 Conclusion

Based on the information available during the regional risk assessment process, the level of risk for each of the criteria was chosen. For Estonia all except one criteria were assigned low risk. The only "specified risk" was associated with the indicator 2.1.2: *The BP has control systems and procedures to verify that potential threats of forest management activities to the HCVs are identified and safeguards are implemented to protect them.* The indicator was assigned as "specified risk" due to the protection status of WKHs.

Based on the findings of the SBE it can be concluded: as long as the risks associated with the indicator 2.1.2 are mitigated, feedstock from Estonia is low risk and is meeting the requirements for SBP-compliant feedstock. For detailed mitigation measures please refer to Chapter 9 of the SBR.



5 Supply Base Evaluation Process

The SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessment is based on a number of different sources of information, including applicable legislation, reports from state authorities and other stakeholders, various databases and statistical data sources. This information was requested from state authorities such as the Environmental Inspectorate, the Estonian Tax and Customs Board, the Work Inspectorate, the Police etc. During the preparation of the RA, developers made a detailed baseline study for each of the SBP principles and criteria. During the first consultation period (26.03.2015 – 26.04.2015) SBP received comments and additional information from several stakeholders and from state institutions. Based on this information period was from 05.05.2015 to 20.05.2015. During this consultation, some additional comments were raised. A detailed description of the situation for each criteria is presented in Annex 1 along with the chosen level of risk, which was based on the information provided. The regional risk assessment was approved by SBP on 22nd April 2016.

Based on the findings of the regional risk assessment Warmeston OÜ established procedures to mitigate the risks for primary and secondary feedstock that has been harvested in Estonia. For this purpose Warmeston will verify the origin of all primary feedstock and work closely together with its suppliers (primary processors) to do the same for secondary feedstock. For more detail please refer to chapter 9 of the SBR.

The stakeholder consultation process for Warmeston OÜ's SBE was undertaken from 4th May 2016 to 3rd June 2016.



6 Stakeholder Consultation

The first stakeholder consultation round of the RRA was completed from 26.03.2015-26.04.2015 and the second round from 05.05.2015-20.05.2015. The information about the risk assessment process development, along with the draft risk assessment, was sent out to all key stakeholders. The list of stakeholders can be seen in Annex 4 of the RRA. Three stakeholders, the Estonian Fund for Nature (ELF), Graanul Invest AS and the Estonian Forest and Wood Industries Association (EMPL) provided their feedback.

During the first consultation period (26.03.2015 – 26.04.2015) SBP received comments and additional information from several stakeholders and from state institutions. Based on this information some of the specified risk designations were changed to low risk. The second stakeholder consultation period was from 05.05.2015 to 20.05.2015. During this consultation, some additional comments were raised. A detailed description of the situation for each criteria is presented in Annex 1 of the RRA along with the chosen level of risk, which was based on the information provided.

SBP secretariat conducted an additional round of stakeholder consultations from 17.09.2015 to 16.10.2015. The results of these consultation process are available at: https://sbp-cert.org/documents/risk-assessments/estonia

Warmeston OÜ conducted its stakeholder consultation process of the SBE from 4th May 2016 to 3rd June 2016 by e-mail message to local municipalities, state institutions and authorities, State Forest Management Centre, Foundation Private Forest Centre, Estonian Private Forest Association, FSC Estonia, PEFC Estonia and the Estonian Forest and Wood Industries Association and to Loodusaeg's mailing list covering app 1000 followers including various nature conservation and protection organisations. No comments from the stake holders were received.

In addition Nepcon, acting as the SBP approved certification body of Warmeston, undertook an additional consultation process prior to the SBE audit.

6.1 Response to stakeholder comments

N/A



7 Overview of Initial Assessment of Risk

Based on the information available during the risk assessment process, the level of risk for each of the criteria was chosen in the RRA. All except one criteria were assigned low risk. Below is the summary of the indicator for which specified risk was identified.

Table 1. Overview of results from the risk assessment of all Indicators (prior to SVP)

Indicator	Initial Risk Rating			Initial Risk Rating			
	Specified	Low	Unspecified	Indicator	Specified	Low	Unspecified
1.1.1		Х		2.3.1		Х	
1.1.2		Х		2.3.2		Х	
1.1.3		Х		2.3.3		Х	
1.2.1		Х		2.4.1		Х	
1.3.1		Х		2.4.2		Х	
1.4.1		Х		2.4.3		Х	
1.5.1		Х		2.5.1		Х	
1.6.1		Х		2.5.2		Х	
2.1.1		Х		2.6.1		Х	
2.1.2	Х			2.7.1		Х	
2.1.3		Х		2.7.2		Х	
2.2.1		Х		2.7.3		Х	
2.2.2		Х		2.7.4		Х	
2.2.3		Х		2.7.5		Х	
2.2.4		Х		2.8.1		Х	
2.2.5		Х		2.9.1		Х	
2.2.6		Х		2.9.2		Х	
2.2.7		Х		2.10.1		Х	
2.2.8		Х					
2.2.9		Х					

WKH are forest habitats with high probability of present occurrence of endangered, vulnerable and rare species. WKH system is a tool to address high conservation value forest habitats in managed forests thus they are the primary mechanism for protection of ecologically valuable areas which are located within commercially managed forests.



According to the Estonian legislation WKHs protection is optional for private forest owners. They can sign a contract with state and protect the WKH. In this case, the state pays compensation to the owner for protecting the WKH. If private forest owner do not want to protect the WKH then it is allowed to cut it. It is possible to determine the location of WKHs in Public Forest Registry and in case felling permit is issued it is possible to see if the material is cut from WKH or not. In case the fellings are done without felling permit (it is allowed to do small scale sanitary cutting without felling permit) then on site visit is only way to see if the WKH is untouched or not. Please see section 9 for a description of the detailed mitigation actions.

In state forest and in FSC/PEFC certified private forest and in private forests where WKH contract has been signed, WKH are protected.



8 Supplier Verification Programme

8.1 Description of the Supplier Verification Programme

According to article 14.1 of the SBP Framework Standard 2: Verification of SBP-compliant Feedstock a Supplier Verification Programme will not be undertaken, as none of the indicators in the final risk assessment were assessed as "*unspecified risk*". The need for a Supplier verification programme will be re-evaluated during the review of the risk assessment.

8.2 Site visits

N/A

8.3 Conclusions from the Supplier Verification Programme

N/A



9 Mitigation Measures

9.1 Mitigation measures

The mitigation measures described below will only be applied for feedstock that is in the scope of the SBE as described in section 4.1. The responsible person for the implementation of the SBE is the Quality and Environmental manager of Warmeston OÜ who is also the overall responsible person for the company's FSC and SBP certification systems.

Primary feedstock

All deliveries of primary feedstock that has been harvested in Estonia, but is not FSC or PEFC certified, Warmeston OÜ will verify that it has not been sourced from WKHs. Additional control procedures, e.g. procedures according to FSC-STD-40-005: FSC Standard For Company Evaluation of FSC Controlled Wood, are applied if applicable. All feedstock subject to SBE must meet prior the evaluation at least SBP-approved Controlled Feedstock System requirements.

Warmeston OÜ will use the delivery documents, a list of approved suppliers and publicly available databases (*e.g. maps at: <u>http://register.metsad.ee/avalik/</u> or at least biannually renewed databases from competent authorities⁴⁰) to verify that the delivered primary feedstock has not been sourced from WKHs. During the reception and registration of primary feedstock the assistants will carry out the following control procedure within the SBE:*

- 1. Has the supplier signed an agreement and committed not to supply wood from WKHs?
 - 1.1 If yes, go to 2.
 - 1.2 If no, the products cannot be sourced.
- 2. Can the products be traced back to the logging site in forest?
 - 2.1 If yes, go to 3.
 - 2.2 If no, the products cannot be sourced.
- 3. Is there a felling permit issued?
 - 4.1 If yes go to 5
 - 4.2 If no go to 4.
- 4. Fellings without felling permit (according to forest act).

4.1 If there is no WKHs on the FMU according to available information: the products can be sourced.

4.2 If there is a WKHs on FMU an on-site the products cannot be sourced as SBPcompliant.

⁴⁰ An inquery has been sent to the Environmental Agency of Estonia (the responsible authority responsible for updating the WKH databases) to clarify the of changes on the WKH register. If significant a more frequent update rate of the WKH database will be implemented. These databases will be shared with the suppliers who are included in the SBE.



5. Does the logging site defined in the felling permit, provided with the supplied material, match with the WKH location using the available information resources (updated maps or databases)?
5.1 If yes: the products cannot be sourced as SBP-compliant
5.2 If no: the products can be sourced.

All instances were primary feedstock from WKHs has been offered will be reported to the Quality and Environmental manager and recorded in a register.

Secondary feedstock

To mitigate the risks associated with secondary feedstock subject to SBE, Warmeston OÜ will:

- i) train its suppliers to apply the risk mitigation measures described above in points 2-5 and
- ii) verify during annual audits that the mitigation measures 2-5 have been properly implemented.

The trainings and annual audits will be carried out by Warmeston OÜ's Quality and Environmental manager who is also responsible for collecting and analysing suppliers' monitoring results of the WKHs.

The supplier audits will cover the following aspects:

- the scope of the suppliers FSC/PEFC certification
 - Depending on the scope of the certificate aspects such as material sourcing or the verification of origin (e.g. with the standard FSC-SDT-40-005) can be considered as low risk
- demonstration of the control procedure carried out by the supplier's responsible person(s);
- demonstration of recorded monitoring data (screenshots or printouts of the databases etc.);
- random selection of a sample of primary feedstock deliveries and the verification of the recorded monitoring results;
- demonstration of the supplier's WKH register and corrective actions taken;
- feedstock storage conditions;

All audit findings and results will documented.

Warmeston OÜ will accept the delivered secondary feedstock only as "low risk" if:

- the supplier has been trained;
- the supplier has been audited (supplier audit) and no substantial issues in the WKH control procedures have been raised during the annual audits;
- the delivered feedstock can be traced back to an Estonian forest where no WKH are present at the felling site.
 - If a supplier is sourcing its feedstock from different countries a mass balance approach for determining the proportion of Estonian feedstock will only be accepted if i) the supplier holds a valid SBP-approved chain of custody certificate and ii) all primary feedstock of the



supplier meets at least the requirements of an SBP-approved Controlled Feedstock System The supplier must demonstrate during the supplier audit, that this information is monitored and recorded on a regular bases. If this information is not available the material will not be accepted as SBP-compliant feedstock.

9.2 Monitoring and outcomes

Warmeston OÜ will keep a register of all cases were material originating from WKH has been offered and the suppliers are in violation with the code of conduct and feedstock purchase agreement. An investigation in all these cases will be carried out and the reason of such deliveries will be analysed. Suppliers who violate these terms repeatedly or on purpose and are not willing to take measures to avoid sourcing material from WKHs in the future will be excluded from the suppliers list and all deliveries will be stopped latest with the implementation of the FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1 and the FSC national risk assessment for Estonia.

During the '*Reporting Period*' there have been 3 suppliers who have delivered fuelwood from a total of 10 cadastral units which did not meet SBP-compliant criteria and were in full excluded from the SBP-compliant feedstock. These deliveries formed 1.9% from the total volume of fuel wood.

A total of 10 secondary feedstock suppliers were included in the SBE program and no major deviations have been identified during the annual SBE supplier audits. The overall awareness of WKH as well as the requirements of the new FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1 standard and the risks identified in the FSC centralised national risk assessments (CNRA) for Estonia has improved among these suppliers. Considering the implementation of the new FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1 standard and the CNRA latest during March 2018 no additional mitigation measures have been planned.



10 Detailed Findings for Indicators

Detailed findings for each Indicator are given in the SBP Endorsed Regional Risk Assessment for Estonia available at: <u>https://sbp-cert.org/documents/risk-assessments/estonia</u> (22.11.2017).



11 Review of Report

11.1Peer review

The SBR has been reviewed and signed by senior management.

The report has been peer reviewed and returned with comments by professionals, educated and engaged in the wood industry and forestry. The reviewer concluded that the report gives on objective overview of Warmeston OÜ's supply base and the described mitigation measures are in sound with the importance of the assessed risks.

11.2 Public or additional reviews

The SBR is publicly available at Warmeston OÜ's homepage (<u>http://warmeston.ee/</u>). Received comments will be addressed and the certification body will be notified.



12 Approval of Report

Approval of Supply Base Report by senior management						
Report Prepared by:	Viljo Aros	Quality and Environmental Manager	08.12.2017			
Sy.	Name	Title	Date			
The undersigned persons confirm that I/we are members of the organisation's senior management and do hereby affirm that the contents of this evaluation report were duly acknowledged by senior management as being accurate prior to approval and finalisation of the report.						
Report approved by:	Tanel Mihkelson	Member of Board	08.12.2017			
	Name	Title	Date			



13 Updates

13.1 Significant changes in the Supply Base

North-West Russia has been included to the supply base.

13.2 Effectiveness of previous mitigation measures

Please refer to section 9.2.

13.3 New risk ratings and mitigation measures

N/A

13.4 Actual figures for feedstock over the previous 12 months

Please refer to:

- Table 1. Overview of Warmeston OÜ Purila Factory SBP feedstock profile 'Reporting Period'.
- Section 2.4: Flow diagram of feedstock inputs showing feedstock type of 'Reporting Period'
- Section 2.5: Quantification of the Supply Base

13.5 Projected figures for feedstock over the next 12 months

No significant changes in the proportion of the feedstock types is foreseen.