



The first international
certification for wood chips.

GoodChips® Standard

*Introduction to the GoodChips®
scheme*

GOODCHIPS® ST 1000:2018



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Foreword

Bioenergy Europe is the voice of European bioenergy. It aims to develop a sustainable bioenergy market based on fair business conditions. Founded in 1990, Bioenergy Europe is a non-profit, Brussels-based international organisation bringing together more than 40 associations and 90 companies, as well as academia and research institutes from across Europe.

Bioenergy Europe is the governing body of the GoodChips® scheme and owner of the GoodChips® trademark. Bioenergy Europe develops requirements of the GoodChips® certification scheme and through the GoodChips® International Management it lists Certification and Testing bodies that are allowed to provide the GoodChips® certification, and licenses certified companies to use the GoodChips® logo.

Table of Contents

Foreword	3
Introduction	4
1. Scope	5
2. Normative references	5
3. GoodChips® certification requirements	5
4. Third-party conformity assessment	6
5. Trademark ownership and licensing rights	7
6. Governance	7

Introduction

The GoodChips® quality certification scheme provides harmonisation of wood chips and hog fuel production and trade. It is a third-party certification, where an impartial Certification Body ensures that the certified wood chips and hog fuel meet the GoodChips® quality requirements.

This document describes the general setting of the GoodChips® scheme and the bodies involved, including those managing it and delivering the certification. This document has an informative value.

1. Scope

- 1.1. This document provides an overview of the GoodChips® scheme and addresses all the stakeholders involved in the GoodChips® scheme by detailing certification requirements, basics of third-party assessment, and governance of the scheme, including the management and tools to ensure the integrity of the certification.
- 1.2. This document has an informative value.

2. Normative references

- 2.1. The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.
 - GoodChips® ST 1001, Requirements for GoodChips® certified entities;
 - GoodChips® ST 1002, Requirements for bodies providing GoodChips® certification;
 - GoodChips® ST 1003, Requirements for the use of the GoodChips® logo and name;
 - GoodChips® PD 1001, Fees in the GoodChips® scheme;
 - GoodChips® PD 1002, Complaint and appeal procedures in the GoodChips® scheme;
 - GoodChips® PD 1003, GoodChips® Documentation development;
 - GoodChips® PD 1004, Listing of Conformity Assessment Bodies operating the GoodChips® certification scheme;
 - GoodChips® PD 1005, Issuance of the licenses for the use of the GoodChips® logo and name.
- 2.2. All the GoodChips® documentation is available at <https://goodchips.eu/resources/technical-documentation.html>.

3. GoodChips® certification requirements

- 3.1. GoodChips® is a certification scheme for the quality of wood chips and hog fuel used for energy production. It is meant as an international certification with no geographical restrictions.
- 3.2. The requirements that shall be met by companies to be granted the GoodChips® certification are included in GoodChips® ST 1001.
- 3.3. The GoodChips® product requirements cover a wide range of installations in terms of technologies and power outputs, from residential to industrial appliances. The GoodChips® technical specifications cover the following parameters:
 - Origin and source of the raw materials;
 - Moisture content;
 - Particle size distribution;
 - Ash content;
 - Chemicals (N, S, Cl and minor elements);
 - Net Calorific Value.

- 3.4. The technical specifications are grouped in twelve (12) quality classes:
- A1 extra-dry, A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, B3, and B4 for wood chips;
 - C1, C2, C3, and C4 for hog fuel;
- 3.4.1. Matching the right quality class with the specifications of the appliance provided by the manufacturer is responsibility of the wood chips/hog fuel user.
- 3.5. Process requirements¹ are aimed at ensuring that the production/processing/handling practices are performed to satisfactorily support the product requirements.
- 3.6. Management system requirements¹ are aimed at meeting customer expectations on a constant basis, and ultimately to increase confidence that the final product meets the GoodChips® requirements.
- 3.7. Each company in the supply chain willing to sell products with the GoodChips® logo and name¹ is required to be certified, in order to ensure that the quality of the products is kept along the whole supply chain.

4. Third-party conformity assessment

- 4.1. Compliance of companies against the requirements stated in the GoodChips® scheme is assessed by Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) that act as *the third party* of the scheme. CABs perform their activities in complete independence from GoodChips® International Management.
- 4.2. In order to be allowed in the scheme, CABs shall be accredited according to the requirements stated in GoodChips® ST 1002, Annex A. The accreditation shall be issued by a national Accreditation Body which is signatory of a multilateral agreement of the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) or the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), or the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) in case of Testing Bodies. The accreditation provides confidence on their competence and independence.
- 4.3. Certification Bodies
- 4.3.1. Certification Bodies assess whether companies conform to the requirements of the GoodChips® scheme and issue the certificates.
- 4.3.2. Certification Bodies are listed by GoodChips® International Management according to the requirements stated in GoodChips® ST 1002 and PD 1004 and behind payment of an annual fee stated in GoodChips® PD 1001.
- 4.4. Inspection Bodies
- 4.4.1. Inspection bodies perform announced and unannounced inspections of companies. The outcomes of the inspections are communicated in an Inspection report to the Certification Body, which uses it to assess the conformity of the company. Accreditation requirements for Inspection Bodies are included in GoodChips® ST 1002.
- 4.5. Testing Bodies

¹ Requirements for the use of the GoodChips® logo and name are stated in GoodChips® ST 1003.

4.5.1. Testing Bodies perform analyses on the sample(s) taken during the inspections, in accordance with the most updated methods of ISO standards². The results are communicated in a Testing report to the Certification Body, which uses them to assess the conformity of the company.

4.5.2. Testing Bodies are listed by GoodChips® International Management according to the requirements stated in GoodChips® ST 1002 and PD 1004 and behind payment of an annual fee stated in GoodChips® PD 1001.

5. Trademark ownership and licensing rights

5.1. GoodChips® is a registered trademark owned by Bioenergy Europe, which holds the licensing right for its use.

5.2. Bioenergy Europe, through GoodChips® International Management, grants companies the right to use the logo and name³.

6. Governance

6.1. The GoodChips® scheme is organised in three categories of bodies:

6.2. Statutory body:

6.2.1. Bioenergy Europe's Board of Directors. It is responsible for the approval/refusal of the scheme policies, strategic directions, and the scheme documentation; it takes decisions of political, legal or contractual importance; it reviews the scheme performance and provides guidance to improve it. Bioenergy Europe's Board of Directors is represented by the President.

6.3. Executive body:

6.3.1. GoodChips® International Management. It is the bridge between Bioenergy Europe and the Advisory Committee: it collects instances, concerns and suggestions from the Advisory Committee and put them to Bioenergy Europe's Board. GoodChips® International Management is part of the Bioenergy Europe's Secretariat.

6.4. Advisory body:

6.4.1. Advisory Committee made of one National Partner per country: it provides support in the creation, promotion and improvement of the scheme. It provides suggestions and recommendations to GoodChips® International Management with relation to the national specificities.

6.5. Management

6.5.1. GoodChips® International Management

6.5.1.1. It is the Executive Body of the GoodChips® scheme. It is the international licensor, and the only body entitled to grant companies the right to use the GoodChips® logo and name on behalf of Bioenergy Europe.

² The list of testing methods is included in Annex C of GoodChips® ST 1002

³ Requirements for the use of the GoodChips® logo and name are stated in GoodChips® ST 1003

6.5.1.2. It administrates the scheme on daily basis; handles applications from companies, relation with Certification and Testing Bodies, and National Partners; collects instances from stakeholders; runs the Certification Integrity Programme.

6.5.2. National Partners

6.5.2.1. They are organisations related to the bioenergy/wood chips/hog fuel sector with a national scope. They support the management of the scheme in single countries and promote it, and act as a bridge between companies, end-users and GoodChips® International Management.

6.5.2.2. There is one National Partner per country.

6.5.2.3. National Partners form the Advisory Committee.

6.6. Licensing

6.6.1. Companies apply to GoodChips® International Management for the license to use the GoodChips® logo and name⁴ in relation with their products.

6.6.2. GoodChips® International Management grants the right to use the GoodChips® logo and name on the basis of a certificate of conformity against the GoodChips® requirements issued by a listed Certification Body.

6.6.3. A detailed procedure for the issuance of the logo and name license, along with the logo and name use contract, is outlined in GoodChips® PD 1005;

6.6.4. Logo and name use fees are listed in GoodChips® PD 1001.

6.7. Complaints and appeals management

6.7.1. In order to maintain confidence in the GoodChips® certification, all the processes covered by the certification scheme are supported by complaint and appeal procedures detailed in GoodChips® PD 1002.

6.8. Documentation structure

6.8.1. The documentation of the GoodChips® scheme is arranged in a set of documents, where each of them is dedicated to a specific stakeholder and/or process. It consists of three types of document:

6.8.1.1. GoodChips® Standards (ST)

Documents containing *requirements* for key players in the certification, that shall be considered as *normative*, meaning that the concerned party of the document shall implement the requirements included in it to be allowed in the scheme;

6.8.1.2. GoodChips® Procedural Documents (PD)

Documents defining *procedures* in the development, governance, and management of the GoodChips® certification scheme. These documents contain both *informative* and *normative* elements.

6.8.1.3. GoodChips® Guidance Documents (GD)

⁴ Requirements for the use of the GoodChips® logo and name are stated in GoodChips® ST 1003.

6.8.1.4. They provide *guidance* to the understanding of the documents above or *guidelines* in the implementation of a specific procedure. These documents shall be considered as *informative*.

6.8.2. The procedures for the development of the GoodChips® documentation are included in GoodChips® PD 1003.

6.9. Certification Integrity Programme

6.9.1. In order to monitor and assess the performance of the GoodChips® Conformity Assessment Bodies, GoodChips® International Management runs the Certification Integrity Programme (CIP).

6.9.2. The CIP ensures that the listed Certification and Testing Bodies carry out the conformity assessment activities in line with the GoodChips® guidelines and procedures and on a constant basis.

6.9.3. The CIP is described in GoodChips® PD 1004.



The first international
certification for wood chips.

GoodChips® is the first international certification scheme for wood chips
and hog fuel. From production to delivery, our label certifies quality
levels adapted to every consumer.

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