



# SolidStandards



Enhancing the implementation of quality and sustainability standards and certification schemes for solid biofuels (EIE/11/218)



D4.5c  
Workshop report  
2 December 2013  
Lauterbach/Germany



## SolidStandards-project

The SolidStandards project addresses ongoing and recent developments related to solid biofuel quality and sustainability issues, in particular the development of related standards and certification systems. In the SolidStandards project, solid biofuel industry players will be informed and trained in the field of standards and certification and their feedback will be collected and provided to the related standardization committees and policy makers.

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## About this document

This document is part of work package 4.6 of the SolidStandards project. It is the summary report of the national workshop on sharing the experience on standards implementation. This document was prepared in **December 2013** by:

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## Intelligent Energy Europe

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## 1. Event summary

The final workshop aimed to spread the experience gained from the previous work in workpackage 4 in regards of the implementation of the solid biofuel standards. In case of Germany in the production of wood pellets was the main field of work which is why the workshop took place at the site of our practice partner Pfeifer Holz in Lauterbach. This offers the possibility to show in practice the daily work with the product standard and quality assurance. The audience was not only pellets producer who have not implement the current standards yet but also companies who work in the field of logistics, marketing, consulting, trade and purchasing of solid biomass.

## 2. Participants

In Germany about 95% of the produced pellets are certified according to the certification schemes of DINplus or ENplus which are based on the current standards of the EN 14961-2 respectively the EN 15234-2 series. This fact shows that the pelletbranche is highly aware of the standards. For this reason the workshop has enhanced the focus not only on other pellet producing companies for which the implementation of the same standard is of interest but also other companies from upstream and downstream sectors to show the advantages in the use of standards respectively a certification scheme. These companies have their working field in transport and logistics of pellets or forest wood transportation, consultancy in the field of biomass for energy use, or in general trade of biomass and pellets. Most participants are working in the field of buying, trading, purchasing and marketing of wood pellets. Besides the three speakers 15 participants attended at the workshop at 3rd December 2013.

## 3. Programme

### 3.1. Agenda

von	bis	Programmpunkt
10.00	10.15	Registration
10.15	11.00	1. Block: speaker: Martin Hoeft (DBFZ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the European project SolidStandards</li> <li>• Information about existing CEN standards for solid biofuels</li> <li>• Outlook on the upcoming ISO standards for solid biofuels</li> </ul>
11.00	11.15	Coffee break
11.15	12.00	2. Block: speaker: Jakob Bosch (Deutsches Pelletinstitut DEPI, Member of the DIN mirror-committee „solid biofuels“) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EN 14961-1 &amp; EN 14961-2: Provisions on quality for woodpellets</li> <li>• EN 15234-1 &amp; EN 15234-2: Quality assurance for the production and trade of woodpellets</li> <li>• Proceeding for implementation of standards at Pfeifer Holz, Site Lauterbach</li> </ul>
12.00	12.30	Lunch break
12.30	13.30	3. Block: Uwe Herold (Pfeifergroup, production manager) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advantages through standard implementation from stakeholders' view</li> <li>• Showing of testing and documentation for the internal quality control compliant with EN 15234-2 (visit of the factory)</li> <li>• Information about safety regarding production, storage and transport of pellets</li> </ul>
13.30	13.45	Coffee break
13.45	14.30	4. Block: speaker: Martin Hoeft (DBFZ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information about sustainability for solid biomass</li> <li>• Optional systems for proof of sustainability</li> </ul>
14.30	15.00	5. Block: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions and discussion</li> </ul>

In the first block participants get informed about the background and aims of the SolidStandards-projects and a short outcome about the results regarding wood chips. Further was informed about the current CEN solid biomass standards and a short outlook of the upcoming ISO standards.

Topics of the workshop then focussed on the results regarding the implementation of the product- and quality standards for pellets. Jakob Bosch, author of the implementation report (Deliverable 4.3) and meanwhile working for the German Pelletinstitut (DEPI), reports about the procedure during the implementation process at Pfeifer Holz and what measures are needed to fulfil the quality requirements.

Uwe Herold, leading production manager at the site in Lauterbach, showed different aspects in the running wood pelletsproduction and how the requirements of the standards are fulfilled.

In the last block of the workshop general aspects and European initiatives regarding sustainability standards, different certification systems and the political background were shown to make the audience aware of what aspects may come up within the next years.

## **3.2. Situation in Germany**

In the last couple of years, the German pellet market has been one of the markets with the fastest development. The market for pellet boilers and stoves for small- and medium-scale applications has experienced a rapid increase up to 300.000 in the year 2012. Factors can be seen in the legal framework promoting the use of pellets in the residential sector and the increasing oil and gas prices. Germany has approximately 38 pellet producing companies at 54 different locations. In the year 2012 they produced about 2.2 million tons of pellets whereby about 90% are certified according to one of the existing certification schemes. Main argument for the use of the certification schemes is that problems in the past, mostly fines and size distribution, can be solved with a good quality control and assurance. The certification label demonstrates and proves the good quality to the end-user.

## **4. Quality of the workshop**

### **4.1. Feedback from participants**

It was planned that participants take part actively in the workshop. Intense discussions take place and there was good exchange among the participants themselves. Positive feedback from participants shows that they appreciated this form of workshop. Main topics of discussion were the amount of fines at the point of delivery at the end-consumer, odour nuisance from pellets, pellet-length and the proportional distribution, sulphur content and general problems with small scale user pellet storage.

A lack within the standards was seen regarding the storages for pellets at the end-user, even though this is not in the focus of the existing standards yet. They wish to have further reporting duties concerning the inblow parameters which can be an influencing factor for the amount of fines in the pellet delivery. Further, they wish to have stronger regulations regarding the design of pellet-storages, design and position of the filling and discharging systems. This is because participants mentioned incidents where confusing answers were given to end-consumer, especially from heating engineers who installed the pellet heating system. These people often are not know which standards are relevant, that the national standards are not in force any more, that several certification schemes exist or what the difference between certification, standard or even just a marketing argument (for example: very low amount of fines) is.

It was criticized that standards are not free available. It would help to disseminate the knowledge about quality and quality aspects of wood pellets. A hint was given that the ENplus-Handbook is free available and contains most important facts and figures.

Two participants are planning to implement the standards as a precondition for the certification system. Reasons for the implementation are the wish of the producer to document their efforts in quality assurance and the ability of providing reliable solid biofuel quality.

## **4.2. Lessons learned**

The knowledge about standards in general and especially the relatively new standards for solid biomass fuels is on a good level for the producers of wood pellets who use them already in most production sites. But it could be improved for those groups who are in direct contact with the end-user, as heating engineers or salesman. Some participants wish stronger reporting duties at the point of delivery to the end-user to prevent later complaints.

The workshop timing of about 5 hours was well planned based on the experience of the trainings. Nevertheless some participants had to leave earlier because of a long way home. More than half of the participants had a single way home of more than 300 km. This should be kept in mind when planning workshops in the future.

## **5. Conclusions**

Standardized products have unified properties which makes it for different user groups easier to handle and allow a safe use. The complication-free use is a precondition for the rapid spread on the market. Most pellet-manufacturers in Germany use the new product and quality assurance standards which are basis for a certification schema as ENplus or DINplus. But the knowledge about it should be more spread also to upstream and downstream market actors. Workshops and trainings help to inform actors of the branch about the current state and about the background why some dates and figures are introduced in the standards. Participants appreciate to see the realization of quality assurance measures in praxis.

## **Annex I - Participants list**

Teilnehmerliste Projektworkshop SolidStandards - Erfahrungsbericht Normenimplementierung

Dienstag, 3. Dezember 2013 bei Pfeifer Holz Lauterbach GmbH, Am Hällstein 1, D-36341 Lauterbach

Anzahl	Name, Vorname	Firma/Institution	Unterschrift
Referent	Hoelt, Martin	Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum, Leipzig	M. Hoelt
Referent	Bosch, Jakob	DEPI-Deutsches Pelletinstitut, Berlin	
Referent	Herold, Uwe	Pfeifer Holz, Lauterbach	
1	Ziegler, David	Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum, Leipzig	
2	Dr. Frankenfeld, Marina	ZR-Holzrecycling GmbH, Gießen	
3	Mühmel, Oliver	Energiepellets Oberhonnefeld GmbH	
Unter Vorbehalt	Schäferling, Benedikt	DEPI-Deutsches Pelletinstitut, Berlin	
4	Gretz, Petra	Kompostierungs-Service Käsmeyer, Erkeim	
5	<del>Dollinger</del> Erich <i>Wolfs Gerhard</i>	Kompostierungs-Service Käsmeyer, Erkeim	
6	Diets, Hans	Raiffeisen Vogelsberg GmbH, Lauterbach	
7	Stütz, Herbert	Raiffeisen Vogelsberg GmbH, Lauterbach	
8	Gumpp, Peter	Gumpp Brennstoffhandel, Gemünden	
9	Geßwein, Bodo	Bohn Holz + Logistik GmbH, Schwalmtal	
10	Brumm, Severin	Firestixx Holz-Energie GmbH, Essenbach - Altheim	
11	Biendl, Stephan	Firestixx Holz-Energie GmbH, Essenbach - Altheim	
12	Basemann, Gerhard	Bruno Reimann GmbH, Bad Harzburg	
13	Gersbeck, Erich	Landesbetrieb Landwirtschaft Hessen, Kassel	
14	Olbrich, Günter	Pellet-Einkaufsgemeinschaft Rosenthal	
15	Fricke, Oliver	Juwi Energielösungen GmbH, Wörstadt	
16	<i>Martens Christian</i>	<i>Gabel Meyer GmbH, Hopp</i>	
17	<i>Florian Siska</i>	<i>Pfeifer Holz</i>	