



## Biomass Suppliers List

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### Consumer Question and Answers Document

Issue 1.5

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## 1. General overview

### 1.1 What is the Biomass Suppliers List?

The Biomass Suppliers List is a method which will be used to provide RHI participants with a simple way to demonstrate that their fuel complies with RHI fuel sustainability standards. Suppliers who wish to register their fuel(s) on the List will be required to submit data for audit by the BSL Administrator. Suppliers who successfully register fuel(s) on the RHI Biomass Suppliers List will be permitted to label their compliant products with the BSL mark to illustrate that this fuel complies with RHI sustainability criteria.

### 1.2 What fuels are covered?

- Pellets
- Briquettes
- Chip
- Firewood

### 1.3 How does a customer get the RHI payment?

Please contact Ofgem for more information on how to apply to the domestic and non-domestic RHI schemes. Please go to <http://biomass-suppliers-list.service.gov.uk/contact-us> for further details.

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## 1.4 What if an RHI participant (end customer) purchases authorised fuel, which subsequently has its authorisation revoked?

It is DECC's intention that fuel listed on the BSL **at the time when it was received** by the RHI participant (the end customer) will be accepted as compliant with the sustainability criteria. In this way customers are not disadvantaged if the Trader loses their authorisation after the fuel was purchased.

Time of purchase refers to the date on the relevant receipt or invoice.

## 1.5 How do I know what fuel to buy for my boiler?

You should speak to your manufacturer/installer if you are unsure what type of fuel to use in your boiler.

Once you know the fuel type, use the BSL Find a Fuel website to locate where you will buy it from:

<http://biomass-suppliers-list.service.gov.uk/find-a-fuel>

When you contact any of the suppliers listed there, please let them know that you're looking in particular for their BSL-authorised fuel, as they may also legitimately have other, non-authorised fuels in stock. From 5 October 2015 it is a mandatory requirement of the RHI scheme that you use only sustainable biomass fuel in order to receive your RHI payments.

## 1.6 Can I buy a BSL authorised fuel if I'm not claiming the RHI?

Yes.

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## 1.7 How do I get in touch with you?

You can contact the BSL Administrator via telephone or email:

Phone: 020 7090 7769

Email: [bslhelpdesk@gemserv.com](mailto:bslhelpdesk@gemserv.com)

## 1.8 How does BSL relate to the quality of fuel?

The BSL is not a fuel quality scheme. However, in order to assist those RHI participants (end customers) who wish to differentiate by quality, we do allow authorised Traders to state on the BSL whether they are a member of a Quality Scheme. The two Quality Schemes we currently accept are ENPlus and Woodsure. Traders who would like us to list other fuel quality schemes of which they are a member may request this at the application stage, and we will review that scheme and list if appropriate.

## 1.9 Does BSL authorisation mean there is any enhanced guarantee / warranty / consumer protection?

The regulations will allow Ofgem to accept, as compliant with the RHI sustainability criteria, fuels that were listed on BSL at the time received – providing invoices or receipts are retained to prove that the fuel is authorised. However, no further guarantees or warranties, for example with regard to fuel quality, are offered by DECC or the BSL Administrator.

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## 1.10 What do I do if I don't want to buy from the BSL or register as a Self-Supplier?

From autumn 2015, RHI participants using biomass feedstocks will need to ensure that their fuel meets the RHI sustainability criteria and demonstrate this to Ofgem. However, biogas, biomethane and CHP participants on the non-domestic scheme are not permitted to demonstrate that they meet the sustainability requirements through sourcing from the BSL.

To do this, domestic participants will need to source their fuel from the BSL. Non-domestic participants will have two options: sourcing from the BSL or self-reporting to Ofgem.

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## 2. Self-Suppliers

### 2.1 What if I produce fuel for my own consumption?

If you wish to claim RHI for fuel that you have produced yourself rather than purchased, and don't intend to sell it onwards, you may be eligible to become a BSL Self-Supplier. Self-Suppliers are recognised by Ofgem as having been approved by the BSL Administrator. For more information on becoming a Self-Supplier, see the 'Applications and Audit Guidance' document on the BSL website.

### 2.2 I have my own woodland and process this timber myself for use in my own boiler. However, I also purchase extra roundwood and process this myself to supplement my own supply. Am I still a self-supplier?

If you are processing raw materials (roundwood) bought in from elsewhere into fuel, and wish to use the BSL to demonstrate compliance with the sustainability criteria (as opposed to self-reporting to Ofgem), then you should register as a producer-trader. You can include the timber you source from your own woodland as a raw material within this application, and do not need to do a separate self-supplier application.

You should keep records of all timber you process including the quantity that is your own.

## 2.3 I am a non-domestic RHI participant, and I buy in roundwood from another supplier and chip them myself for my own use. Am I a self-supplier, and if not, how do I demonstrate sustainability?

Non-domestic RHI participants will have two methods of demonstrating compliance with the forthcoming sustainability criteria:

1. Self-reporting directly to Ofgem against the criteria – click [here](#) for more information.
2. Sourcing fuel from the BSL.

If you are buying in raw materials from another supplier and processing those raw materials into fuel, you are not a self-supplier and cannot register on the BSL as a self-supplier. If you wish to use the BSL to demonstrate compliance with the sustainability criteria, you are able to register on the BSL as a producer-trader as you are processing raw materials into fuel for use by an end consumer (in this case yourself). You do not need to be listed on the online BSL for consumers to find a supplier if you do not wish to (select the opt-out within the application form), and will not need provide proof of purchase in the form of receipts or invoices, but for the purposes of demonstrating compliance to Ofgem once the RHI Biomass Sustainability regulations come into force, you are asked to retain proof that the fuel they are using is authorised on the BSL, and are recommended to keep this in the form of a log (within or alongside the existing RHI fuel records which you are already required to retain) showing your BSL authorisation mark, number, fuel type, quantity or volume produced in tonnes/kg/m<sup>3</sup>/net heat/gross heat (on an ongoing basis), and moisture content (% on a wet basis).

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## 2.4 What is the difference between a raw material and a fuel?

Raw materials are set to undergo further processing (e.g. cutting, drying, chipping) before they are used in a boiler. A fuel is something that will not undergo any further processing before it is used in a boiler.

The BSL is not a list of raw materials, it is a list of fuels, and suppliers of raw materials should not seek to register those raw materials. The BSL has four fuel types: firewood, chip, pellet and briquette.

## Version Control

<b>Issue No.</b>	<b>Amendment Details</b>	<b>Date</b>
1.0	First publication	24.09.2014
1.1	1.10 updated to reflect expectation that regulations will apply from autumn 2015	17.11.2014
1.2	1.5 enhanced with additional information including location of Find a Fuel website	28.11.2014
1.3	1.5 enhanced to reference RHI launch date and requirements	03.12.2014
1.4	Minor amendment to 1.5 to correct typing error	10.03.2015
1.5	Amendment to dates in 1.5 and 1.9 for RHI claim. Minor amendments to 1.10.	20.09.2015