



BSI Standards Publication

Bio-based products - Examples of reporting on sustainability criteria

National foreword

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A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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English Version

Bio-based products - Examples of reporting on sustainability criteria

Produits biosourcés - Exemples de rapports relatifs aux critères de durabilité

Biobasierte Produkte - Beispiele für die Berichterstattung zu Nachhaltigkeitskriterien

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European foreword

This document (CEN/TR 17341:2019) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 411 “Bio-based products”, the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association.

Introduction

Bio-based products from forestry and agriculture have a long history of application, such as paper, board and various chemicals and materials. The last decades have seen the emergence of new bio-based products in the market. Some of the reasons for the increased interest lie in the bio-based products' benefits in relation to the depletion of fossil resources and climate change. Bio-based products may also provide additional product functionalities. This has triggered a wave of innovation with the development of knowledge and technologies allowing new transformation processes and product development.

Acknowledging the need for common standards for bio-based products, the European Commission issued mandate M/4921, resulting in a series of standards developed by CEN/TC 411, with a focus on bio-based products other than food, feed and biomass for energy applications.

The standards of CEN/TC 411 "Bio-based products" provide a common basis on the following aspects:

- Common terminology;
- Bio-based content determination;
- Life Cycle Assessment (LCA);
- Sustainability aspects;
- Declaration tools.

It is important to understand what the term bio-based product covers and how it is being used. The term 'biobased' means 'derived from biomass'. Bio-based products (bottles, insulation materials, wood and wood products, paper, solvents, chemical intermediates, composite materials, et cetera) are products which are wholly or partly derived from biomass. It is essential to characterize the amount of biomass contained in the product by for instance its bio-based content or bio-based carbon content.

The bio-based content of a product does not provide information on its environmental impact or sustainability, which may be assessed through LCA and sustainability criteria. In addition, transparent and unambiguous communication within bio-based value chains is facilitated by a harmonized framework for certification and declaration.

The aim of this Technical Report is to give some examples on how to apply EN 16751 *Bio-based products – Sustainability criteria*. These examples give guidance and ideas on how to respond to the indicators in that European Standard.

1 Scope

This document provides examples of business to business (B2B) reporting in accordance with EN 16751 Bio-based products – Sustainability criteria. This Technical Report also offers some additional guidance to the user of EN 16751.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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.

EN 16751, *Bio-based products — Sustainability criteria*

EN 16575, *Bio-based products — Vocabulary*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in EN 16575 and EN 16751 apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

4 General guidance

The examples in Clause 5 give additional information and guidance to the economic operator and other users of EN 16751 to better understand and respond to the indicators in that standard. According to EN 16751, it is required to report on the sustainability of the biomass production, and it is encouraged to apply the standard to the entire supply chain (including the biomass production).

In this TR, one of the examples is only regarding the biomass production while two are for the entire supply chain until leaving the mill/factory of the economic operator applying the standard. The examples provided in this Technical Report are not a comprehensive list.

These examples are informative and intended as help for an economic operator applying EN 16751. In practice, it is the business-to-business and/or the business-to-consumer relationship that determines the level of ambition, which can thus be both higher and lower than in these examples.

The level of detail in the responses in these examples differ. Since usually economic and administrative burdens are connected with acquiring the necessary information, in practice, the level of risk for significant negative sustainability impacts should be a guiding principle. In case the level of risk is deemed low or very low, the justification should be transparently documented.

Some indicators in EN 16751 may be wholly or partly covered by relevant legal requirements, national regulations or recognized best practice. One example is proven implementation of sustainable agricultural cultivation/good farming practice, including crop rotation on all agriculturally used areas according to Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 Cross Compliance, or according to national legislation. If the organization is certified under a voluntary certification system that covers one or more indicators required by EN 16751, this may be referenced in the response(s). If the organization is applying a management system such as EN ISO 14001, EMAS or EN ISO 50001, this may also be referenced in the responses.

As stated in 4.1 of EN 16751, in some cases the response to an indicator may be “not relevant” or “not applicable” together with a justification.