



Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative (SSCI)  
SSCI Benchmarking Requirements  
Version 2.0

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BENCHMARK**

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# Introduction

This document is Part III of the SSCI Environmental Benchmarking Requirements, which has been developed by the Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative (SSCI) at The Consumer Goods Forum (CGF) to specify the requirements for the recognition of third-party environmental auditing, monitoring, and certification standards (Scheme Owners).

The SSCI presently carries out a social benchmark and has been working since 2022 to expand its scope to environmental sustainability.

Part III, also known as Environmental Benchmark, specifies all the requirements for benchmarking the environmental compliance of a Scheme Owner who seeks recognition by the SSCI.

After member and strategic partner development and Public Consultation, this document presents the final requirements applicable to Primary Production, Manufacturing, and Forestry standards. The self-assessment details the applicability of the requirements for each sector.

For more information about the benchmarking process, please refer to Part I, and for a glossary of relevant terms, please refer to Part IV.

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# CHAPTER 1: Environmental Management System

NUMBER	SSCI BENCHMARKING REQUIREMENTS
1.1	<p>The standard shall require that top management demonstrates its commitment to environmental sustainability.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: a company-wide environmental policy, public statements, training and implementation plan and programs, organisation charts, environmental management system, etc.</i></p>
1.2	<p>The standard shall require that the organisation's environmental commitments, including goals and objectives, are publicly available.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: web site information, public environmental reports, etc.</i></p>
1.3	<p>The standard shall require that the organisation's environmental commitments are communicated internally as appropriate.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: intranet information, posters, informative letters and emails, employee handbook, induction programs, training materials, etc.</i></p>
1.4	<p>The standard shall require that the responsibility for the implementation of the standard's requirements is assigned to top management.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: Organisations chart, job descriptions, environmental policy, letter of assignment, management KPIs, etc.</i></p>
1.5	<p>The standard shall require that personnel in relevant business functions receive training on the standard's requirements, appropriate for their roles and responsibilities.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: assessment of training needs, training plans and programs, training content, attendance records, etc.</i></p>
1.6	<p>The standard shall require that contractors under its control, doing work that affects its environmental performance and its ability to fulfil its compliance obligations, are competent on the basis of appropriate education, training or experience.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: contracting procedures, contractor monitoring and/or evaluation program, contractor's professional licences, certifications and/or accreditations. etc.</i></p>
1.7	<p>The standard shall require that the organisation has a responsible sourcing policy with the aim of buying high risk ingredients, materials and components that comply with the standard's requirements.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: Ingredients, materials and components risk assessment, responsible sourcing policy, procedure for approval of suppliers, supplier certifications, verification protocol for high risk components.</i></p>
1.8	<p>The standard shall require that records on the annual production(s) and their respective certification claim(s) are maintained and available to stakeholders for chain of custody and certification of finished products.</p>

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	<i>Implementation examples: record keeping procedures, record storage systems, etc.</i>
1.9	<p>The standard shall require that records and documentation (e.g., measurements, training records...) are maintained and accessible for a defined period of time to demonstrate compliance with the standards' requirements.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: record-keeping procedures, record storage systems, etc.</i></p>
1.10	<p>The standard shall require that significant environmental aspects and impacts (negative and positive) are identified and that risks and opportunities related to its environmental aspects are determined.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: risk assessment procedure and results, list of significant aspects, list with risk and opportunities, materiality assessment, etc.</i></p>
1.11	<p>The standard shall require that a management plan is implemented, including environmental goals, objectives and actions to achieve the objectives.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: documented management plan, measurable objectives and targets, environmental management system, environmental management certifications, etc.</i></p>
1.12	<p>The standard shall require that the environmental performance of the organisation is monitored, the progress periodically reviewed and the results of this monitoring and evaluation fed back into the planning process to ensure continuous improvement.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: a description of monitoring systems of environmental performance, monitoring records, management review process and/or minutes of meeting, review and update of the management plan, etc.</i></p>

## CHAPTER 2: Compliance, Transparency and Complaints

NUMBER	SSCI BENCHMARKING REQUIREMENTS
2.1	<p>The standard shall require that the organisation fulfils its compliance obligations.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: Legal register, legal compliance audit records, permits and licences, compliance requirements document/process, change management processes including compliance considerations, etc.</i></p>
2.2	<p>The standard shall require that the organisation makes adequate information on its sustainability performance available to stakeholders.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: publication of environmental reporting, information shared on the webpage, sustainability performance communications to stakeholders, etc.</i></p>
2.3	<p>The standard shall require that a mechanism to address complaints or concerns, regarding the organisation's environmental performance or its compliance obligations, is established. The mechanism shall be accessible and understandable to all workers and external parties.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: grievance or complaint procedures, hotline contract, records of received complaints, complaint investigation reports, etc.</i></p>
2.4	<p>The standard shall require that the confidentiality of any complaint concerning environmental performance raised is protected, and information is revealed only as necessary to investigate and handle the complaint.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: grievance or complaint procedures, hotline contract, records of received complaints, complaint investigation reports, emails and communications concerning complaints, etc.</i></p>
2.5	<p>The standard shall require that no worker or external party that lodged an environmental complaint in good faith is retaliated against.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: grievance or complaint procedures, hotline contract, records of received complaints, complaint investigation reports, emails and communications concerning complaints, etc.</i></p>

## CHAPTER 3: Pollution Prevention

NUMBER	SSCI BENCHMARKING REQUIREMENTS
3.1	<p>The standard shall require that systems and processes shall be implemented for pollution prevention and to minimise the risk of pollution incidents.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: procedures for management, storage, handling and disposal of all hazardous substances, training materials and records, employee licences, adequate storage facilities, adequate washing facilities, waste disposal SOPs, availability of SDSs, inspection checklists and reports, etc.</i></p>
3.2	<p>The standard shall require that systems and processes shall be implemented to prevent the drift or run-off of pollutants to neighbouring areas.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: Drift prevention plan, Stormwater pollution prevention plan, justification for the use of aerial applications, records of aerial applications, maintenance and calibration records of application equipments, pesticide-free spatial and vegetative buffers, etc.</i></p>
3.3	<p>The standard shall require that systems and processes are in place to contain and mitigate the pollution of air, soil and/or surface and groundwater.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: pollution prevention guidance documents, standard operating procedures (SOPs), training materials and records; appropriate materials and supplies necessary to manage spills, machinery maintenance logs and inspection records, etc.</i></p>
3.4	<p>The standard shall require that pollution incidents are communicated to affected stakeholders, as appropriate.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: register of incidents, communications to stakeholders, emergency plan including communication requirements, training materials on emergency procedures, etc.</i></p>
3.5	<p>The standard shall require that an emergency response plan is in place, detailing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- roles and responsibilities,</li> <li>- training requirements</li> <li>- response guidelines and</li> <li>- annual drill requirements</li> </ul> <p>for the prevention and management of major incidents, including environmental incidents, as needed according to the risks of the activities undertaken on the production or processing sites.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: documented emergency plan, training materials and records on emergency procedures, drill plan and reports, emergency information in the premises, job descriptions, etc.</i></p>
3.6	<p>The standard shall require that major incidents shall be investigated, corrective and preventive actions identified and implemented and the results of the investigation communicated to the affected stakeholders.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: Incident investigation process description and reports, communication notice of investigation results, etc.</i></p>



# CHAPTER 4: Management of Potentially Hazardous Substances

NUMBER	SSCI BENCHMARKING REQUIREMENTS
4.1	<p>The standard shall require that an inventory of hazardous substances used and stored is maintained.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: procedures for management, storage, handling and disposal of all hazardous substances, list of hazardous substances used and stored on the production site, etc.</i></p>
4.2	<p>The standard shall require that only officially registered products are used. Where no official registration exists, the standard shall require that information such as the properties of each chemical; the physical, health, and environmental health hazards; protective measures; and safety precautions for handling, storing and transporting the chemical is provided according to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: procedures for management, storage, handling and disposal of hazardous substances, list of hazardous substances used and stored on the production site, safety data sheets (SDSs), training materials or guidance to help workers who handle hazardous chemicals to become familiar with the format and understand the contents of the SDSs, etc.</i></p>
4.3	<p>The standard shall forbid the use of hazardous chemicals listed by WHO (1A and B) and the Stockholm convention (A and B) and Rotterdam convention (Annex III).</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: list of prohibited chemicals, training materials and records concerning training about prohibited chemicals, chemical products purchase specifications etc.</i></p>
4.4	<p>If the standard allows for exemptions to the hazardous chemicals included in criterion 4.3 when there are no registered alternatives, the exemptions shall be for a limited use, publicly available, and be justified based on the basis of the protection of worker health and safety and/or food protection.</p>
4.5	<p>The standard shall require that systems and processes shall be implemented for the safe handling, storage, use, transportation and disposal of all hazardous substances, in order to minimise the potential for negative impacts on human health.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: procedures for management, storage, handling and disposal of all hazardous substances, training materials and records, employee licences, H&amp;S manual, PPE use guidance and instructions, records of PPE provision and inspection, adequate storage facilities, adequate washing facilities, waste disposal procedures, availability of SDSs, inspection procedures and reports, etc.</i></p>

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# CHAPTER 5: Integrated Pest Management

NUMBER	SSCI BENCHMARKING REQUIREMENTS
5.1	<p>The standard shall require that the organisation optimises the use of plant protection and/or pest control products by practising Integrated Pest Management or an IPM equivalent method.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: pest/disease scouting and monitoring protocol, pest monitoring records, training and guidance documents for pest monitoring, guidance and training to select the most selective crop protection treatment options, list of approved preventive non-chemical pest management strategies (e.g. crop rotation, cover crops, mulching...) and/or biological controls (e.g., owl nesting boxes, bio-pesticides, matting disruptor materials...), assessment reports to justify pesticide applications, pesticide risk assessment, etc.</i></p>
5.2	<p>The standard shall require that the plant protection and/or pest control and management practices include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- systematic pest monitoring (insects, weeds, diseases...)</li> <li>- use of non-chemical pest management strategies (cultural, physical/mechanical, biological)</li> <li>- monitoring the effectiveness of non-chemical control methods used</li> <li>- assessing pesticide risks and prioritising lower-risk options when using chemicals</li> </ul> <p><i>Implementation examples: pest/disease scouting and monitoring protocol, pest monitoring records, training and guidance documents for pest monitoring, guidance and training to select the most selective crop protection treatment options, list of approved preventive non-chemical pest management strategies (e.g. crop rotation, cover crops, mulching...) and/or biological controls (e.g., owl nesting boxes, bio-pesticides, matting disruptor materials...), assessment reports to justify pesticide applications, pesticide risk assessment, list of prohibited pesticides, etc.</i></p>
5.3	<p>The standard shall require that the use of plant protection and/or pest control products is recorded, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the product/trade name and active ingredients used,</li> <li>- the location treated,</li> <li>- the application rate (amount per Ha) and date,</li> <li>- the target pest and</li> <li>- the applicator's name.</li> </ul> <p><i>Implementation examples: pesticide application records, training materials on pesticide application, etc.</i></p>

## CHAPTER 6: Soil Health

NUMBER	SSCI BENCHMARKING REQUIREMENTS
6.1	<p>The standard shall require that areas at risk of erosion and compaction are identified and that prevention and mitigation shall be implemented.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: testing records on pH, NPK, organic matter, aggregate stability, compaction, infiltration rate, measures of the microbial community, land surveys, etc.</i></p>
6.2	<p>The standard shall require that measures to maintain soil health and promote soil health recovery shall be implemented.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: mapping of sensitive soils and erosion-prone areas, soil management plans, application of best practices such as tillage systems, cover cropping and addition of soil amendments, etc.</i></p>
6.3	<p>The standard shall require that soil health is measured and monitored on a regular basis, as appropriate.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: testing records on pH, NPK, organic matter, aggregate stability, compaction, infiltration rate, measures of the microbial community, etc.</i></p>
6.4	<p>The standard shall require that fertiliser use is based on the crop needs and available nutrients in the soil.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: testing records on pH, NPK, organic matter, etc.</i></p>
6.5	<p>The standard shall require that the use of fertilisers is recorded.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: fertiliser application records, training materials on fertiliser application, etc.</i></p>

## CHAPTER 7: Energy Use and GHG Emissions

NUMBER	SSCI BENCHMARKING REQUIREMENTS
7.1	<p>The standard shall require that the energy consumption is measured and monitored, and that types of energy sources used for production, processing and transport are quantified and documented.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: records of energy measurements, energy purchase contracts and bills, etc.</i></p>
7.2	<p>The standard shall require that energy efficiency measures shall be implemented to reduce the use of production and processing energy: absolute and per unit of production.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: energy management plan, energy efficiency certificates, energy analysis data and reports, etc.</i></p>
7.3	<p>The standard shall require that measures shall be implemented to optimise the use of renewable energy.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: energy management plan, energy efficiency certificates, energy analysis data and reports, energy optimisation software, green energy certifications, etc.</i></p>
7.4	<p>7.4 The standard shall require that scope 1 and 2 GHG (Greenhouse Gas) emissions are measured and monitored.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: Records and calculations of GHG emission measurements, energy purchase contracts and energy bills, GHG reporting documents, etc.</i></p>
7.5	<p>The standard shall require that measures shall be implemented to reduce/optimize GHG emissions in line with relevant protocols.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: GHG Reduction Programs &amp; Strategies, GHG emission analysis data and reports, energy certifications, software tools, Science based targets, etc.</i></p>

## CHAPTER 8: Water Protection

NUMBER	SSCI BENCHMARKING REQUIREMENTS
8.1	<p>The standard shall require that sources of water used for production and processing, if any, are identified.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: water source map/list, water protection policy, acquisition due diligence reports on water resources, etc.</i></p>
8.2	<p>The standard shall require water consumption for production and processing is measured and monitored.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: water consumption measurement and analysis records, etc.</i></p>
8.3	<p>The standard shall require that water efficiency measures shall be implemented to optimise the use of production and processing water: absolute and per unit of production.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: water management program, water protection policy and strategy, soil moisture measurement records, etc.</i></p>
8.4	<p>The standard shall require that measures shall be implemented to avoid the depletion of groundwater resources beyond its recharge capacity.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: water management program, water protection policy and strategy, groundwater removal permits and reports, acquisition due diligence reports on water resources, etc.</i></p>
8.5	<p>The standard shall require that measures shall be implemented to ensure that irrigation is tailored to the crop needs.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: irrigation management plans and schedules, water protection policy and strategy, crop irrigation needs assessment, precision irrigation methods, soil or plant moisture measurement records, etc.</i></p>
8.6	<p>The standard shall require that measures shall be implemented to protecting the water quality of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, other water bodies and riparian areas during production and processing.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: wastewater quantity and quality measurement records, wastewater management program, wastewater objectives and targets, etc.</i></p>

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## CHAPTER 9: Waste

NUMBER	SSCI BENCHMARKING REQUIREMENTS
9.1	<p>The standard shall require that systems and processes are implemented for the safe handling, storage, transportation and disposal of waste.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: procedures for handling, storage, transport and disposal of waste, vendor agreements with waste management services, training materials and records, availability of SDSs, waste adequate management facilities, etc.</i></p>
9.2	<p>The standard shall require that systems and processes shall be implemented for resource recovery, including repurpose, reuse, compost or recycle of residues and waste.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: waste segregation guidelines and training materials, waste reduction training reports, resource valuation reports, composting facilities and training materials, resource delivery notes, etc.</i></p>
9.3	<p>The standard shall require that systems and processes shall be implemented to reduce the generation of processing and manufacturing waste, including unsold product.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: Waste reduction plan, waste reduction strategy, waste reduction programs, waste generation measurement and monitoring, training materials on waste reduction, training records on waste reduction.</i></p>
9.4	<p>The standard shall require that systems and processes shall be implemented to prevent the excessive loss of food crops, other harvest products and/or merchantable waste during harvest and on-farm storage.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: training and guidance materials on food loss prevention, processes and measures to avoid mould and vermin, crop loss monitoring records, crop storage inspection reports, etc.</i></p>
9.5	<p>The standard shall require that open-air burning of residues, wastes or by-products is avoided and, where possible, eliminated.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: procedures for disposal of waste and by-products, vendor agreements with waste management services, training materials and records, etc.</i></p>
9.6	<p>The standard shall require that the waste generated and diverted from the landfill, including unsold product, is measured and monitored.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: records of total waste produced and waste sent to landfills, delivery notes from landfills, etc</i></p>

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# CHAPTER 10: Land Use and Biodiversity

NUMBER	SSCI BENCHMARKING REQUIREMENTS
10.1	<p>The standard shall require that areas within or close to the production or processing sites, that fall under the definition of high conservation value (HCV), ecologically important, special sites or protected areas are identified.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: map and catalogue of HVC, ecologically important, special sites or protected areas, communications with experts, etc.</i></p>
10.2	<p>The standard shall require that production or processing does not occur in areas that fall under the definition of high conservation value (HCV), ecologically important or special sites, protected areas, or their officially designated buffer zones. Exceptions might apply if the HVC values are maintained.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: map, catalogue and management plans of HVC, ecologically important, special sites or protected areas, employee training materials, due diligence protocol for the acquisition of land, etc.</i></p>
10.3	<p>The standard shall require a written deforestation/conversion policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identifying the regions of application and relevant natural forest and ecosystems types,</li> <li>- committing to prevent the conversion of natural forests, or other natural ecosystems, to agriculture, plantation forestry or other land uses and</li> <li>- defining deforestation cut-off dates(s) in line with applicable deforestation protocols.</li> </ul> <p><i>Implementation examples: written deforestation/conversion policy, policy publication at the company website, employee training on the policy, etc</i></p>
10.4	<p>The standard shall require the geolocation of all plots of land used for the production of the commodities most relevant in terms of driving global deforestation and forest degradation, including cattle, cocoa, coffee, oil palm, rubber, soya and wood.</p> <p>*Commodities most relevant in terms of driving global deforestation are in line with the EUDR legislation</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: Geolocation data, contract with geolocation service, geolocation digital applications, supplier due diligence procedure, etc.</i></p>
10.5	<p>The standard shall require that the organisation avoids, remedies or mitigates negative environmental impacts, which may arise from the organisation's activities, on biodiversity values and the quality of areas that fall under the definition of high conservation value (HCV), ecologically important or special sites or protected areas.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: map, catalogue and management plans of HVC, ecologically important, special sites or protected areas, employee training materials, due diligence protocol for the acquisition of land, risk assessment with prevention measures, remediation and mitigation reports, etc.</i></p>
10.6	<p>The standard shall require that fire is not used for preparing or cleaning fields, except when specifically justified in the IPM plan or as a tool in forest management for regeneration, wildfire protection and habitat management or a recognized practice of indigenous people.</p>

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	<i>Implementation examples: procedures and employee training materials for preparing and cleaning fields, etc.</i>
10.7	<p>The standard shall require native habitats and natural communities within or close to the production or processing sites are protected.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: assessment report of native habitats and natural communities to determine their presence, due diligence for farmland acquisition, policies and practices for managing native habitats and natural communities; employee training materials for identifying and managing for native habitats and natural communities, etc.</i></p>
10.8	<p>The standard shall require that endemic rare, threatened or endangered species permanently or temporary present on the production or processing sites are protected. Hunting or collecting of these species shall not be allowed.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: analysis on the presence of rare, threatened or endangered species on site, due diligence before land acquisition, employee training on rare, threatened or endangered species identification and management, etc</i></p>
10.9	<p>The standard shall require that measures are implemented to prevent alien invasive species from invading areas outside the production or processing sites.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: information and guidance materials on alien invasive species on site, employee training materials on management of alien invasive species, etc</i></p>



## CHAPTER 11: Animal welfare

The criteria listed under Part III – Chapter 11 are only applicable to schemes including livestock farming in their scope.

NUMBER	SSCI BENCHMARKING REQUIREMENTS
11.1	<p>The standard shall require that adequate measures for good animal welfare are implemented.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: animal welfare policy and principles, documents about animal welfare protection including guidance on disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling, and humane slaughter; animal welfare assessment protocols and reports, employee training materials on animal welfare, animal testing policy, etc.</i></p>

## CHAPTER 12: Forest Practices

The criteria listed under Part III – Chapter 12 are only applicable to forestry schemes.

NUMBER	SSCI BENCHMARKING REQUIREMENTS
12.1	<p>The standard shall require that the organisation supports initiatives delivering forest positive development.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: Forest positive policy, participation or support of initiatives delivering forest positive development at landscape/jurisdictional and/or sectoral level.</i></p>
12.2	<p>The standard shall require that the protective functions of forests such as their potential role in erosion control, flood prevention, water purification and protection, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services shall be maintained or enhanced.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: Contracting procedures, contractor monitoring and/or evaluation program, contractor's professional licences, certifications and/or accreditations, etc.</i></p>
12.3	<p>The standard shall require that the health and vitality of forest shall be monitored.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: Measurement and monitoring of forest health indicators such as Crown Condition, Tree Damage, Tree Mortality, Standing Dead Trees, Lichen Communities, Soil Quality, Non-native Invasive Plants, Fragmentation, etc.</i></p>
12.4	<p>The standard shall require that the health and vitality of forest shall be maintained or enhanced.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: Forest positive policy, Forest health evaluation reports, Programs to maintain or enhance forest health, etc.</i></p>
12.5	<p>The standard shall require that wood harvesting levels shall not exceed a rate that can be sustained in the long term.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: Wood harvest policy. Forest management plans including long-term sustainable harvest levels and measures. Identification of the maximum sustainable harvest, measuring and monitoring indicators comparing net growth with wood harvest (removals).</i></p>
12.6	<p>The standard shall require that structural and biological diversity is encouraged or maintained to enhance the stability, vitality and resilience of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: Forest positive policy. Measurement and monitoring of forest structural diversity and resilience. Programs and plans to maintain structural diversity and natural regulation mechanisms. Forest practices that emulate natural disturbances. Measures to increase fire resiliences such as thinning crowded forests or using prescribed fire. Wildfire protection strategies. Participation in conferences, seminars and training programs about forest diversity and resilience.</i></p>
12.7	<p>The standard shall require that degraded forests shall be rehabilitated as far as economically viable.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: Forest rehabilitation plans and programs, Reports on rehabilitation programs, Tree planting records, etc.</i></p>

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12.8	<p>The standard shall require that harvesting, processing and transport activities shall be conducted in a way that minimises damage to ecosystems.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: Forest management procedures. Training of workers on forest management practices. Reforestation and afforestation policies, programmes and plans.</i></p>
12.9	<p>The standard shall require that native species and local genotypes are used for forest reforestation/afforestation unless there is clear and convincing justification for using others.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: Identification of local species and genotypes. Reforestation and afforestation policies, programs and plans.</i></p>
12.10	<p>The standard shall require that afforestation does not take place in ecologically important non-forest ecosystems or in locations which negatively impact ecologically important natural communities, threatened and endangered species, or native natural communities which could be at risk of becoming rare.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: Reforestation and afforestation impact assessments, plans and programs.</i></p>

## CHAPTER 13: Ecodesign

The criteria listed under Part III – Chapter 13 are only applicable to manufacturing.

NUMBER	SSCI BENCHMARKING REQUIREMENTS
13.1	<p>The standard shall require that products and its packaging are designed to minimise their environmental impact and stimulate supply chain circularity.</p> <p><i>Implementation examples: Eco design policies and procedures. Product life-cycle analysis. Product requirements and rules on sustainable packaging.</i></p>

# Annex 1

The SSCI Benchmarking Requirements – Part III – Primary Production are based on international references and widely adopted sustainability schemes. The list of references used for informative purposes can be found below.

REFERENCES OF THE SSCI BENCHMARKING REQUIREMENTS – PART III - Environmental Benchmark	
1.	UN Rotterdam Convention (1998)
2.	UN Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2001)
3.	The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard and Guidelines to Classification (2019)

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE SSCI BENCHMARKING REQUIREMENTS – PART III - Environmental Benchmark	
1.	Accountability Framework Initiative (AFI) – Terms & Definitions - June 2019
2.	AFI Operational Guidance Applying the Definitions Related to Deforestation and Conversion - April 2023
3.	Better Cotton Initiative VERSION 2.1   1 MARCH 2018
4.	Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention, 1979)
5.	Equitable Food Initiative VERSION 2.0, NOVEMBER 30TH, 2018
6.	European Union (1979) Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats (Bern Convention). 19.IX.1979. The Council of Europe, Bern, Germany
7.	EU Anti-Deforestation Regulation (European Commission, 2022)
8.	Fair for Life Version May 2022
9.	Fairtrade USA Factory Production
10.	Fairtrade Carbon Credits (FCCs) for smallholders - Group certification
11.	Fairtrade Standard for Small-scale Producer Organizations 03.04.2019_v2.5
12.	Fairtrade USA Agricultural Production Standard Version 1.2.0 January 1, 2022
13.	FEFAC SOY SOURCING GUIDELINES 2021
14.	Florverde VERSION 7.1.3 (SEPTEMBER 2023)
15.	Front Ecol Environ 2023; 21(1): 33–39, doi:10.1002/fee.2586
16.	FSC Glossary of Terms

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17. FSC Principles and Criteria (P&C) for Forest Stewardship (FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)
18. GLOBAL G.A.P. F&V scope v6.0 (June 2022)
19. GSCP ERR (supply chain) October 2010
20. GSSI (aquaculture) Global Benchmark Framework v2.0
21. Good Weave International Generic Standard, version 1.1
22. ICS Code of Conduct 2018
23. ISO 12099:2017(en), Animal feeding stuffs, cereals and milled cereal products, 2.3
24. ISO 14001:2015, Environmental management systems — Requirements with guidance for use
25. ISO 14004:2016, Environmental management systems — General guidelines on principles, systems and support techniques
26. ISO 14031:2013, Environmental management — Environmental performance evaluation — Guidelines
27. ISO 14050:2020, Environmental management — Vocabulary
28. ISO 14063:2020, Environmental management — Environmental communication — Guidelines and examples
29. ISO 20670:2023, Water reuse
30. ISO 22716:2007, Cosmetics — Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) — Guidelines on Good Manufacturing Practices
31. ISO 28901:2011(en), Soil quality — Guidance for burial of animal carcasses to prevent epidemics
32. ISO 34101-2:2019, Sustainable and traceable cocoa — Part 2: Requirements for performance (related to economic, social and environmental aspects)
33. ISO 35102:2020, Petroleum and natural gas industries
34. ISO 45001:2018, Occupational health and safety management systems
35. ISO 52000-1:2017, Energy performance of buildings
36. ISO 8887-2:2023(en), Technical product documentation — Design for manufacturing, assembling, disassembling and end-of-life processing
37. Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard Est. 2020 Guidebook
38. LEAF Marque Standard Version 15.0
39. MPS-ABC EN MPS-ABC Certification Standard v16
40. MPS-GAP 24.02.2020
41. OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains
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43. POIG Verification Indicators September 2019
44. Preferred by nature 1.23 25 April 2022
45. Proterra Standard Version 4.0 | December 26, 2018

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46. Rainforest Alliance Farm requirements V1.2
47. Red Tractor - Crops VERSION 5:1 NOVEMBER 2021
48. Red Tractor Chicken VERSION 5.1: 1 OCTOBER 2022
49. Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2023 on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/201
50. RSPO P&C for the Production of Sustainable Palm Oil (2018)
51. RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production Version 4.0
52. SFG Sustainability Standard V1.5, November 24, 2021
53. SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard
54. SIZA Environmental Standard - 2020
55. SMETA Version 6.1 May 2019
56. Sustainably Grown Version 2-2, March 4, 2020
57. UN Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)
58. UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
59. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
60. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (2015).
61. University of California. State-wide Integrated Pest Management Project
62. USDA Certified Organic Code of Federal Regulations
63. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
64. World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) – Terrestrial Animal Health Code
65. WTO Fair Trade Standard
66. WWF Certification Assessment Tool (2015)

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