



Decision INRO 4/2013 of 27/11/2013

Guarantee of Traceability when passing certified Biomass through Value Chains

Companies are the ones who decide

The INRO criteria shall apply to agriculture. However, it is up to the companies to decide which method of traceability (Book and Claim, Massbalance, Segregation,...) they want to use. These must be implemented through qualified certification systems. Methods of traceability are chosen according to the companies' goals. A protection against the potential of forgery must be ensured. Furthermore, it must be ensured that the claim towards the customer is verifiable.

Explanation:

The implementation of a sustainability certification for the industrial use of biomass is in its initial phase. Moreover, it is partly a matter of highly complex value chains and of large, but also of smaller material flows. In some companies different options are currently being tested. Therefore, experiences with various processes shall be gained and evaluated in the first instance. In this phase, a commitment to one particular process of passing through the value chains would be counterproductive. However, it is important for NGOs and for companies alike that it is ensured that no forgery of results e.g. by double-counting etc. is possible. Therefore, traceability is an essential contribution for generating trustworthiness. At a later point, appropriate framework requirements that correspond to different areas of application shall be set.

Purchasers/customers demand verifications for certain products, ensuring that sustainably certified renewable raw materials are physically present in the product, whereas for other products a statement, stating that sustainably certified raw materials were used at the beginning of the production chain, is sufficient. These distinctions should not be a stumbling block in achieving a sustainable supply of raw materials.