



SAF MODULE

VOLUME 3

3. Sustainability Certification: Framework, Process, and Stakeholders

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What is Sustainability Certification?

- Sustainability certification is the process whereby a product, service, or organization is assessed against a set of criteria or standards to determine its environmental, social, and economic sustainability performance.
- These certifications are generally conducted by independent third-party organizations and serve as a way for consumers, businesses, and other stakeholders to identify and support sustainable practices.
- Sustainability certification for SAF aims to provide assurance to airlines, regulators, and consumers that the fuel meets rigorous sustainability criteria and contributes to reducing the aviation industry's environmental footprint.



Who Provides SAF Sustainability Certification?

- A sustainability certification standard is a structured framework or set of criteria used to assess and verify the sustainability performance of products, services, or organizations.
- Several organizations offer such standards under their sustainability certification schemes (SCS)
- As of today, two organizations are particularly prominent in SAF sustainability certification: the **International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC)**, and the **Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB)**. Both offer SAF sustainability certification schemes for regulatory compliance (specifically with CORSIA2 and EU RED3), and for the voluntary market
- For EU RED, the European Commission formally recognized 15 certification schemes for SAF certification but only two schemes (ISCC EU and RSB EU RED) are currently used in the market



Who Needs To Be Certified?

- SAF supply chains feature feedstock production, different processing and refining steps, and transportation and distribution of raw materials, intermediates, and final SAF
- As ensuring traceability and chain of custody is key to maintaining the integrity of SAF, it is essential that every “participant” – often also referred to as economic operator – is individually certified.
- Individual certification implies regular auditing of that **economic operator** – regarding compliance with sustainability requirements, traceability, and chain of custody, as well as accurate calculation of GHG emissions.



Who Are Economic Operators?

- **Economic Operators:** They are part of supply chains that can be governed by a particular regulatory framework, such as EU RED or ICAO CORSIA. Also known as Participating Operators, Economic operators include feedstock producers (e.g., farms or points of origin for wastes and residues), processing units (e.g., oil mills or SAF production plants), traders, and storage units.
- Each economic operator that takes part in the supply chain and handles (i.e., receives, stores, processes and forwards) sustainable product will need to be certified.
- Economic operators are audited by certification bodies against the requirements set by certification schemes, concerning feedstock sustainability criteria, their traceability and chain-of-custody system, and greenhouse gas emissions

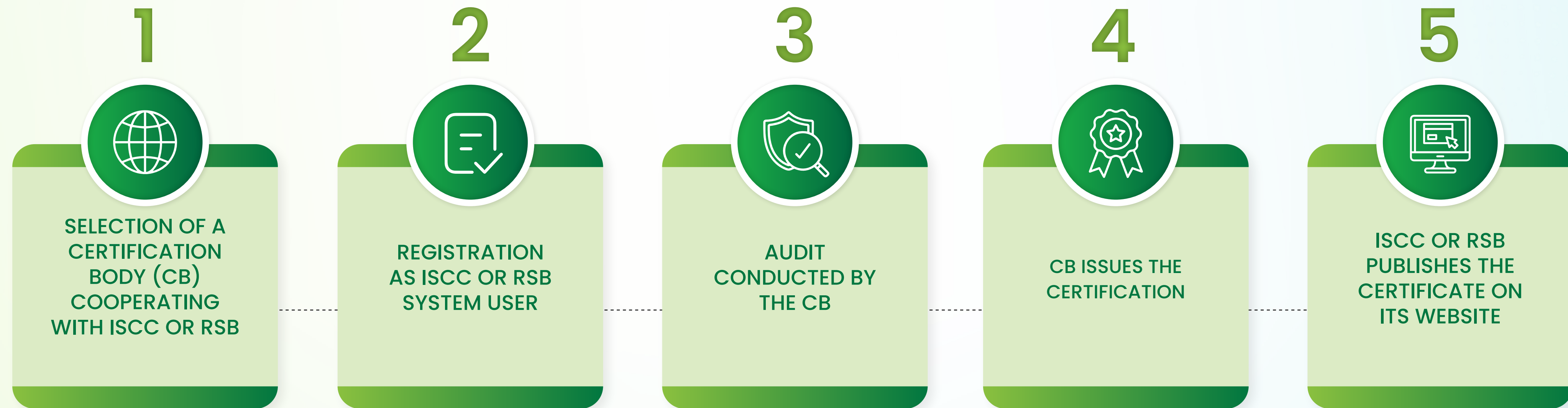


What Activities Can a Certified Entity Perform?

- Certification recognizes that an entity (i.e., an economic operator such as a feedstock producer, fuel producer or trader) has demonstrated compliance with specific sustainability criteria and standards established for SAF production and supply chains under a certain certification scheme.
- With this recognition, the certified entity is in the position to handle (i.e., receive, store, process and further sell) certified sustainable material and issue valid documentation proving the sustainability of that sustainable material.



How Does an Entity Become Certified?



Validity of the Certification?

- **ISCC** – the certificate is generally valid for 12 months. After this period, the economic operator must undergo recertification to ensure continued compliance with the ISCC requirements
- **RSB** – the certificate has a validity period based on the risk class of the operator (2, 3 or 5 years). An annual surveillance audit will be conducted to maintain the certificate in the intervening years

