

A.I.S.E. GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON 'SUSTAINABLE SOURCING OF BIO-BASED MATERIALS'

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1. Introduction

A.I.S.E. has developed these principles to support all the companies operating in the European detergents, cleaning and maintenance products industry sector and using – or intending to use – bio-based materials in final products and/or packaging material. It builds on the learnings from the A.I.S.E. Charter for Sustainable Cleaning in the domain of bio-based materials and on the most recent developments triggered by the objective to strive towards a Circular Economy contributing also to the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These guiding principles contribute directly to SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land). This guidance document is tailored to the A.I.S.E. sector and aims at considering the latest existing codes of practice and standards. Nonetheless, *each company should consider these principles as a minimum starting point* and implement them, together with any other solution applicable to more specific products groups, in a way that is compatible with its manufacturing procedures and in a context of continuous improvement.



The purpose of this document is to address the policy principles and procedures of sustainable sourcing of bio-based materials and to provide guiding principles to companies manufacturing detergents and maintenance products.

2. A.I.S.E. vision on bio-based materials

A.I.S.E. is committed to the responsible sourcing and management of raw materials. A.I.S.E. members strive to use bio-based ingredients to optimise the overall characteristics of their manufactured products, considering all aspects of their environmental, economic and social sustainability. Bio-based materials have been key ingredients in many of the A.I.S.E. members' products for several years now.

A.I.S.E.'s vision is to maximise the use of sustainably sourced bio-based materials. As a minimum, organisations shall have an internal policy with quantitative and time-bound internal goals or targets on the use of sustainably sourced bio-based raw materials. However, bio-based alternatives are not intrinsically more sustainable than fossil resources. Therefore, the benefits coming from an increased use of bio-based materials require a thorough assessment to avoid any burden-shifting.



3. Scope

The guiding principles presented in this document apply to the use of sustainably sourced bio-based materials, both as *ingredients in formulations*, such as solvents or surfactants, and *packaging materials* across all applications relevant to the A.I.S.E. sector.

When considering the applicability of the principles listed in section 5, it must be noted that many ingredients or components of ingredients in detergents derived from inorganic sources cannot be replaced by bio-based alternatives. On the other hand, for certain purposes bio-based ingredients can provide additional functionalities and advantages that cannot be delivered by traditional fossil-based chemicals, e.g. enzymes.

4. Implementation

The vision aims to cover all bio-based materials in the long term, in a context where *all processes and materials strive toward zero deforestation and full traceability*. However, the guiding principles are more likely to be implemented gradually, starting with raw materials where official certification schemes are becoming available in the supply chain. Such schemes exist for instance for cardboard or for palm (kernel) oil. This enables suppliers of the various bio-based materials to demonstrate the sustainable sourcing of their products via respective recognised approaches that are independent from any A.I.S.E. ratification scheme, e.g. the Charter for Sustainable Cleaning.

5. Guiding principles

The bio-based material shall be sourced sustainably, taking the full value chain into account and with the following characteristics :

- It shall be renewable;
- It shall not adversely affect food security;
- It shall not result in the destruction of critical ecosystems, loss of habitat for endangered species or other negative impacts on the environment, such as that on biodiversity, land use or water quality;
- It shall not result in burden-shifting, taking the full life cycle into account;
- It shall not involve unacceptable social conditions related to human rights, responsible labour practices, fair operating practices, and community involvement and development (these topics are addressed in detail in the 'A.I.S.E Social Responsibility Guidance for manufacturing companies'¹)

¹ www.aise.eu/csr

6. Practical Implementation

Raw materials selection

Companies should work to continually improve raw material selection that is balanced across the three sustainability pillars (social, economic and environmental).

All organisations wishing to source their raw materials sustainably should assess the use of bio-based materials. In any case, a specific policy for the further inclusion of bio-based materials should be installed in the company. Where companies use bio-based materials, they are encouraged to have policies and procedures in place on the sustainable sourcing of the bio-based material, corresponding to the A.I.S.E. guiding principles on bio-based materials as set out in section 5.

The sustainable sourcing of raw materials can be demonstrated via certification to internationally recognised schemes.

When using palm-derivatives, companies can demonstrate their adhesion to sustainability principles by being a member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil² (RSPO) and holding Supply Chain Certification for their facilities. Other schemes are accepted as well; a list of these schemes is provided by the German Forum for Sustainable Palm Oil³ (FONAP), i.e. International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC), Rainforest Alliance Certification under the SAN (Sustainable Agriculture Network) Standard, Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB).

Monitoring and communication

To ensure that the vision is effectively implemented, organisations should set time-bound goals, e. g. on the use of fully certified palm derivatives.

In addition, organisations should disclose information on their progress towards targets at least once per year. The means to do so can be defined independently by each organisation in order to facilitate the integration of practices related to the use of bio-based materials into their existing management. However, organisations should make use of existing tools, frameworks and standards to the extent possible. For example, the amount of bio-based carbon content (according to EN 16640 or EN 16785) in the total carbon content – as declared by suppliers – can be referenced.

Implications for A.I.S.E. Charter members

For companies that are members of the A.I.S.E. Charter for Sustainable Cleaning, the sustainable sourcing of raw materials is already ensured by complying with the existing Charter Sustainability Procedures (CSPs) that companies implement in their management systems⁴.

The implementation of the guiding principles listed under section 5 can take place in complete alignment with the A.I.S.E. Charter.

7. References and sources

The dedicated A.I.S.E. webpage⁵ compiles relevant publications and sources available, from both A.I.S.E. and other stakeholders. This includes a list of certification schemes, NGO reports and industry data that are continuously revised to present the most up to date information available.

² <https://rspo.org/>

³ <https://www.forumpalmoel.org/certification/certification-standards>

⁴ www.aise.eu/charter

⁵ www.aise.eu/biobased

8. Glossary

NB: This glossary is based on the terms and definitions as published in the European Standard EN16575:2014

'Bio-based products –Vocabulary' which can be freely accessed via the CEN website

(ftp://ftp.cen.eu/CEN/Sectors/List/bio_basedproducts/DefinitionsEN16575.pdf). In case a new version of EN 16575 will be published, these terms and definitions might be outdated, and readers are encouraged to check the European Standard EN 16575 for the full list of terms and definitions.

Bio-based

Derived from biomass. Biomass can have undergone physical, chemical or biological treatment(s). The correct spelling of "bio-based" is with a hyphen (-). It is however in common usage sometimes spelt without a hyphen. The methods to determine and communicate "bio-based" as characteristic are detailed in specific standards of CEN/TC 411.

Bio-based carbon

Biogenic carbon. Carbon derived from biomass: Biogenic carbon is defined in ISO/TS14067:2013, by the same definition.

Bio-based content

Fraction of a product that is derived from biomass. Normally expressed as a percentage of the total mass of the product. For the methodology to determine the bio-based content, see FprCEN/TR 16721.

Bio-based product

Product wholly or partly derived from biomass. The bio-based product is normally characterised by the bio-based carbon content or the bio-based content. For the determination and declaration of the bio-based content and the bio-based carbon content, see the relevant standards of CEN/TC 411. Product can be an intermediate, material, semi-finished or final product. The term "bio-based product" is often used to refer to a product which is partly bio-based. In those cases the claim should be accompanied by a quantification of the bio-based content.

Biomass

Material of biological origin excluding material embedded in geological formations and/or fossilized. Examples: (whole or parts of) plants, trees, algae, marine organisms, micro-organisms, animals, etc.

Biomass content

see Bio-based content

Product (according to EN16575)

Substance, mixture of substances, material or object resulting from a production process. Product can be an intermediate, material, semi-finished or final product.

Renewable material

Material that is composed of biomass and that can be continually replenished.

