

Green Gold Label Document structure

How to navigate across and interpret
GGL documentation



Document structure

Version 1-1

Valid from 2 March 2026 (Adoption date)

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Document navigation

This document is part of the Setup and Governance section from the Overall documents. It concerns the Document structure of the GGL Scheme and applies to all GGL Modules.

The Overall documents comprise the GGL Setup and Governance, GGL Standards and GGL Operating documents. Additionally, the GGL scheme offers Instructions and Guidances for specific regulatory frameworks (RED, FIT/FIP, SDE+/++), which can supersede clauses in the Overall documents. This applies only when explicitly stated in the relevant Instructions and Guidances.

GGL Setup and Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articles of association GGL foundation GGL Document structure GGL Regulation GGL Scope definitions GGL CB agreements GGL Partner Code of Conduct GGL Operating Agreement 	GGL Standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GGLS1 – Chain of custody criteria GGLS2 – Agricultural source criteria GGLS4 – Transaction and Product Certificate GGLS5 – Forest management criteria GGLS6 – Power company criteria 	RED – Instructions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruction A.0 – RED Module Instruction A.1 – RED Reporting duties Instruction A.2 – RED Internal monitoring Instruction A.3 – RED Auditor requirements Instruction A.4 – RED GHG emissions Instruction A.5 – RED Additional Agricultural source and Forest management criteria Instruction A.6 – RED Supplier verification programme for biogenic residues and waste 	RED – Guidances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance A.0.i – RED Raw materials statement template Guidance A.0.ii – RED Transaction certificate template Guidance A.0.iii – RED Audit template Guidance A.4.iv – RED GHG default values Guidance A.5.v – RED Level A Risk assessments Guidance A.6.vi – RED Supplier verification checklist for biogenic residues and waste 	GHG Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance ABC.1 – GHG calculator
	GGL Operating documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GGL Participant fees GGL Logo and tradename use GGL List of prohibited materials 	FIT / FIP – Instructions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruction B.0 – FIT/FIP Module Instruction B.1 – FIT/FIP Endorsed schemes Instruction B.2 – FIT/FIP GHG emissions Instruction B.3 – FIT/FIP Additional power company criteria 	FIT / FIP – Guidances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance B.0.i – FIT/FIP Raw materials statement template Guidance B.0.ii – FIT/FIP Transaction certificate template Guidance B.0.iii – FIT/FIP Audit template Guidance B.0.iv – FIT/FIP Supplier verification checklist for biogenic residues and waste Guidance B.2.v – FIT/FIP LCGHG default values 	
	SDE++ – Instructions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruction C.1 – SDE++ Endorsed schemes Instruction C.2 – SDE++ GHG emissions 	SDE++ – Guidances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance C.0.i – SDE++ Raw materials statement template Guidance C.0.ii – SDE++ Transaction certificate template 		



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Changes and transitioning

This section lists the key changes in this version v1-1 from version v1-0 dated October 2025:

No.	Change type	Section reference	Details of change
1	Content	D.4	Clarification for Participants and Certification Bodies included

In transitioning to this current version of this document, the following applies to Certification bodies, Participants and Certificates:

Publication date	7 November 2025
Adoption date	For all GGL Modules <u>except</u> the SDE+ Module : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 March 2026
Effective date	N/A – this is the first version of this document
End of Transition period	N/A – this is the first version of this document

To clarify: For GGL Scopes with the **SDE+ Module**, this document does not apply until further notice.



Glossary

Term	Definition
Adoption date	New (versions of) GGL documents include an Adoption date in the transitioning section. This date indicates when certification against the GGL Scheme and the specific document becomes possible. Certifications based on previous versions will remain valid until the Effective date of the new document.
Biomass	Biomass refers to the biodegradable portion of products, waste, and residues derived from biological sources in agriculture, which includes both plant and animal materials. It also encompasses materials from forestry and related industries, such as fisheries and aquaculture. Additionally, biomass includes the biodegradable fraction of waste, including industrial and municipal waste of biological origin.
Certification Body / CB	An independent third party evaluates and certifies the certification process. Certification bodies approved by GGL for one or more GGL scopes are listed on the GGL website.
Effective date	New (versions of) GGL documents specify an Effective Date. This is the date after which certification can only be granted according to the GGL Scheme and the specific document that has the Effective Date. Certification based on previous versions of the document is no longer considered valid.
GGL Module	These Instructions and Guidance documents outline how GGL has been approved and recognized as a Certification scheme under various legal and voluntary frameworks (e.g., Renewable Energy Directive (RED) in Europe and FIT/FIP in Japan).



Term	Definition
GGL Scope	Each GGL Participant and each Certification Body (CB) is restricted to performing activities under the GGL Scheme based on the specific GGL Scope for which they are recognized. GGL Biomass has a specific GGL Scope. The GGL Scope is a combination of (a) applicable regulatory GGL Modules and (b) the GGL Categories of biomass. Detailed definitions of GGL Scopes can be found in the GGL Scope definitions document.
GGL-Certified	Biomass that has been certified against all applicable GGL criteria, or against a certification scheme other than GGL, which has been endorsed and approved by the relevant authorities (e.g., EU for RED, METI for FIT/FIP) and holds equivalent status. GGL-Certified biomass meets all criteria for sustainability and legality.
GGL-Controlled	Woody biomass that has been certified against some of the applicable GGL criteria, or against a certification scheme other than GGL that has been endorsed and approved by the relevant authorities (e.g., the EU for RED or METI for FIT/FIP) holding equivalent status. GGL-Controlled biomass can only come from GGL categories 1, 2, or 3 for woody biomass and must meet specific key sustainability criteria. Therefore, the sustainability of GGL-Controlled woody biomass is certified to a lesser extent than that of GGL-Certified woody biomass.
GHG (Greenhouse Gas) Emissions	Greenhouse gases are a group of gases that contribute to global warming and climate change. According to the Kyoto Protocol, they include seven gases: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulphur hexafluoride, and nitrogen trifluoride. Converting them to carbon dioxide equivalents (CO ₂ eq) makes it possible to compare them and to determine their individual and total contributions to global warming.
Normative	Normative elements are prescriptive guidelines that must be followed to comply with scheme requirements.



Term	Definition
Participant / GGL Participant	An economic operator that has been certified under the GGL Regulation Section G, or under another certification scheme endorsed and approved by the relevant authorities (e.g., EU for RED or METI for FIT/FIP), holds equivalent status. This includes forest and agricultural biomass producers, waste and residue producers, first gathering points, collectors, suppliers, traders, processing plants, and conversion plants (end-users).
Publication date	New (versions of) GGL documents include their Publication date, which indicates when that version is published. Certification against a new version cannot occur until after its Adoption date.
RED	EU Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the EU Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (REDII) amended by Directive (EU) Directive 2023/2413 (REDIII), its most recent consolidated version including amendments and corrigenda in its most recent consolidated version as published on https://eur-lex.europa.eu .
Transition period	The new versions of the GGL documents specify the end of a Transition Period. This is the time until which (re-)certification decisions made before the Effective Date (based on the previous version of the document) remain valid. During the Transition Period, audits conducted by a Certification Body must be based solely on the valid (new) version of the GGL Scheme documents.



A. Introduction

A.1

This document shall help readers, including GGL Participants and GGL Applicants, to navigate across and use all documents of the GGL scheme. Also, it provides rules and guidelines that GGL uses for document naming, style structures, and versioning, which shall facilitate harmonised interpretation by all readers.

A.2

Because GGL is not a regulator, the GGL scheme is designed to operate under different national (and other) regulations and thus is modular. The GGL scheme aims to cover all types of biomass, to the extent that national regulators recognise these. To integrate different national regulatory regimes into a single GGL Scheme, GGL uses GGL Modules and GGL Scopes.



B. Basic guidelines for interpreting GGL documents

B.1 GGL Scope

The combination of i) the regulation under which GGL is recognised and ii) the type(s) of biomass, defines a specific GGL Scope. Each Certification Body can only provide certification services for which it is accredited, and each Participant can only trade under the specific GGL Scope(s) for which it is certified by GGL. GGL Scopes are defined in ***GGL Scope definitions***.

B.2 GGL Modules

For each national regulation under which GGL is recognised, a specific GGL Module is available (e.g., the GGL RED Module). The GGL documentation therefore consists of Overall documents and Modules.

B.3 Modular instructions and guidances

Overall documents apply to all GGL Modules. Within the GGL scheme, the Instructions and Guidance documents for a specific GGL Module can overrule specific clauses in the Overall Documents. This applies only to the specific GGL Module concerned and is explicitly stated in these Instructions and Guidances. Figure i shows the Overall documents (1) and Modules, which are further divided into Modular instructions (2) and Modular guidances (3).

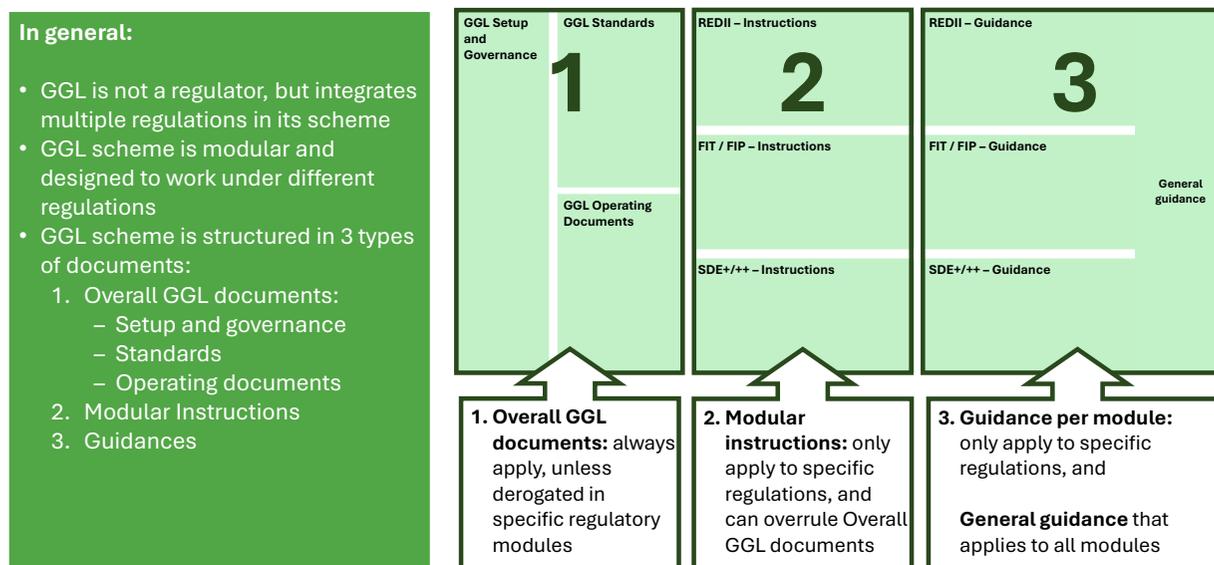


Figure i – Overall documents and Modules

B.4

For easy reference and clarity, each document within the GGL Scheme includes the following information:

- Structured title
- Version information
- Document navigation
- Glossary
- Changes and transitioning
- Table of contents
- Numbered paragraphs



B.5

Also, each document's text is formatted consistently:

- Structuring its contents into Sections (A, B, ...), Paragraphs (A.1, A.2, ...) and Sub-paragraphs (A.1.1, A.1.2, ...)
- Showing lists that include, but are not limited to, the listed elements in bullets (•) or dashes (-), and finite lists of sub-elements in letters (a, b, ...) or numbers (1, 2, ...)
- Indicating Principles as such (Principle 1, Principle 2) and in **Bold**, while sub-principles and criteria (1.01, 1.02, ...) as well as indicators for each sub-principle or criterion (1.01(a), 1.02(b), ...) are numbered in a recognisable format
- Highlighting references to other GGL documents in ***Bold Italic*** (e.g., ***GGLS1 – Chain of custody criteria***) and always use their full names. The GGL Standards may be referenced in figures and drawings by their first 5 characters (e.g., GGLS1).

B.6

All pages in GGL documents are numbered (bottom-right), include a title and version summary (bottom-left), show the total number of pages in that document and can be identified by the 8°-tilted GGL logo in the top-right corner.



C. Navigating across GGL documents

C.1 Overall documents

These normative documents contain core regulations and norms that always apply across the whole of the GGL Scheme, unless explicitly derogated in specific GGL Modules. Overall documents are grouped into 3 types relating to:

- Setup and Governance
- GGL Standards
- Operating documents

Each document that is part of the Overall documents is named “GGL”, for example, “**GGL Regulation**” as part of GGL Setup and Governance, or “**GGLS5 – Forest management criteria**” as part of the GGL Standards.

Annex I provides an overview of all current GGL documents.

C.2 Modular instructions

These normative instructions apply only to a specific regulation, such as FIT/FIP for Japanese biomass or RED for biomass in the European Union. For each regulation under which the GGL Scheme is valid and recognised, a specific set of Modular instructions is applicable. Norms and instructions in these Modular instructions can overrule and derogate from Overall documents only when this is explicitly stated.

For each regulation under which the GGL Scheme is recognised, a corresponding set of Modular instructions exists. For each GGL Scope, as defined in **GGL Scope definitions**, a GGL Participant may retain only one (1) Certification body.

Each document that is part of the Modular instructions is named “Instruction”, for example, “**Instruction A.4 – RED GHG Emissions**” as part of the Modular instructions for RED.

C.3 Guidance per module

These documents provide guidance and templates for applying specific Modular instructions in practice. Together with their associated



Modular instructions, the Guidances for a specific regulation (such as FIT/FIP for Japanese biomass) may be referred to as a Module. Each document within the Guidances is named “Guidance”, for example “**Guidance A.4.i – RED GHG default values**” as part of the RED Guidances.

C.4 General guidance

These tools or documents support all GGL Modules, such as “**Guidance ABC.1 – GHG calculator**”.



D. Updates of GGL documents

D.1 Future updates

GGL documents are amended from time to time at the sole discretion of the GGL Foundation. Updates take effect upon publication on GGL's website. GGL may provide Certification Bodies and Participants with a Transition period, as defined below under D.3, to prepare for and implement the updates.

D.2 Versioning

All documents have a version consisting of a version number and a date. Major changes and amendments to GGL documents are reflected by increasing the whole number by 1 (e.g. 2-1, 3-0). Minor amendments to GGL standard documents are reflected by incrementing the sub-version number by -1 (e.g. 2-1, 2-2).

D.3 Changes and transitioning

Valid documents are always published on the GGL website and are the latest available and applicable version of that document (unless otherwise stated explicitly). The Changes and Transitioning section in each document defines the validity of that document, particularly in relation to its previous version. Specifically:

1. **Publication date** - the date which indicates when that version is published (e.g., for the purpose of stakeholder consultation). Certification against a new version cannot occur until after its Adoption date.
2. **Adoption date** – the date when certification against the GGL Scheme and the specific document becomes possible. Certifications based on previous versions will remain valid until the Effective date of the new document.
3. **Effective date** - the date after which certification can only be granted according to the GGL Scheme and the specific document that has the Effective Date. Certification based on previous versions of the document is no longer considered valid.
4. **End of Transition period** - the date until which (re-)certification decisions made before the Effective Date (based on the previous version of the document) remain valid. During the Transition Period, audits conducted by a Certification Body must be based solely on the valid (new) version of the GGL Scheme documents.



D.4

Between the Adoption date (D.3 under 2) and the Effective date (D.3 under 3), the following applies:

- a) Both Applicants and GGL Participants can be certified against both the old and the new document versions of the GGL Scheme; and
- b) Certification Bodies shall make certification decisions only in respect of the document version of the GGL Scheme for which they are accredited.

D.5 Feedback and recommendations

To continuously improve and strengthen the GGL Scheme, the Foundation welcomes feedback and recommendations from Certification Bodies, GGL Participants and Applicants, and other stakeholders. Any change or update to the GGL Scheme to be implemented is subject to an internal review and approval process, jointly with the GGL Advisory Council. Furthermore, GGL will always seek approval from the relevant national authorities for changes and updates to documents before the Adoption date.

Annex I. Overview of all GGL documents

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