

Information sheet

for biomass farmers

Cultivation of sustainable biomass for biofuels only with proof of land status as of the reference date 1 January 2008

Dear biomass farmer,

You sell at least some of your products such as rapeseed, grain, maize or sugar beets as "sustainable biomass" for the production of biofuels. This means that every year, you are required to submit the familiar self-declaration which confirms that the land-related sustainability criteria have been fulfilled.

Under item 2 of the self-declaration, you confirm: "*The biomass under 1 originates from cropland that was already classified as such prior to 01.01.08. It also does not originate from protected areas (Article 17 of the Directive 2009/28/EC) that were converted to cropland after 01.01.08.*"

As proof of the "cropland" status as of the reference date 01.01.2008, farmers usually reference the list of parcel holdings created for their application to the direct payment scheme in 2008. In addition to information about the type of land use in the year of application (land, permanent grassland, etc.), the application also includes information about previous crops and land use. This makes it possible to easily verify the status of the land as of the reference date during inspections of your farm.

By law, the documents related to the European direct payment scheme must be kept for ten years. This means that documents from the reference date of 01.01.2008 can be destroyed at the earliest after 01.07.2018 depending on whether the agricultural administrations use the financial year or the calendar year

AS A RESULT: Please make sure to permanently store and archive the list of land parcels for the 2008 application process. Otherwise you run the risk that the biomass you produce cannot be sold as "sustainable" due to a lack of proof and can only be accepted in some circumstances at a reduced price or that it is refused altogether.

Farmers who were not themselves the owners and/or managers of the land used for biomass production as of the reference date are advised – if possible and known – to contact the owner/manager of the land at the time and ensure that the list of land parcels is permanently stored or handed over.

[*Contact first gathering point*] or the employees of REDcert (see www.redcert.org) are available to answer any other questions you may have.