

# Clarification: Retroactive crediting

## Preamble

The Global Biochar C-Sink standard does not define or mention a possibility of retroactive crediting. But it defines that the issuance of carbon sinks is only possible for EBC/WBC-certified biochar with carbon sink potential.

It is possible that a producer decides after an EBC/WBC batch is certified or already closed, that a C-Sink potential shall be requested. In this scenario, the same information and data quality must be provided as if the potential would have been requested during the certification of a batch.

In particular this means that the producer must register for Global Bio-char C-Sink at CSI as well as at the VVB for the service. If not already done, the PDD has to be written and validated before the potential can be validated and issued. The project start date must be prior to the respective batch start date and the PDD must represent the project and production conditions at the time of production of the biochar batch.

With regard to retroactive credits, there are two relevant scenarios: One is the backdating of the start date of a batch (defined in the EBC or WBC standard) and the other is the issuance of carbon sinks for biochar that has already been incorporated.

The biochar produced must be tracked using dMRV systems to the point of application in order to apply for carbon sink credits. If processors are integrated into the value chain, they must also be registered with CSI.

## Aim of the document

This document aims to provide a clear understanding of the possibilities and requirements for retroactive crediting.

## 1. Backdating of the batch start date

The earliest regular start date for an EBC/WBC batch is the completion of the technical pre-audit. According to the EBC/WBC Standard, chapter 5 a production batch cannot be reported retroactively.

However, up to the discretion of the Standard Provider CSI the batch start date can be corrected to be up to three months before closing of technical pre-audit.

### 1.1. Conditions for backdating the batch start date

- Feedstock did not change to the situation prior to certification. Proofs like invoices of the feedstock purchase or similar can be provided.
- Process parameters like pyrolysis temperature are similar to the situation prior to certification. Parameters were measured during the period prior to the Technical Pre-Audit. Proofs like meter readings, production protocol can be provided for the process parameters.
- Biochar characteristics did not change to the situation prior to Technical Pre-Audit. Samples of the produced biochar must be provided for the period for which retroactive crediting shall be granted.

A written request must be submitted to CSI for this scenario, along with all relevant documents and information necessary to demonstrate that the conditions mentioned above are met.

## 2. Retroactive issuance of C-sinks for biochar that has already been applied to a matrix

C-sink issuance for biochar from a batch with C-sink potential attestation that has already been applied is theoretically possible. However, this biochar also requires complete documentation in accordance with the Global Biochar C-Sink Standard, including clear evidence that it has been applied to a matrix [[matrix positive list](#)].

The main obstacles that producer could face in this scenario are:

1. Lack of the determination and documentation of the dry matter content as defined in the standard [[Global Biochar C-sink Standard, chapter 9.2](#)]
2. Missing confirmation from the end customer that they have not used the carbon contained in the biochar for another carbon program. All customers have to be contacted in order to obtain this confirmation. Or missing of exact data and information of the C-sink creation.
3. Processors are part of the supply chain that are not yet registered at CSI and their emission factors validated by the VVB.
4. The biochar was either not tracked at all or the dMRV is not endorsed by CSI.

CSI therefore generally advises against this retrospective verification. The risk that certain details cannot be verified retrospectively is high. In cases of doubt, the VVBs tend to be more critical when it comes to retrospective verification. The VVBs will examine the C sinks with the same care as those that are verified in real time. However, there is a

greater risk that C-sinks cannot be verified if certain evidence can no longer be provided due to the time difference.

Any (additional) time required by CSI for retrospective verification will be charged according to the [price list](#).