

Global Artisan C-Sink - Rule Update: Diffuse C-Sinks

Preamble

From October 15, 2025, biochar no longer needs to be tracked all the way to the end-point if it has been blended into an approved C-sink matrix. All matrices for which end-point tracking becomes optional are marked as "Diffuse C-sink authorized" in the positive list of matrices. The list also provides information about which documents are required depending on the type of matrix. End-point tracking remains possible at any time – and is strongly recommended.

Aim of the document

This document aims to point out all sections of the Global Artisan C-Sink Standard V2.1A that are affected by the rule update and provide the content/interpretation that is valid instead. Changes are highlighted in **green**.

All references to the 1 t CO₂e limit for diffuse C-sinks will be removed. However, the concept of diffuse C-sinks remains unchanged and refers to sinks that are well-distributed quantities in terms of spatial and temporal distribution and the remaining rules will remain in place. Specifically, this means the changes presented in the following chapters.

1. Glossary

The entry Diffuse C-sink is replaced by:

Diffuse C-sink: Biochar C-sinks [...] where the biochar was mixed to a C-sink Matrix preventing the oxidation of biochar and which, due to the nature of the matrix, will be applied in small, well-distributed quantities in terms of spatial and temporal distribution.

2. 2. Definition of Biochar Artisan, C-Sink Farmer, C-Sink Cook, Artisan Pro, and Artisan C-Sink Manager

The last paragraph on page 12 is replaced by:

The biochar application must be documented with georeferenced photos. This is no longer necessary if the biochar is already incorporated into a non-combustible matrix [...] eligible for diffuse C-sinks (marked as "Diffuse C-sink authorized" in the matrix positive list for Biochar C-sink). If untreated biochar (i.e., biochar that still could be dried and burned) is sold as biochar fertilizer on the market and the Biochar Trader does not document the biochar application, the C-sink cannot be certified. For some matrices, additional evidence must be provided, especially if there are several conceivable uses for the biochar-matrix mixture.

3. 9.8.3. Selling of the Biochar

The paragraph is replaced by:

If the traded biochar is mixed to compost, manure, fertilizer, feed etc., the biochar cannot be burned or decompose anymore. Traded biochar-mixes containing $\rightarrow$ 1 t CO₂e from biochar per client and year must be tracked to the application field can be registered as a diffuse C-sink if the matrix is eligible for diffuse C-sinks (marked as "Diffuse C-sink authorized" in the matrix positive list for Biochar C-sink). When biochar-mixes are traded in smaller units and with total annual amounts per client and year that contain less than 1 t CO₂e from biochar, the GPS tracking to the field is not necessary, But the name and address of the buying farmer and the amount and type of sold biochar must be registered using invoice sheets or delivery bulletins.

4. 10. C-Sink Units and Global C-Sink Registry

The third paragraph on page 30 is replaced by:

~~Biochar or biochar-based fertilizers units of more than 1 t CO₂e that are sold outside of a C-Sink Network must be tracked to the application site and cannot be grouped under the C-Sink Unit of the C-Sink Network but must be registered as an individual C-sink. Smaller units than 1 t CO₂e from biochar may be sold and applied as diffuse C-sink without localization when mixed to a C-sink matrix and be registered under the C-Sink Unit of the C-Sink Network. Biochar or biochar-based fertilizers can be registered as a diffuse C-sink if the corresponding matrix is eligible for diffuse C-sinks (marked as "Diffuse C-sink authorized" in the matrix positive list for Biochar C-sink).~~

5. 10. C-Sink Units and Global C-Sink Registry

The fourth paragraph on page 30 is replaced by:

For C-Sink Villages, the biochar is usually collected by the Biochar Processor where the annual production of the C-Sink Village is considered as one production batch presenting the same biochar quality. The Biochar Processor creates the C-Sink Units by selling or delivering more biochar or biochar-based products ~~containing more than 1 t CO₂e from biochar to geo-localized sites~~ where the C-sink is established and registered under controlled conditions.

6. 10. C-Sink Units and Global C-Sink Registry

The sixth paragraph on page 30 is replaced by:

Diffuse C-Sinks: ~~If the biochar was mixed into a C-sink matrix eligible for diffuse C-sinks (marked as "Diffuse C-sink authorized" in the matrix positive list for Biochar C-sink) it can be registered as a diffuse C-sink.~~ C-Sink Units may comprise up to the total annual production of a C-Sink Village or an Artisan Pro as diffuse C-sinks. However, bookkeeping must list the clients purchasing the biochar-products to be registered within the C-Sink Unit.