

Global Artisan C-Sink – Clarification increased production allowance for Artisan Pro

Preamble

The Global Artisan C-Sink standard facilitates access to decentralized biochar production in low- and middle-income countries. Within the Global Artisan C-Sink framework, "Artisan Pros" represent a specific class of Artisan Biochar Producers. An Artisan Pro is either a registered company or a division of a registered company. An Artisan Pro may operate multiple production units (e.g., kilns) and can function as a sole producer or employ a team of trained artisans. Each Artisan Pro is subject to a production limit of 1500 m³ of biochar per calendar year. However, under defined circumstances, the Global Artisan C-Sink standard also allows to further increase production (see page 15):

Artisan Pro companies need to estimate their annual production. If they expect to produce more than 1500 m³ of biochar per calendar year, the Artisan C-Sink Manager must submit a justification to Carbon Standards, explaining why no industrial pyrolysis plant (i.e., a device that burns pyrolysis gases under more controlled and monitored conditions with heat usage or electricity production or pyrolysis oil recovery) can be installed yet. This must include a timeline for the development of industrialized biochar production to be certified under the World Biochar Certificate (WBC). The Artisan C-Sink Manager must explain why the certification under the Global Artisan C-Sink instead of under the WBC standard is still preferred. Carbon Standards must approve the justification. The approval may include deadlines for re-evaluation.

Aim of the document

This document aims to clarify the steps and requirements necessary for individual Artisan Pros to obtain approval for higher production volumes (up to 4500 m³ per calendar year) under the Global Artisan C-Sink standard by Carbon Standards International. It is intended to provide a clear rationale for Artisan C-Sink Managers regarding increasing production limits and associated requirements.

1. Eligibility criteria and request

In the Global Artisan C-Sink standard, it is stated that the Artisan C-Sink Manager must submit a request to CSI for each Artisan Pro who wants to increase the production volume beyond the 1500 m³ threshold. If Artisan C-Sink Managers intend higher production volumes for multiple Artisan Pros within the same project, they may consolidate these requests into a single submission, including individual subchapters for each Artisan Pro as needed.

1.1. Eligibility criteria

Artisan C-Sink Managers must fulfil the following criteria to hand in a request to raise the volume threshold:

- The project must have a proven and verified Internal Control System (ICS) in place. This means that the project has undergone verification by a VVB and has received a verification statement. Any open findings related to the ICS and/or major non-compliances must be resolved and confirmed by the VVB.
- The Artisan Pro must have a leader or local manager in place to ensure continuity of knowledge and experience. This leader or local manager should be a member of the Artisan Pro team and actively involved in the biochar production process.
- The Artisan Pro must be properly announced to the VVB, either as part of the audit preparation or in accordance with file [400030EN](#) between audits, and must receive approval from the VVB.
- The Artisan Pro must proof continuity (e.g. maintaining routine, ongoing consistent biochar production practices determined by feedstock availability/biomass cycles). The Artisan C-Sink Manager must provide documentation on how the production based on biomass types and availability is spread throughout the year as part of the request.
- Workers and staff of an Artisan Biochar Producer cannot work for more than one Artisan Pro within the same calendar year.
- Pyrolysis systems cannot be used or registered by more than one Artisan Pro at the same time.

1.2. Request

The Artisan C-Sink Manager must hand in a written request to CSI (service@carbon-standards.com) including the following information and documents:

- Justification why a switch to industrial pyrolysis plant (EBC/WBC in combination with Global Biochar C-Sink) is not feasible.
- List of all Artisan Pro's in the project (those for higher production and the others), including:
 - Name and ID of the Artisan Pro
 - Address of production sites of Artisan Pro, incl. GPS locations
 - List of kiln ID's

- Team members (name, ID, proof of training)
- Production volumes per year, and access to the required samples and reports
- A plan outlining how the continuity of each Artisan Pro can be sustained for the majority of the year (e.g., ensuring feedstock availability, managing seasonal rainfall).
- A plan to ensure that the feedstock for each production load maintains a moisture content of less than 15%.

2. Additional requirements

CSI will review the request and data submitted by the Artisan C-Sink Manager. If necessary, CSI will consult with the corresponding VVB for a statement and opinion.

If the overall assessment is positive, CSI will issue an approval that includes the names and IDs of the Artisan Pros authorized for **higher production volumes of 4500 m³** per year. Along with the approval, additional requirements will be established, which will be mandatory for each feedstock type processed by the Artisan Pro:

- The bulk density test:
 - Must be done at least every 500 m³, and be fully documented.
 - At least one bulk density test must be done per quarter where production occurs.
 - At least two bulk density tests must be done by a third party (e.g. accredited local laboratory or endorsed VVB).
 - The bulk density must be analysed according to 4000132EN.
 - The results and sampling documentation must be shared with CSI and the VVB.
- Biochar analysis:
 - Must be done at least once per calendar year and based on the production volume (first test covers the retention samples of the production from 0-1500 m³, next test covers for retention samples between 1501 m³ and 3000 m³, next covers for retention samples between 3001 m³ and 4500 m³ per calendar year).
 - The representative sample must be taken from the retention samples of the Artisan Pro, the sample tacking must be fully documented.
 - The representative samples must be analysed by an endorsed laboratory for the standard Artisan Pro package (see 4000017EN for the list of parameters within the package). At least one sample must be taken by a third party (VVB) and this sample must be analysed by an EBC/WBC endorsed laboratory.
 - The results must be shared with CSI and the VVB.
- Internal inspection must be conducted at for every 1500 m³ and at least once every 6 months.

- The Artisan C-Sink Manager must submit a production overview (production volumes and sample taken) to CSI and the VVB at least every 6 months.
- Biomass must be drier than 15% moisture content.
- Each Artisan Pro with higher production volumes must be inspected by the VVB at least once per calendar year.
- Additional measures (e.g. transition plans with milestones) can be defined and required based on the project and justification by the Artisan C-Sink Manager.

In addition to the above mentioned requirements, the following actions must be taken and noted:

- After approval, the PDD of the project must be updated and re-validated by the VVB.
- The approval is granted for up to two years, a renewable is possible.
- The VVB will reassess the project's risk and may adjust the inspection frequency (e.g. additional announced or unannounced inspections) or implement additional safeguards and checks (e.g., related to biochar application).