



The world-leading wood
pellet certification

ENplus® guidance for companies located in war zones

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Foreword

The European Pellet Council is concerned and worried about the drastic deterioration of the security context in Ukraine and takes the security of the staff and the certified companies very seriously. In this unprecedented situation, the European Pellet Council will support the Ukrainian companies and the professionals working and travelling to Ukraine with these exceptional measures. These measures are of temporary nature and justified by an act of Force Majeure.

This document provides guidance on the implementation of the ENplus® requirements for the companies affected by the war in Ukraine or any similar situation as described in the Scope section and recognised by the European Pellet Council.

1. Scope

- 1.1. These dispositions only apply to companies affected by a war event in a country listed in the article 1.2. War event refers to hostilities carried on by entities that constitute governments in countries where ENplus® certified companies are present. These events will be referred as war event.
- 1.2. The ENplus® certified companies of the following country are affected by a war event:
 - Ukraine (UA).
- 1.3. The Certification Body shall establish a documented policy and process, outlining the steps it intends to take in case that a certified organisation is affected by a war event and its inability to fulfil the scheme requirements as described in the ENplus® Handbook. The documentation shall be made available upon request from the Competent Management.
- 1.4. As soon as the security context is restored to the level before the war event, inspections shall be conducted as per the ENplus® Handbook provisions. The ENplus® guidance shall be updated or retracted accordingly.
- 1.5. These dispositions only apply to companies which are affected by the abovementioned event located in a country designated in article 1.2. They do not apply in any other case.

2. Inspections

- 2.1. The inspections schedule could be extended while the war event remains in place, and remote inspections could replace onsite inspections provided that proper conditions can be put in place for going through the audit (e.g. using videoconference tools). The **risk assessment concerning the**

remote audit shall be provided to the Competent Management along with the conformity report. The inspection results shall be reviewed after the security context is restored to the level before the war event and will be reassessed accordingly. The Certification Body shall inform the Competent Management of the cases where a remote inspection is replacing an onsite inspection as per the ENplus® Handbook, Part 2, sect. 3.3 and 4.3 provisions.

- 2.2. The renewal of the certificates will be automatically extended while the war event remains in place.
- 2.3. The **initial inspection** may be performed remotely.
 - 2.3.1. The Certification Body may appoint an initial remote inspection replacing an initial onsite inspection provided that proper conditions can be put in place for going through the audit (e.g. using videoconference tools). The **risk assessment concerning the initial remote audit shall be provided to the Competent Management** along with the conformity report. The inspection results shall be reviewed after the security context is restored to the level before the war event and will be reassessed accordingly. The Certification Body shall inform the Competent Management of the cases where a remote inspection is replacing an onsite inspection as per the ENplus® Handbook, Part 2, sect. 3.3 and 4.3 provisions.

3. Suspensions and revocations

- 3.1. Suspensions that require onsite check of the corrective actions shall remain in force until the verification of corrective actions can take place.
- 3.2. Suspensions that were enforced before the war event shall be maintained until the verification of corrective actions can take place.
- 3.3. The lack of verification of corrective actions because of restrictions linked to the war event shall not lead to the revocation of the certificate, except terminations originated by an action prior to the origin event.

4. Contractual provisions and certified companies' obligations

- 4.1. Without prejudice to the articles 1.1 and 1.5 of this document, when the non-performance is due to an impediment beyond the control of the certified company or applicant and that it could not reasonably be expected to have taken the impediment into account at the time of the conclusion of the contract, the European Pellet Council will not consider this non-performance as a breach of contract.
- 4.2. This guidance might be updated in accordance with the evolution of the situation.