



## **ISCC 253 Complaints, Appeals and Arbitration**

# **Complaints, Appeals and Arbitration**

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## 1 Introduction

The consideration of complaints and appeals in a certification system is an essential part of continuous improvement and user friendliness of the system. Clear, definite and transparent rules to deal with such submissions are condition to unprejudiced and prompt handling and resolution.

## 2 Scope

The process demonstrated in this document applies to the entire ISCC system, including the contact to external stakeholders.

## 3 Normative references

As a basic principal, all relevant ISCC documents are valid for the scope of application. The normative references display the documents whose contents are linked and have to be considered as conjoint points.

Relevant references:

ISCC	101	ISCC Statutes
ISCC	102	National and Regional Initiatives
ISCC	103	Quality Management
ISCC	201	System Basics
ISCC	202	Sustainability Requirements – Requirements for the Production of Biomass
ISCC	202-01	Checklist for the Control of the Requirements for the Production of Biomass
ISCC	203	Requirements for Traceability
ISCC	204	Mass Balance Calculation Methodology
ISCC	205	GHG Calculation Methodology and GHG Audit
ISCC	206	Regulations to issue Proofs of Compliance with Sustainability Requirements
ISCC	207	Risk Management
ISCC	251	Requirements for Certification Bodies
ISCC	252	Regulations to carry out Audits
ISCC	254	Cooperation with other Certification Systems

## **4 Complaints, appeals and arbitration**

### **4.1 General provisions**

#### **4.1.1 Different levels of procedures**

Conflicts can occur on different levels, respectively between several stakeholders/individuals in association with the procedures of ISCC. Resolution for conflicts shall generally be made near to the source and with participation of the parties involved:

- Conflicts that arise within national and regional initiatives shall be resolved by arbitration on the according level.
- Conflicts, resulting from the relation between the certification body and the participants of the system (e.g., appeal against refusal of certification), shall be resolved by the arbitration board of the relevant certification body.
- Conflicts, resulting from decisions and procedures of ISCC e. V., respectively the Board or the management, and the interpretation of the international valid standards, shall be resolved by the present procedure.
- Conflicts, that actually concern national or regional matters which can not be resolved on national or regional levels, shall be resolved by the present procedure.

#### **4.1.2 Differentiation of complaints and appeals**

##### **4.1.2.1 Complaints**

Conflicts are about an expression of dissatisfaction by any person or organization which relates to the activities of ISCC.

##### **4.1.2.2 Appeal**

An appeal is a request for reconsideration of any decision made by the Board or management of ISCC.

## **4.2 Attendance of complaints and appeals**

### **4.2.1 Requirements in form and content**

Complaints and appeals shall meet the following demands:

- (1) Addressee of the complaint or appeal is the management of ISCC.
- (2) Complaints and appeals shall be submitted in written form.
- (3) The complaint or appeal submitted shall be accompanied by documents defining the situation in a way that any impartial person gets a clear idea of the situation.
- (4) Complaints submitted regarding issues caused by a National or Regional Technical Working Group, the complainant shall provide additional documentation that the complaint has already been submitted to the National or Regional Technical Working Group without achieving a satisfactory result.

## 4.2.2 Acceptance

The management decides on compliance with the requirements in 4.2.1.

The complainant shall be immediately informed about the receipt and the further proceeding.

## 4.2.3 Arbitration

### 4.2.3.1 *Implementation of an Arbitration Board*

The Arbitration Board is responsible for the management of the procedure. The Arbitration Board is implemented by the ISCC Board and is formed by three persons.

The members of the Arbitration Board shall have no vested, or conflict of interest in the appeal and shall not be involved in the appealed decision if they are in conflict of the complaint or appeal. They are implemented by the ISCC Board. The different parties shall be considered each with one person. The three members represent the same three stakeholder groups which constitute the board. The presidency shall be elected again for each submitted complaint, and chosen amongst the individuals generating the arbitration board.

The convening of the Arbitration Board is made within two months after receipt of the complaint or appeal, either within a regular meeting of the Board or in written form.

### 4.2.3.2 *Arbitration process*

The arbitration boards shall hear the parties involved before making a decision. The results of the hearing are documented. In critical cases, the arbitration board can consult an independent expert.

In case the involved parties doubt the neutrality or qualification of the expert, the doubts shall be submitted to the Arbitration Board before the final decision of the process. The expert can be replaced by another person upon decision of the Arbitration Board.

The decision of the Arbitration Board shall be made within 6 months after receipt of the complaint. The decision of the Arbitration Board needs simple majority.

Minutes of the meetings shall be made by the Arbitration Board.

The decision of the arbitration is documented in a report that shall be submitted to the ISCC Board. The report shall include recommendations concerning the further proceeding of the complaint or appeal.

Based on the report of the Arbitration Board, the ISCC Board decides on acceptance of the complaint or appeal.

The ISCC management submits the results of the arbitration to the involved parties.

The decision is binding and completes the arbitration process of ISCC. Certificates stay valid until the decision of the arbitration board is made.