



SUSTAINABLE SOLAR — EUROPE 2024

Session 3: Achieving Supply Chain Transparency

12 December 2024

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EUROPE 2024

SSI Supply Chain Traceability Standard Launch

12.12.2024

Sustainable Solar Europe



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What is the Solar Stewardship Initiative

- **Solar-specific** value chain **assurance programme** initiated by SolarPower Europe and Solar Energy UK
- Unique approach with two pillars: Environment Social and Governance (ESG) assurance + transparency on materials and components origin
- Designed as a multi-stakeholder initiative
- To date 48 members including both buyers and suppliers of solar PV covering a **major global market share**. Updated list of members [here](#)
- Support from the international finance community (including EIB and IFC)



Manufacturer Members



Buyer Members



5 Core objectives

Ensure the energy transition is just, inclusive, and respects human rights

Establish mechanisms to create supply-chain transparency on materials and components origin, ensuring integrity in the global solar industry

Enable continuous improvement of ESG performance

Build the confidence of regulators, customers and business partners in the sustainability of the solar value chain

Prepare our community for relevant upcoming laws and regulations on responsible supply chains



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SSI System Overview



Standards & Tools

- ESG Standard
- Supply Chain Traceability Standard
- SSI Buyer's Guide (2025)
- Digital platform (2025)



Multi-stakeholder Governance

- Board
- Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Governance Terms of Reference



Assurance Programme

- Process to demonstrate compliance with the SSI standard(s)
- Site certification by independent assessor
- Process ends with certification ranking and improvement plan and allows certified site to make certain claims
- Equivalence and Recognition Mechanism of or by other standards



Complaints mechanism

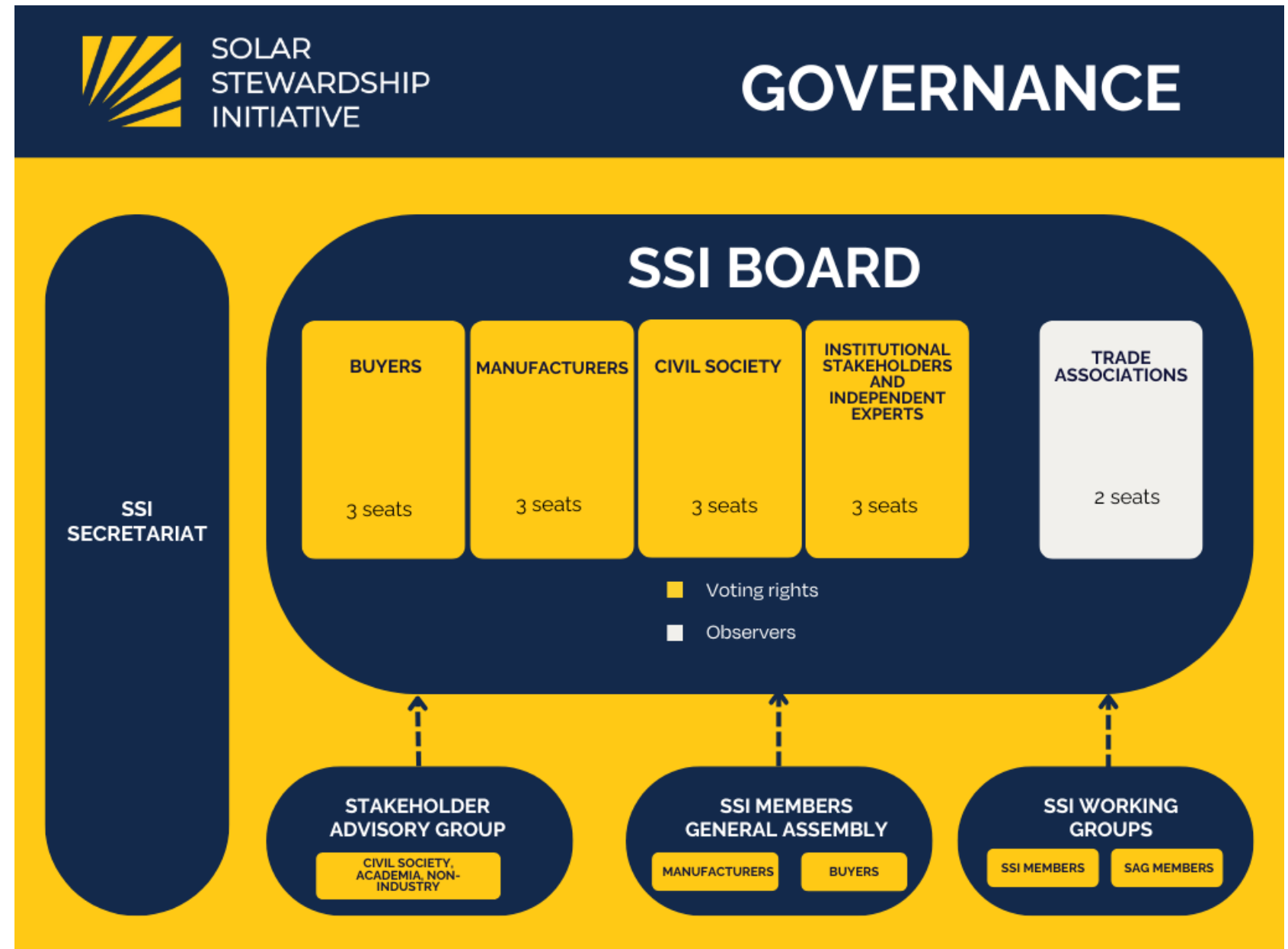
- System to address complaints on SSI and its members
- Last resort. Does not replace company's grievance mechanism.
- Limited scope
- Outsourced in certain cases to avoid conflict of interests



Claims Guide

Rules on which logos/claims can be used/made by SSI Members, Certified sites and Assessment Bodies

Governance and structure



The SSI Standards



1

ESG Standard

- Common industry requirements on ESG
- Ensure ethical practices at production sites

2

Supply Chain Traceability Standard

- Set industry traceability requirements
- Increase supply chain transparency
- Link SSI certified production sites and enable product claims



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Development of the SSI Traceability Standard

21 August - 21 October

Public consultation. 20+ participants including civil society

October & November

14 Pilots concluded

12 November

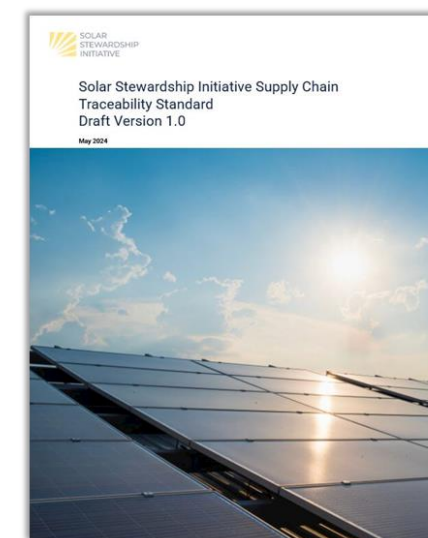
Final standard draft discussed with the Traceability WG, the Board and the SAG

19 November

Final version approved by the SSI Board

12 December

Official launch



Key features

Scope

Covers the entire silicon value chain, from quartzite mining to photovoltaic module production.

Potential expansion to other materials and components like glass and inverters

Gold: no major or minor non conformances, traceability to quartz

Silver: no majors NC, 5 or less minors. Improvement plan. Traceability to MGS.

Bronze: no majors NC, 5 or less minors. Improvement plan. Traceability to polysilicon

Chain of custody

Requires a segregated chain of custody model to prevent the mixing of certified and non-certified materials.

Bronze, silver and gold score awarded based on the maturity level of the site's traceability system

Minimum requirement to trace to polysilicon

Requirements

Based on globally recognised frameworks like ISO 22095 and OECD guidelines as well as other sector standards and initiatives.

The SSI and its Standards intend to support the effective implementation of legislation such as the CSDDD and the Forced Labour Ban. The SSI Standards do not act as a replacement for legislation on sustainable supply chains.

Lessons learned

From the Public Consultation

- Significant part of comments received via public consultation focused mainly on the Foreword / Introduction of the Standard, context around the SSI and its approach, assurance, certification levels vs the actual requirements of the Standard.

From the Pilot Assessments

- The majority of the changes implemented were regarding providing further clarification of some requirements, terminology and adding new requirements.

Key changes implemented

Category	Modifications	Triggered by
Certification limits	Added further clarification on the SSI not certifying sites complicit in forced labour. No assessments or certifications in sites or regions that are not freely accessible.	Public consultation feedback
Not replacement of legislation	Added further language that the SSI Standards do not act as a replacement for EU and national legislation on sustainable supply chains, nor does SSI membership negate a business' liability to comply with law and perform its own environmental and human rights due diligence.	Public consultation feedback
Full value chain	Re-emphasize that both ESG Standard and Traceability Standard apply to full value chain.	Public consultation feedback
Alignment with other frameworks and standards	A text to clarify which other frameworks and standards have been used in the development of the SSI Supply Chain Traceability Standard development has been added, for alignment and inspiration purposes – p.7 of the v1.	Public consultation feedback
Terminology	Further streamlining of the terms used has been added. E.g. "value chain" vs "supply chain", "facility" vs "site".	Both
Complaints mechanism	Further clarification on the complaint's mechanism in the requirement 1.8 has been added.	Both
Allocation of resources	Elaborated the requirement on allocation of resources for management system implementation to make it clearer – requirement 1.2.2	Public consultation feedback

Key changes implemented

Category	Modifications	Triggered by
Approved suppliers	Introduction of the new term "approved suppliers" for requirement 2.1. has been added. Approved Suppliers. The Facility shall have a process in place to ensure that it receives materials within the scope of the Standard only from approved suppliers who can demonstrate a traceability system meeting the requirements of the SSI Supply Chain Traceability Standard. In the future, the Facility shall have a process in place to ensure that all certified materials are purchased from SSI Certified Suppliers.	Both
Traders	New section added with due diligence and mapping requirements in case of use of traders – section 2.7 of the v1.	Both (from the pilots it was more focused on upstream)
Documentation	Elaborated requirement on the documentation expectations on transactions – requirement 2.5.3	Pilots
Glossary	Updates to the glossary, new terms added: "approved supplier", "due diligence", "trader".	Both
Annex I	Material transfer record template.	Pilots
Annex II	Supply Chain documentation list.	Both
Annex III	Segregation model.	Public consultation feedback

What sets the SSI apart from other standards?



Tailored to the solar industry

- Value chain concentration in one single country (China)
- Geopolitical challenges
- Increased scrutiny due to its exponential growth



Strong solar industry buy-in

- SSI is uniquely positioned to use collective leverage to drive supply chain sustainability in the solar sector
- 100 GW module, 20 GW cell combined capacity of sites assessed in year 1



Traceability and product certifications

- Are needed to control the supply chain and make product claims
- Due diligence is crucial but not enough on its own



Multi-stakeholder Design

- Recognised by CSDDD
- Industry initiatives or audits/certifications schemes alone are useful but not as robust and credible
- SSI transition to multi-stakeholder governance is in progress



Third-party verification

- Desk-research or company statements/contracts are not enough
- They need to be complemented with data on the ground collected and validated by independent auditors qualified in all aspects of ESG



Covering all of E+S+G

- Some standards cover only some aspects of ESG. The SSI covers E + S + G, based on international standards

Thank you!

More info at www.solarstewardshipinitiative.org



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Panel discussion



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THANK YOU



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