



# SAF Certification

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# Deliverable: SAF Certification Guidance

## *The journey*

- **Drafted by the ICARUS Project Team**
- **Initial Webinar – Sustainability Certification of Novel SAF Pathways** (02.10.2025), with Esther Hegel, Georg Deslandes (RSB), Darren Carty (SFS); recording and presentations available
- **Bilateral engagements** with RSB certification team & external stakeholders
- **Session and co-creation workshop on certification** at EUBCE 2026, The Hague (May 2026)
- **Expert reviews & discussion** of the updated report in August 2026
- **Public Webinar – Sustainability Certification for Emerging SAF Pathways** on 30.09. [Sustainability Certification for Emerging SAF Pathways: Guidance, Opportunities and Lessons Learned](#)
- **Finalisation and submission** by 30 September 2026



# Certification journey



# Key SAF Certification Challenges

## 1. Fragmented & evolving frameworks

- Misalignment across EU RED, CORSIA, and national frameworks creates uncertainty for project design and investment
- Strict or unclear feedstock eligibility rules (e.g. RFNBO, Annex IX) can limit deployment
- Lack of harmonised definitions, methodologies (e.g. iLUC), and interoperability across systems and regions

## 2. Complex compliance & verification

- High complexity of GHG accounting, sustainability assessments, and data requirements across value chains (incl. limited data availability and consistency)
- High administrative burden and compliance costs, not always matched by sufficient incentives/ clear market signals
- Uncertainty in applying new or evolving criteria (e.g. e-SAF under RFNBO, CORSIA HEI)

## 3. Traceability & system integrity

- Full traceability required across complex, global supply chains with diverse actors
- Risk of fraud or mislabelling for specific feedstocks (e.g. UCO, tallow, POME), requiring stronger auditing approaches
- Need for stronger monitoring to avoid double counting and ensure reliable attribution of sustainability claims

# Examples of ongoing initiatives and developments

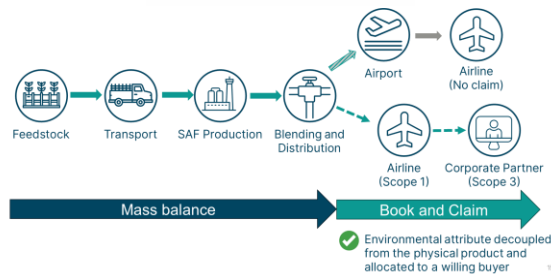


## Guidance & early-stage integration

- Development of ICARUS certification guidance to support researchers and developers in integrating sustainability certification into early-stage SAF projects
- Exploration of pre-certification concepts as a structured readiness approach bridging R&D and formal certification processes

## System alignment & market infrastructure

- Engagement with SAF clearing houses and relevant stakeholders to better align technical qualification and sustainability certification pathways
- Development of Book and Claim systems and registries to support credible market growth while ensuring transparency and avoiding double counting



## Tools, capacity & trust

- Ongoing development of certification tools, methodologies, and evolving standards to strengthen system integrity, credibility, and adaptability
- Capacity-building through training programmes and stakeholder dialogues to support implementation, knowledge sharing, and continuous system improvement



# Emerging approaches to address certification challenges

## System alignment



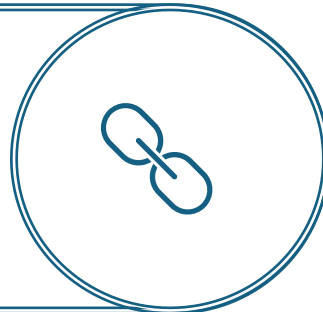
- Growing efforts to **harmonise sustainability requirements** across EU RED, CORSIA, and national frameworks, reducing fragmentation and increasing clarity for global SAF markets
- **Increasing alignment** between sustainability certification, technical qualification, and policy frameworks to support more consistent and scalable market entry

## Early integration & accessibility



- Development of **pre-certification and readiness approaches** to support early-stage SAF projects in understanding and preparing for certification requirements
- Stronger integration of certification considerations **into R&D and project design**, helping reduce risks, delays, and costly adjustments at later stages

## Transparency & market mechanisms



- Use of **digital tools**, improved data systems, and traceability approaches to strengthen credibility, efficiency, and auditability across supply chains
- Emergence of **market mechanisms such as Book and Claim** systems to enable demand aggregation and facilitate scaling of SAF beyond physical supply constraints

# ICARUS Workshop Findings



- More communication needed to clarify the role of certification in enabling SAF markets
- Clearer alignment needed between sustainability certification and technical standards such as ASTM
- More research needed on implementation challenges, including fraud risks and high risk feedstocks
- More research needed on traceability solutions, especially for smallholders. Continued innovation needed in traceability and verification approaches
- Simplification and stronger capacity needed to support scale up

