

Solar Stewardship Initiative Claims Guide

v.2.0 | March 2025

Intellectual Property notice

The present document was drafted and issued by the Solar Stewardship Initiative (referred to as 'SSI') in November 2023.

All copyrights in this document are held by the SSI. Copying, adapting, publishing or otherwise using this document or the content thereof, other than for the purpose mentioned in this document, without the explicit authorisation by the SSI, will be considered a copyright infringement. The SSI reserves all rights in that regard.

The words "SSI", "Solar Stewardship Initiative" and the logos included in this document are trademarks of the SSI. They may only be used with the explicit consent of the SSI and subject to the conditions set by the SSI. All other use of those signs will be considered a trademark infringement. The SSI reserves all rights in that regard.

The Solar Stewardship Initiative

The Solar Stewardship Initiative (SSI) works with manufacturers, developers, installers, and purchasers across the global solar value chain to collaboratively foster responsible production, sourcing, and stewardship of materials. The SSI's mission is to enhance end-to-end transparency, sustainability, and environmental, social and governance performance across the solar supply chain. Businesses actively involved in the solar value chain can apply to join the SSI and get certified against the SSI Standards.

The SSI's core objectives are to:

- Ensure the energy transition is just, inclusive, and respects people's human rights.
- Establish mechanisms to enhance supply-chain integrity in the global solar industry.
- Enable continuous improvement of ESG performance.
- Build confidence of regulators, customers, business partners and other stakeholders in the sustainability of the solar value chain.

About this document

This Claims Guide provides comprehensive guidance on the claims process for stakeholders participating in the Solar Stewardship Initiative (SSI). It is designed to ensure transparency, accuracy, and consistency in handling claims.

The document outlines the eligibility of who can make claims, the types of claims supported, requirements, verification, dispute resolution and best practice recommendations.

This guide is intended as a living document, subject to updates as standards evolve and new best practices emerge. Stakeholders are encouraged to review it regularly to stay informed of the latest requirements and guidance.

Version history

Version	Date	Description
1.0	November 2023	First version issued as approved by the SolarPower Europe and SEUK Board.
1.1	March 2024	Additional language added
2.0	March 2025	Second version issued, reflecting the addition of the SSI Supply Chain Traceability Standard.

Table of Contents

<i>Intellectual Property notice</i>	2
<i>About this document</i>	2
<i>Version history</i>	3
1. General guidelines	5
1.1. Approval for use of the SSI claims	5
1.2. Eligibility to make claims	5
1.2.1. Membership claims:.....	5
1.2.2. Certified member site claims	5
1.2.3. Approved Assessment Body	6
1.3. Accuracy and verifiability	6
1.4. Alignment with SSI Principles	6
1.5. Third-Party verification	6
1.6. Use of approved terminology	6
1.7. Communication of claims	7
1.8. Monitoring and reporting	7
1.9. Raising a complaint about misuse	7
1.10. Dispute resolution	7
1.11. Compliance with applicable laws	8
2. Overview of SSI logos and claims	8
2.1. Types of logos	8
2.2. Written claims	9

1. General guidelines

The following general guidelines outline the foundational principles for making, verifying, and maintaining claims under the Solar Stewardship Initiative (SSI).

These guidelines ensure that all participants adhere to the SSI's standards for sustainability, transparency, and accountability.

1.1. Approval for use of the SSI claims

To ensure compliance with the SSI Standards, approval from the SSI Secretariat is required to make any SSI Claims unless otherwise specified in this document.

For a claim to be approved, please submit requests, including proposed text and logo use and placement, by sending an email to contact@solarstewardshipinitiative.org

1.2. Eligibility to make claims

Only SSI active members and approved Assessment Bodies (ABs) can make claims. Claims must be relevant to the participant's role and scope of operations within the solar energy value chain.

There are different types of claims and logos, depending on the membership categories and participation in the SSI assurance process (see section 2.1 "Types of logos").

On cases of temporary suspension, no future claims can be issued until the suspension is lifted.

1.2.1. Membership claims:

SSI Members in any category can use the SSI Member logo to indicate in their communications that they are members of SSI.

Becoming a member of SSI signifies a commitment to SSI Principles, it does not guarantee that any member's site practices or supply chains are in compliance with the SSI Standards. SSI Members may also use the associated written claims alongside the member logo (see Section 2.2 "Written claims").

1.2.2. Certified member site claims

SSI member sites are only considered certified once they have undergone an independent assessment and achieved certification in line with the [SSI's Assurance Manual](#), at which time they can make the certified site member claims.

The certified member site claim may only be displayed on company websites, flyers, marketing materials, corporate material (e.g., annual reports and sustainability reports), invoices, letterheads, and other contractual documents. No product-related claims are allowed, such as where a product comes from, that a product is produced in a certain way, or other origin or provenance claims.

Certification does not guarantee that an entire company's supply chain is free from human and labour rights abuses, environmental degradation or governance issues.

1.2.3. Approved Assessment Body

Only ABs approved by the SSI to conduct assessments against the SSI Standards and listed on [the SSI website](#) are authorised to use the assessment body logo and written claim.

The approved AB claim can be displayed on company websites, flyers, marketing materials, corporate material (e.g., annual reports and sustainability reports), invoices, letterheads, and other contractual documents.

1.3. Accuracy and verifiability

All claims must be factually accurate and supported by verifiable evidence, such as certifications, audits, or documented data.

Misrepresentation, exaggeration, or omission of critical details is strictly prohibited.

1.4. Alignment with SSI Principles

Claims must align with the SSI's Principles, including environmental sustainability, ethical sourcing, and social responsibility.

Claims that do not reflect these principles will be deemed invalid.

1.5. Third-Party verification

Independent third-party verification is required for specific types of claims (see section 2.2 "Written Claims").

Verified claims must include the name of the AB and reference the assessment scope and validity period.

1.6. Use of approved terminology

The SSI name, abbreviation and logos must never be used in a way that could:

- Suggest or imply SSI membership of an entity that is not an SSI Member.
- Suggest or imply SSI certification before it has been achieved.
- Suggest or imply a larger scope of SSI certification than an SSI Member has achieved.
- Suggest or imply that certain materials or products are SSI-certified.
- Use SSI membership or certification to support vague or misleading sustainability claims not included in this Guide.
- The names of the SSI logos may not be translated into other languages without also retaining the English version/s for reference.

1.7. Communication of claims

Claims must be communicated clearly, transparently, and in a manner accessible to intended audiences, such as customers, partners, or regulatory bodies.

Unauthorised use of the SSIs logos, certifications or trademarks is prohibited.

1.8. Monitoring and reporting

SSI members and approved ABs are encouraged to establish internal monitoring processes to ensure ongoing compliance with claims requirements.

Any significant changes affecting a claim (e.g., changes in the supply chain or processes) must be reported promptly to the SSI Secretariat.

1.9. Raising a complaint about misuse

Non-compliance with the terms of this Guide can lead to the SSI withdrawing a member's right to make a claim and use the SSI logos. It may also result in suspension or termination of the SSI membership. Legal recourse may be pursued for non-members.

Any inappropriate or potentially misleading or fraudulent claims or representations about SSI by either members or non-members should be immediately reported to the SSI Secretariat by sending an email to contact@solarstewardshipinitiative.org.

The [SSI Complaints and Appeals Mechanism](#) may also be used for this purpose.

1.10. Dispute resolution

Disputes or challenges to claims will be resolved according to [the SSI Complaints and Appeals Mechanism](#).

SSI members and approved ABs are expected to cooperate fully during investigations or audits related to disputed claims.










1.11. Compliance with applicable laws



All claims must comply with local, national, and international laws as well as industry-specific regulations.

SSI members and approved ABs are responsible for ensuring that their claims meet legal requirements in the jurisdictions where they operate.


2. Overview of SSI logos and claims


2.1. Types of logos



Type	Logo
SSI organisational logo	
SSI membership logo	 
SSI ESG certified member site logo	  
SSI Supply Chain Traceability certified member site logo	  

SSI ESG and Supply Chain Traceability certified member site logo	
SSI assessment body logo	

2.2. Written claims

Member logo	Written claim
	<p>"[Member/Associate member name] is a member of the Solar Stewardship Initiative."</p> <p>"[Member/Associate member name] is proud to be a member of SSI and a supporter of the SSI Principles."</p> <p>"[Member name]" is committed to the SSI Principles and to have its sites independently assessed against the Solar Stewardship Initiative Standard to support responsible practices in the solar value chain.</p>

Certified site logo	Written claim
	<p>"[Site name, site type] is a certified site of the Solar Stewardship Initiative and complies with the SSI ESG Standard."</p> <p>"[Site name, site type] is a certified ESG Standard site of the Solar Stewardship Initiative since (year)."</p> <p>"[Site name, site type] is certified ESG Standard and has achieved (Gold, Silver, Bronze)."</p> <p>"[Site name, site type] has been recertified to the SSI ESG Standard and has achieved (Gold, Silver, Bronze)."</p>

	<p>"[Site name, site type] is a certified site of the Solar Stewardship Initiative and complies with the SSI Supply Chain Traceability Standard."</p> <p>"[Site name, site type] is a certified Supply Chain Traceability Standard site of the Solar Stewardship Initiative since (year)."</p> <p>"[Site name, site type] is certified Supply Chain Traceability Standard and has achieved (Gold, Silver, Bronze)."</p> <p>"[Site name, site type] has been recertified to the SSI Supply Chain Traceability Standard and has achieved (Gold, Silver, Bronze)."</p>
	<p>"[Site name, site type] is a certified site of the Solar Stewardship Initiative and complies with the ESG and Supply Chain Traceability Standard."</p> <p>"[Site name, site type] is a certified ESG and Supply Chain Traceability Standard site of the Solar Stewardship Initiative since (year)."</p> <p>"[Site name, site type] is certified SSI ESG and Supply Chain Traceability Standard and has achieved (Gold, Silver, Bronze)."</p> <p>"[Site name, site type] has been recertified to the SSI ESG and Supply Chain Traceability Standard and has achieved (Gold, Silver, Bronze)."</p>

Approved Assessment Body logo	Written claim
	<p>"[Assessment Body name] is an approved assessment body for the Solar Stewardship Initiative."</p>

To request high-definition versions of the logos or to submit a written external communication for approval, please contact contact@solarstewardshipinitiative.org.