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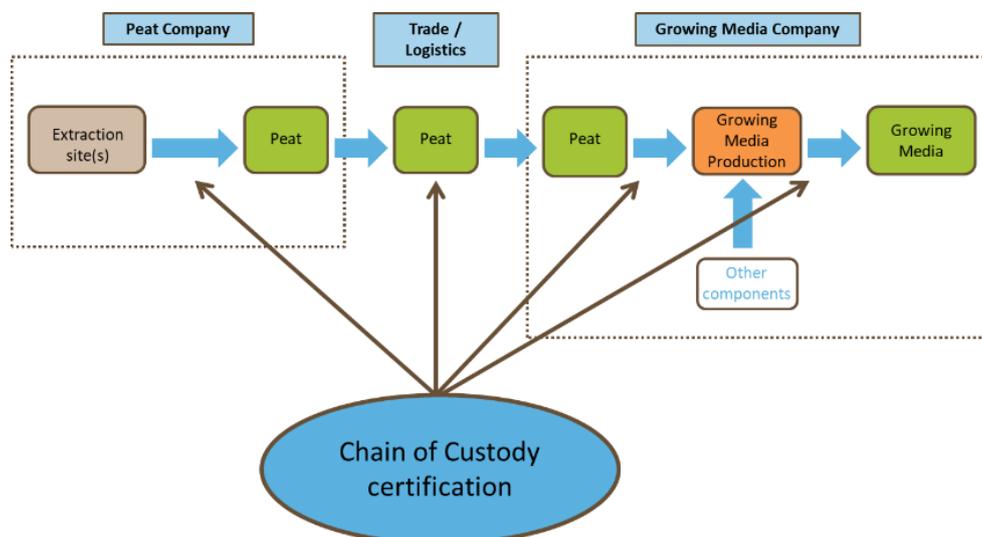
Explanation Chain of Custody (CoC)

Chapter 6 contains the requirements to be met for growing media certified according to RPP. If a quantity of peat-based growing media (a bag sold to the consumer, a truck load to a horticulture company, etc.) is RPP certified it tells a simple story: “A guaranteed percentage of the peat contained in this growing medium comes from RPP certified extraction sites.”

To be able to tell that story, the RPP label must assure that:

1. Peat from RPP certified sites conforms to RPP’s criteria for responsibly produced peat;
2. (A minimum percentage of the) peat in the growing media is coming from RPP certified sites only.

The first requirement is being met by RPP’s site certification system as described in Chapters 1-5. The second requirement will be met by applying RPP’s Chain of Custody certification system as defined in chapter 6: the system that assures the link between RPP-certified peat extraction sites and RPP certified growing media.



Mass Balance

RPP's ultimate goal is to sell growing media in which the peat fraction is 100% RPP certified: no mixing of peat from certified sites and non-certified sites at the peat company. For the time being, this is not a practical option. Mixing with non-certified peat will be required for some time to come. Because the production chain is clearly organised and controllable, it is decided that the RPP CoC-system is based on Mass Balance. Within the Mass Balance system, RPP certified and non-certified peat can be mixed. This makes it far more feasible for companies to source RPP certified peat, process it and bring RPP certified growing media on the market. Mass balance encourages companies to make the transition towards sourcing RPP certified peat, which in turn means more recognition and acknowledgement for RPP.

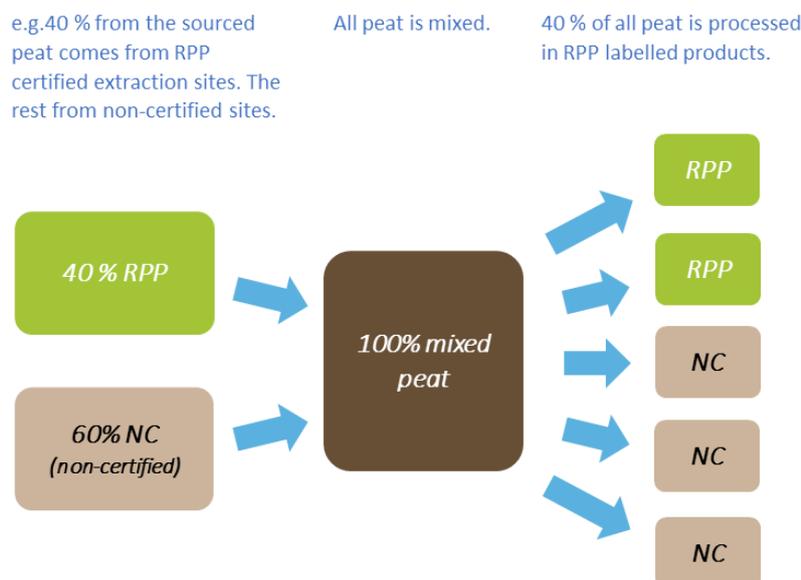
Chain of Custody methodology

RPP recognises two different options within the 'mass balance' system for the Chain of Custody:

- Option 1** A company commits itself to the principles of RPP and supplies a part of their growing media with the RPP label, which corresponds to the volume of sourced RPP certified peat;
- Option 2** A company commits itself to the principles of RPP and supplies all their growing media with the RPP label, in combination with a time-bound plan and an agreed increase in the application of RPP-certified peat.

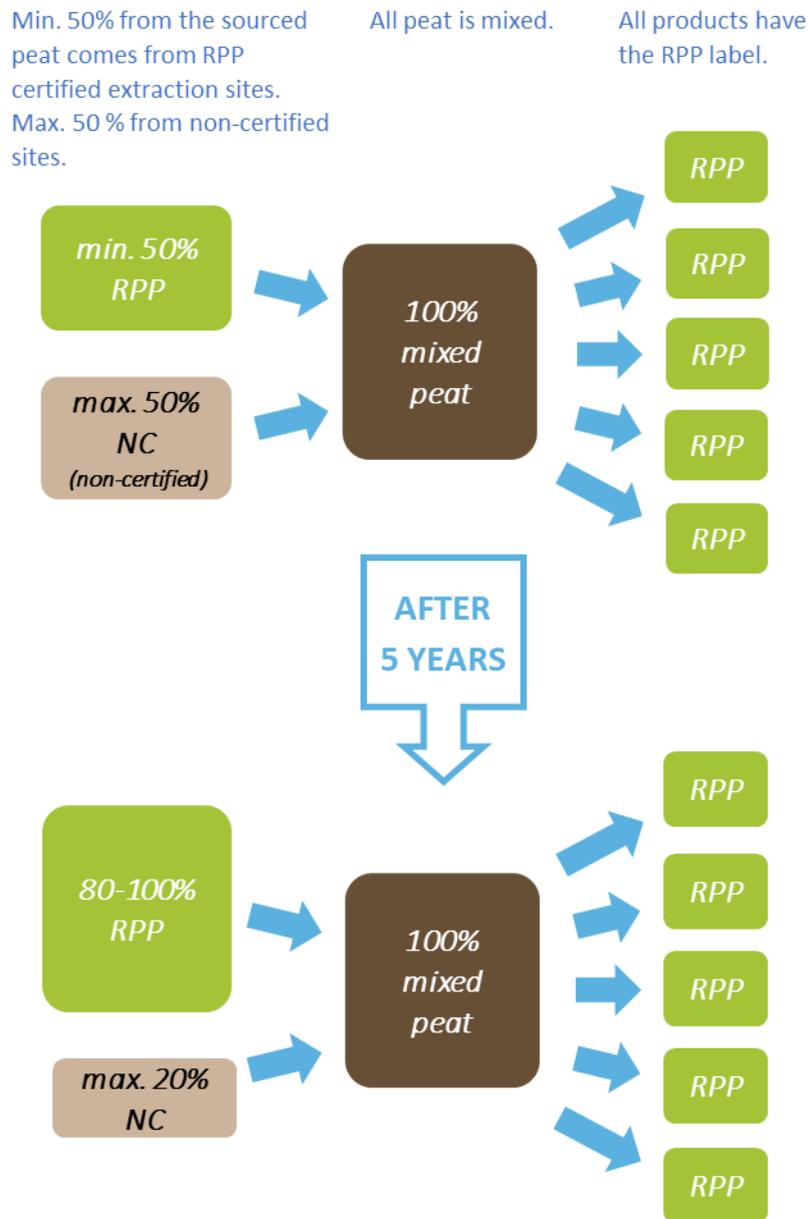
N.B. companies that only produce or trade peat as raw material apply option 1

Option 1:



The peat in a certain growing medium does not necessarily come from RPP certified extraction sites. The system assures however, that the company has sourced RPP-certified peat, for at least the volume of peat applied in their certified growing media.

Option 2:



The company can market all their peat containing growing media under the RPP-label.

The company commits itself to sourcing a gradually higher percentage of RPP certified peat (from the total amount of peat sourced) and enters into an agreement with Foundation Responsibly Produced Peat. The agreement shall show;

- a demonstrable plan,
- be time bounded (increase to min. 80% in max. 5 year) and
- at the starting point the company sources already a minimum of 50% of RPP certified peat.

When it appears that the company cannot comply to the agreement, the company can only apply option 1 (and enter into a new agreement with RPP in a later stage).

General requirements and traceability for both options:

- The growing media producer sources all peat, including the fraction of non-certified peat, from RPP registered peat companies to exclude the risk of ‘illegally’ extracted peat entering the supply chain through non-certified sources. As an additional option, the fraction of non-certified peat can be sourced from a company that has signed a customer due diligence (as provided by RPP).
- The manufacturer may label this growing medium as RPP certified.
- Volumes of peat and growing media are defined in accordance with EN12580. Reliable Volume Control and Material Balance are critical to the CoC system. An inspector shall be able to check all necessary facts and figures at the company.
- Accounting records need to be maintained and up to date figures are to be shown -at location- during an announced inspection. The inspector shall be informed in an accessible and transparent manner about input and output of volumes of peat and growing media, certified and non-certified.



The peat supply chain for growing media

The peat supply chain consists of the following activities, players and responsibilities:

Activity	Player	Responsibility
Peat extraction	peat extraction company with RPP registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - document production from certified sites - document sales of RPP certified peat - apply labelling according to rules
Trade in peat (as raw material)	trader with RPP registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - document sourcing and sales - apply labelling according to rules
Growing media production	growing media company with RPP registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - document sourcing of RPP certified and non-certified peat - document production and sales - apply labelling according to rules
Retail / trade to end user both hobby and professional market	retailer, trader (of packed growing media)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - apply labelling according to rules

Applying for the RPP Chain of Custody

➤ **Peat producing companies - traders of the raw material - growing media companies can register for the CoC using option 1:**

Within the company, certified and non-certified produced peat can be mixed but the volume of RPP certified peat that leaves the company is the same (or less) than the volume that is produced or sourced.

To apply with option 1, the secretariat needs from company:

1. A signed registration form
2. A flowchart of RPP certified peat logistics (the information remains confidential within the secretariat only)

➤ **Growing media companies can also choose to register for option 2 when:**

- A. The amount of certified peat is at least 50% of the total volume of peat used for the production of growing media and,
- B. during a period of 5 years the company will gradually increase this amount to 80% RPP certified peat.

Option 2 allows the company to use the RPP label for all peat containing growing media products.

To apply with option 2, the secretariat needs from company:

1. A signed registration form,
2. A flowchart of RPP certified peat logistics (the information remains confidential within the secretariat only),
3. A company plan on how to reach the figure of sourcing a minimum of 80% RPP certified peat in 5 years' time

The secretariat can ask for additional information and if desired, an appointment can be made to clarify possible uncertainties from both sides.

Based on the companies information, the secretariat will advise the Board about participation in the RPP Chain of Custody. After the official approval by the Board the RPP registration number and label will be sent to the company.

If you are already paying a yearly contribution for certified sites, this will be offset to the fee for the CoC.

Inspection of administration regarding the flow of RPP certified peat (EN 12850) will take place annually after announcement.

For any additional questions please don't hesitate to contact us!