



Key changes to the REDcert-EU scheme

Overview

Key changes to the REDcert-EU scheme

Scheme principles	Changes
<p>Mass Balancing</p>	<p>Section 3 - Biomethane:</p> <p>The requirements on capacity bookings (e.g. PRISMA) have been deleted without replacement, as the European Gas grid is regarded as an interconnected infrastructure and thus considered one mass balancing area. The mass balancing of the gas grid will be covered by the Union Database.</p> <p>Section 4 – Union Database:</p> <p>The use of the Union Database (UDB) is mandatory for all economic operators in the transport biofuel sector. Economic operators that are part of the biofuel value chain are required to enter all relevant information on incoming and outgoing sustainably produced consignments into the Union database. The verification of whether the entries in the Union Database correspond with the mass balance data will be part of the audit.</p> <p>Section 5 – Co-processing:</p> <p>Based on the Delegated Act (EU) 2023/1640, the requirements on co-processing have been significantly amended. In case of co-processing, balancing can be carried out based on the mass, energy or yield method in conjunction with regular radiocarbon testing. However, further changes to the chapter cannot be ruled out, as the assessment of the requirements for co-processing by the European Commission <u>is not yet finalized</u>.</p>
<p>GHG calculation</p>	<p>Section 4 – Use of emission factors:</p> <p>Emission factors listed in Annex IX of the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996 must be used in the case of an actual calculation of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG).</p>

Key changes to the REDcert-EU scheme

Scheme principles	Changes
	<p>Alternative values to those included in Annex IX cannot be applied under any circumstance.</p> <p>Section 4 – Requirements for the calculation of e_{ec} and e_{sca}:</p> <p>The requirements on the actual calculation of e_{ec} have been specified. NUTS-2 values can be used as an alternative to the actual calculation of e_{ec} provided, they were officially recognized by the European Commission by means of implementing acts. If no such NUTS-2 value exists in the region of cultivation, either an actual calculation must be performed, or an existing disaggregated default value is to be used.</p> <p>The requirements on the actual calculation of e_{sca} have been significantly amended. Farmers applying e_{sca} practices are required to register in the REDcert database, specifying the practice applied and commit for 10 years. Rules have also been laid down for farmers who have already applying e_{sca} practices.</p> <p>The bonus for the use of manure as a substrate for biogas is not affected by the new e_{sca} requirements, even though the bonus is credited as an e_{sca}-bonus.</p> <p>Section 4 – Co-digestion:</p> <p>The total emissions from the use of a biomass fuel - resulting from co-digestion of different substrates (e.g. maize and manure) - must be calculated as a sum taking into account on pro rata the share of the respective inputs and their emission factors. This means that the emission is to be calculated as a single value for the whole amount of the biogas/biomethane, resulting from co-digestion. Differentiation by substrate in the calculation <u>is not permitted</u>.</p>

Key changes to the REDcert-EU scheme

Scheme principles	Changes
<p>Production of biomass, biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels</p>	<p>Whole document – Cross-Compliance:</p> <p>The term cross-compliance has been replaced by the term conditionality. In addition, the references to Regulations (EU) 1305/2013, 1306/2013 and 1307/2013 have been repealed by the Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 and 2021/2116.</p> <p>Section 4 – Highly biodiverse grassland:</p> <p>The harvesting of raw material from non-natural species rich grassland is permitted, if it can be proven that the harvesting of raw material is necessary to preserve its status as highly biodiverse grassland.</p> <p>Section 4 – Soil quality and carbon protection:</p> <p>The section 4.4.1 concerning the Soil quality and carbon protection has been added. Producers of agricultural residues must implement measures that are suitable for maintaining soil quality and soil carbon content while at least the requirements on the preservation of the soil structure, the protection of soils against erosion and preservation of the soil organic matter content (soil carbon) typical for the site must be met according to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996 Annex VI.</p> <p>Verification of compliance with the measures must either be performed at national level or at economic operator level.</p>
<p>Neutral Inspection</p>	<p>Section 3 – Inspection system:</p> <p><u>Re-Certification:</u></p> <p>[...] A re-certification of existing scheme participants under a revised regulatory framework shall always be on-site and shall as a minimum provide reasonable assurance on the effectiveness of its internal processes [...]</p>

Key changes to the REDcert-EU scheme

Scheme principles	Changes
	<p><u>42 à 60 day deadline:</u></p> <p>[...] Copies of the audit report and certificate are submitted to REDcert and stored in the REDcert database no later than 60 calendar days from the last day of the audit.[...]</p> <p><u>Total duration of audit:</u></p> <p>[...] Total duration between first and last day of audits/inspections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for interfaces: max. 4 months between day 1 and last day of audit • for group member inspections: max. 6 months between first and last (sample) inspection of group members <p>In case the deadlines are not met audits/inspections must be fully repeated. [...]</p> <p><u>Reporting obligations of critical and major NC's:</u></p> <p>[...] REDcert reports the identified non-conformities, corresponding action plan and timing for their correction(s) in the annual activity report to the EU-Commission and publishes the report on its website taking into account sensitive company information and the relevant data protection regulations. [...]</p> <p>Section 4 – Scope of audit/certification:</p> <p>Major amendments in whole section 4 including sub-sections regarding inspections and certifications of dependent/non-autonomous storage, operating sites and logistic services</p>

Key changes to the REDcert-EU scheme

Scheme principles	Changes
	<p>Section 5 – Group certification:</p> <p><u>Sample AGRI Group members Non CAP conditionality:</u></p> <p>[...] Non CAP-conditionality (= formerly non-cross-compliance) farms – if they are also members of a group – are subject to sample inspections. [...]</p>
<p>Integrity Management</p>	<p>Section 4 – Complaint management:</p> <p>[...] The complaint process ensures the confidentiality and protection of persons who report infringements or log complainants. In accordance with Directive (EU) 2019/1937 the identity of the reporting person is not disclosed to anyone beyond the authorized staff members competent to receive or follow up on reports, without the explicit consent of that person.[...]</p> <p>[...] Upon request by the European Commission or a Member State, REDcert shall provide all documents related to a complaint and its handling.[...]</p> <p><i>Minor amendments in the description of the complaints workflow</i></p> <p>Section 7.1 – Measures to ensure scheme integrity:</p> <p>[...] Economic operators and certification bodies failing or unwilling to comply with the requirements set out in paragraphs 1 to 6 of Article 17 of the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996 “Supervision by the Member States and the Commission” must be excluded from participating in and conducting audits under REDcert. [...]</p>

Key changes to the REDcert-EU scheme

Scheme principles	Changes
	<p>Section 7.4 – Measures to sanction and remedy major non-conformities:</p> <p>[...] Where a certificate is withdrawn following an audit which confirmed a critical non-conformity and the scheme contract is terminated without notice during the sanction procedure, that economic operator can be excluded from scheme participation for at least two years. When accepting new scheme participants, REDcert takes into account any blocking periods of other voluntary systems. [...]</p>
Definitions	New document