



**Report to the European Commission
according to Directive (EU) 2018/2001
Article 30 (5)**

2022

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REDcert GmbH is responsible for the operation of the voluntary scheme 'REDcert-EU', recognized by the European Commission according to Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/605 of April 8th, 2022 on recognition of the 'REDcert-EU' voluntary scheme for demonstrating compliance with the sustainability criteria under Directives (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

This document is publicly accessible at: <https://www.redcert.org/en/media-center/information-biofuel-sector.html>

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I. Introduction

Voluntary certification schemes have been established since 2010 for providing evidence of compliance with the sustainability requirements laid down in Directive (EU) 2018/2001.

Therefore, the Commission has been mandated to require voluntary schemes in accordance with Article 30 (5) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 to report regularly on their activity. The Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996 of June 14th, 2022 has updated the reporting criteria for future reporting obligations but is not yet implemented. Therefore, this report is reflecting the current reporting criterion.

The reports will be made public in order to increase transparency and to improve oversight by the Commission. Furthermore, such reporting would provide the necessary information for the Commission to report on the operation of the voluntary schemes with a view to identify best practice and submit, if appropriate, a proposal to further promote such best practice.

Voluntary schemes have to publish at least once per year

- 1 a list of their certification bodies used for independent auditing, indicating for each certification body by which entity or national public authority it was recognized and by which entity or national public authority it is monitored.

Further information is requested concerning

- 2 the independence, modality and frequency of audits, both in relation to what is stated on those aspects in the scheme documentation, at the time the scheme concerned was approved by the Commission, and in relation to industry best practice;
- 3 the availability of, and experience and transparency in the application of, methods for identifying and dealing with non-compliance, with particular regard to dealing with situations or allegations of serious wrongdoing on the part of members of the scheme;
- 4 transparency, particularly in relation to the accessibility of the scheme, the availability of translations in the applicable languages of the countries and regions from which raw materials originate, the accessibility of a list of certified operators and relevant certificates, and the accessibility of auditor reports;
- 5 stakeholder involvement, particularly as regards the consultation of indigenous and local communities prior to decision making during the drafting and reviewing of the scheme as well as during audits and the response to their contributions;
- 6 the overall robustness of the scheme, particularly in light of rules on the accreditation, qualification and independence of auditors and relevant scheme bodies;

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- 7 market updates of the scheme, the amount of feedstocks and biofuels certified, by country of origin and type, the number of participants;
- 8 the ease and effectiveness of implementing a system that tracks the proofs of conformity with the sustainability criteria that the scheme gives to its member(s), such a system intended to serve as a means of preventing fraudulent activity with a view, in particular, to the detection, treatment and follow-up of suspected fraud and other irregularities and where appropriate, number of cases of fraud or irregularities detected;
- 9 options for entities to be authorized to recognize and monitor certification bodies;
- 10 criteria for the recognition or accreditation of certification bodies;
- 11 rules on how the monitoring of the certification bodies is to be conducted.
- 12 possibilities to facilitate or improve promotion of best practice.

The following report collects all the requested information about the certification scheme REDcert EU in a structured way and allows the reader to verify quickly whether all required information has been provided.

To track changes between the current and the latest report updated figures or information is indicated by italic letters. Several direct links to the updated REDcert-EU scheme documents or other information resources are indicated by hypertext.

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II. Requested information

1. List of certification bodies recognised

An up-to-date list of all certification bodies recognised by REDcert within the scope of the REDcert EU scheme is public available on the REDcert webpage.

In table 1 (see Annex III-1) 28 recognised certification bodies registered for the REDcert-EU scheme in the year 2022 are listed.

In 2022 two additional certification body were registered under the REDcert EU scheme while one certification body cancelled the contract with REDcert and stopped its certification service.

2. Independence, modality and frequency of audits

The requirements on certification bodies, auditors and inspections in the frame of the REDcert EU scheme are laid down in the document:

[‘REDcert-EU scheme principles for neutral inspections’](#).

Independence and impartiality

The certification bodies conduct their inspections in accordance with the requirements of ISO 19011 (which is mandatory for accreditation). Conformity evaluations are carried out in line with the specifications of the ISO/ICE Guide 60.

Evaluations and decisions may not be affected by personal relationships, financial incentives or other types of influences. The certification bodies and the auditors are independent of the interfaces, operations and suppliers and free of all conflicts of interest and can furnish proof of this.

Technical and staffing requirements

The certification bodies have the respective equipment and infrastructure to review compliance with the system requirements and the requirements of Directive 2009/28/EC and their corresponding directives for all participants in the value chain. The certification bodies have sufficient qualified staff that fulfil the requirements listed under item 4. The verification that

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these prerequisites are fulfilled requires suitable documents on the equipment of the respective certification body, its structure and its staff.

Principle of peer review

To ensure that the principle of peer review is upheld (separation of evaluation and certification), the certification body employs at least two natural persons, both registered as auditors within the REDcert-EU scheme. This means that the final decision of a certification is not made by the same person who performed the inspection. The certification body also appoints a person who has in-depth system knowledge and is responsible for communication with REDcert.

Handling complaints and claims

The certification bodies must have an effective process in place for handling complaints and claims. This process is part of the QM system of the respective certification body and guarantees the fastest possible response if there are complaints and claims, and, if necessary, the introduction of corrective measures.

On the other side REDcert provides a public Complaint Management System (CMS) where every type of complaint against REDcert, one of the certification bodies or their auditors or an operator certified under the REDcert-EU scheme can be addressed, see document:

[‘REDcert Integrity management system’](#).

In addition, a ‘whistle-blower’ contact option is available here on the website where informants are able to submit their message anonymously.

Any appeal about a certification body’s decision, its performance or any other hint about misbehaviors and frauds impose immediate action by REDcert according to the Integrity Management System (IMS), which is defined in the document ‘Scheme principles for integrity management’.

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Inspection intervals

The certification body must conduct a full inspection once a year (maximum time interval 12 month) to verify that the operations still satisfy the requirements for certification. In consequence the certificate issued after a successful audit has a validity period of 12 month, too. The follow-up inspection is to be carried out before the existing certificate/inspection certificate expires so that the certification can be maintained by issuing a new certificate without a gap.

Additional mandatory surveillance audits were imposed for operators – collectors and traders - which deal with waste and residues feedstock after their initial certification. For those dealing only with waste and residues a full surveillance audit is required latest 6 month after the initial certification. For those, dealing with both – waste and residues as well as virgin material – an additional surveillance audit is required 3 months after the initial certification.

In the frame of its IMS REDcert is authorized to order additional audits performed either by the certification body in charge or by another recognized certification body to assess potential non-conformities arising from complaints or suspects reported from the market.

3. Methods for identifying and dealing with non-compliance

For neutral inspection within the REDcert-EU scheme appropriate inspection criteria have been defined. These criteria were transferred into two types of checklists – one for farmers and one for all other operators along the supply chain of biomass/biofuel (first gathering point, waste collectors, traders, production plants etc.). Auditors of the certification bodies are obliged to use the REDcert checklists without any exemption. It is mandatory to provide REDcert with a fully documented checklist as an audit report by uploading it into REDcert's scheme database before a certificate can be uploaded to the database (see chapter 4).

The inspection criteria are classified, some of the criteria are defined as 'knock-out-criteria'. The classification is harmonized according to the European Commission requirements.

Each finding has to be flagged as

'compliant'	in case of complete conformity with a criterion
'minor'	in case of a minor non-conformity with a criterion
'major'	in case of a major non-conformity with a criterion
'critical'	in case of a critical non-conformity with a criterion (= k.o.)

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According to the auditor's finding for each criterion the result of the inspection is calculated automatically. The result of an inspection is also classified in three stages

- fully compliant
- minor non-conformities (minor deviations detected to be solved in between the certification period)
- major non-conformities (due to knock-out-criteria or a certain level/volume of minor deviations)

The auditor is responsible to define and to monitor corrective action for all deviations detected. All corrective action agreed with the operator have to be documented in the corresponding table of the checklist.

In case of the result 'major non-conformity' the sanction procedure of the REDcert-EU scheme – defined in document ['Scheme principles for integrity management'](#) is launched.

As a mean of prevention against the risk of 'scheme hopping' REDcert's has implemented a detailed registration process for new applicants. Each applicant to the REDcert-EU scheme has to state any existing certificate of another scheme and/or any withdrawn or suspended (before its regular expiry date) certificate as well as a certificates under a different scheme which ended regularly at its expiry date and not due to non-conformities. In all cases he has to grant access for REDcert to gather all relevant information concerning this non-compliance by contacting the other certification scheme and/or the former certification body in charge. In addition, these statements have to be made for the legal entity applying for the REDcert-EU scheme as well as for other companies or precursor entities to prevent them from simple name change disguising an operator's prehistory.

A new certificate under the REDcert EU scheme can only be issued if all non-compliances under the former scheme have been corrected and assessed by the new certification body in charge under special scrutiny.

Any false statement about an applicant's certification history detected after the registration allows REDcert to cancel the system contract and to withdraw the certificate with immediate effect.

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Previous/current certifications ▲

Over the last 12 months...

... we operated under a different **company** name/ legal form/ VAT number.

Name and legal form of the other company

VAT ID of the previous company

... and we did not participate in any other certification scheme recognised by the BLE or the EU Commission.

...and we are participating in a different certification scheme recognised by the BLE or the EU Commission and our certificate is currently valid.

...and we participated in a different certification scheme recognised by the BLE or the EU Commission and our certificate expired at the end of the validity period.

...and we participated in a different certification scheme recognised by the BLE or the EU Commission and our certificate was revoked due non-compliance with certification scheme requirements.

Scheme recognised by the BLE Name of scheme

Scheme recognised by the EU Commission Name of scheme

Space for applicant comments:

We hereby explicitly authorise REDcert to request all documents that affect our scheme participation from the operator of the certification scheme we previously used for inspection.

REDcert will automatically send you a declaration of consent which needs to be filled out and sent immediately to the following address info@redcert.de.

REDcert explicitly states that participation in the REDcert certification system is not possible without the above-mentioned consent to the transfer of documents from the previously used certification system.

REDcert reserves the right to terminate scheme participation without notice in the event that incorrect or incomplete data about previous certifications is provided.

I have read and hereby accept the conditions of the [data privacy policy](#).

Fig. 1: extract from the updated registration portal with mandatory information on the prehistory of an applicant

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4. Transparency, particularly in relation to the accessibility of the scheme

To meet the transparency requirements of legislators, but even more importantly, our own standards for an integral certification scheme, REDcert has defined a set of transparency measures which are defined in detail in the document:

[‘Scheme principles for Integrity Management’](#)

Transparency in scheme representation and documentation

REDcert informs the interested public (potential scheme users, media, associations and special interest groups) extensively about the content and requirements of the certification scheme. All approved scheme documents required for implementation and monitoring the scheme are available at www.redcert.org. In addition, REDcert provides tools and informational materials to scheme participants and the certification bodies who work for them. Interested parties and authorities thus have the opportunity to view these documents at any time and keep up to date on the current status of the scheme by receiving a free newsletter.

Transparency in scheme membership

REDcert concludes written contracts with the scheme participants (economic operators) and with the certification bodies active in the scheme. These contracts clearly stipulate the rights and obligations of the respective parties.

These contracts ensure that the requirements of the certification scheme:

- a) are binding in their application
- b) can be verified and are transparent
- c) can, when necessary, be enforced with legal means

The contracts with certification bodies assure that Member State authorities can supervise the operation of certification bodies as set out under Article 30(9) of the Directive.

If the European Commission will be required - upon request of a Member State, or its own initiative - to investigate whether the REDcert-EU scheme operates according to the rules or to examine whether the sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria in relation to a particular consignment are met, the appropriate access to relevant data e.g. such as audit

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reports and actual GHG calculations either from operators or from certification bodies is assured by contractual provisions.

The contracts are carefully structured standard documents. Individual agreements relating to the scheme requirements are not made.

Transparency in scheme administration

REDcert uses a database to manage the certification scheme that documents all

- scheme participants including all of the dependent operational sites of each member registered
- all of the inspections conducted regardless of result
- all certificates issued under the REDcert-EU scheme
- all sanction measures
- market data relevant for the scheme's reporting obligation to the European Commission

The scheme management is always able to give authorized groups information about the status of the participants, inspections and sanctions.

REDcert also fulfils the officially specified information and reporting obligations stipulated in Directive (EU) 2018/2001 Article 30 (5) – updated but not yet enforced by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996 - and creates and submits the information required here to the responsible offices of the European commission within the specified period (by 30 April of the year after the reporting year).

Transparency in scheme certification

A valid certificate is an essential prerequisite for trade with certified sustainable biomass or biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels. To make it possible for all economic operators to have a transparent and tamper-proof overview of all certificates issued in the REDcert scheme – valid, expired and suspended – the REDcert database publicly makes these certificates available online together with detailed information on the validity and the scope of application.

The certification bodies responsible for issuing and monitoring the certificates guarantee that the overview is always up to date on a daily basis.

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Certificates are listed with the following data (see also figure 2 below):

- Status of certificate (valid, suspended, expired/withdrawn)
- certificate's identifier
- name of operator
- validity period
- scope of certification (type of operations)
- list of biomasses, where 'normal' letters indicate that the biomass has been assessed during the corresponding audit and 'italic' letters indicate that the biomass has not yet been assessed by the certification body in charge but will be taken into account for the next audit. The biomass is counted as 'certified', too, because an operator is free to modify its business during a certification period. But only the certification body in charge is authorised to update the biomass list on request by the operator.
- name certification body
- PDF copy of certificate (optional)

?

Here you'll find all certificates and inspection certificates processed in the REDcert system today:

Search

Identifier

Name of the certificate holder

Certification body

Type

Post Code

City

Country

State

Please [notify](#) us of certificates and inspection certificates that have allegedly been issued as well as biomass that has allegedly been certified but is not listed below so that we can also improve the integrity of the REDcert systems in this way.

Identifier	Name of the certificate holder	Valid from	Valid until	Certified as	Type of biomass	Certification body	Type	Documentation
DE-B-BLE-BM-11-104-32591902	Berliner Stadtreinigung AöR, 13597, Berlin, Germany	26.04.2019	25.04.2020	502	AuR, BM	GUT Zertifizierungsgesellschaft	K-DE	
DE-B-BLE-BM-11-104-32591901	Berliner Stadtreinigung AöR, 13597, Berlin, Germany	26.04.2019	25.04.2020	202, 303, 407	AuR, BM	GUT Zertifizierungsgesellschaft	Z-DE	

Fig.2: extract from the online certificates database

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5. Stakeholder involvement

The REDcert-EU scheme is supported by several branch organisations (shareholders) that largely represent the economic operators in the agri- and biofuel sector.

The scheme's operation is fully independent and not influenced by the shareholders. To make use of the specific branch expertise and to receive feedback from the operators REDcert has established a technical committee. The committee's expertise is essential to the REDcert-EU scheme. Its primary task is to advise the executive management and initiate and promote the process of continuous improvement and the further development of the REDcert-EU scheme. The scheme documents have to be adopted by the board before they're presented to the European Commission for recognition.

The process of shareholder as well as stakeholder involvement is defined in 'Rules on procedure' where – beside other items – REDcert focuses in independence and impartiality to avoid any conflict of interest between the involved person and parties.

The shareholders assembled two times in 2022; the technical committee 'biofuels' assembled once in 2022.

Representatives of certification bodies, national authorities, scientists as well as NGO's and other parties potentially affected are invited to cooperate with REDcert on this technical level.

So far, REDcert is not engaged in regions or countries where the interests of indigenous and local communities are potentially in conflict with the land-use for biomass production.

To harmonize and to 'calibrate' the certification bodies operating in the frame of the REDcert-EU scheme regular meetings, so-called 'Exchange-of-Experience' (EoE) are organized. In 2022 the experiences with the implementation of the RED II and the revised REDcert-EU scheme and an outlook on the future certification requirements imposed by the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996 were the most important topics in the EoE meetings. One mandatory meeting for each group of certification bodies (German speaking and English speaking) was held in 2022.

6. Overall robustness of the scheme

REDcert provides a robust and reliable certification scheme which complies 100% with the European legal requirements concerning sustainable biomass/biofuel as well as with the expectations and needs of operators along the whole production chain, being also aware of the expectations of other third parties (see No. 5). The REDcert scheme documents updated

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according to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996 are currently under assessment by the European Commission.

Therefore, REDcert follows the principle of 'active scheme management' by providing/requiring

- a consistent scheme documentation,
- a certification process according to principles of the European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA),
- a transparent scheme administration, regular reports and publications,
- a public database of certificates,
- a Complaint Management System (CMS) where all type of complaints against the REDcert-EU scheme are managed,
- an Integrity Management System (IMS),
- a Sanction System for handling major non-conformities.

Beside these documented and published tools for a robust scheme, REDcert provides a broad service and support for operators and certification bodies under the REDcert-EU scheme and has imposed a risk and crisis management system to handle all type of incidents which may affect REDcert's image and integrity.

REDcert's service includes training offers for operators as well as for certification bodies, for example 'GHG calculation trainings' or 'Train-the-Trainer' seminars for certification body staff. The REDcert team is available for individual support of operators and certification bodies via several communication channels.

With a view on the additional requirements of the 'COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION on rules to verify sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria and low indirect land-use change-risk criteria' (so-called 'Implementing Act') on the accreditation of certification bodies REDcert is already cooperating with ANSI/ANAB1 to establish an accreditation procedure for its certification bodies according to the provisions of the IAF International Accreditation Forum.

¹ ANSI/ANAB - ANSI National Accreditation Board

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7. Market updates of the scheme

The REDcert EU scheme is a 'full scale' or 'typical' certification scheme which covers all types of feedstock and stages of production.

As of July 2021 REDcert has extended its geographical globally. The scheme can be used globally in all countries for which REDcert provides a specific country scheme. These 'country schemes' are reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The list of countries actually covered by the REDcert-EU scheme can be obtained on REDcert's website.

The provisions of the REDcert scheme also apply for 'Renewable Liquid and Gaseous Transport Fuels of non-Biological Origin' (RFNBOs) and 'Recycled Carbon Fuels' (RCFs) according to the draft Implementing regulation. The scheme documents on GHG calculations have been amended accordingly.

Feedstocks determined as 'high indirect land-use change-risk feedstock' by the European Commission according to RED II9 are completely excluded from a REDcert-EU certification even if there might be an option of certifying them as 'low indirect land-use change-risk biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels'.

REDcert and its affiliate company SURE – Sustainable Resources Verification Scheme have agreed on sharing the whole market of sustainable biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels as follows:

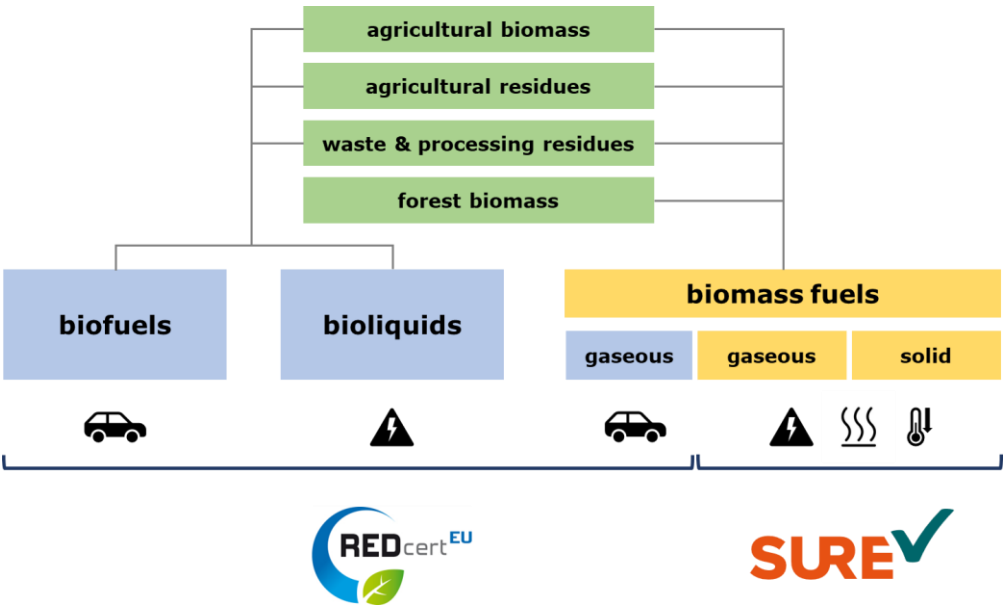


Fig.3 scope of application of the REDcert-EU scheme and the SURE scheme

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Economic operator producing biogas and/or biomethane may decide for both certifications because of the products usability for the traffic as well as for the energy sector.

Operators have reported the following quantities (in tonnes) of feedstock gathered in 2022 under the REDcert-EU scheme:

	2022	2021	Difference	+/-%
Agricultural feedstock	11.989.371	10.932.465	1.056.906	10%
- thereof rapeseed	6.672.712	5.671.722	1.000.990	18%
- thereof all type of cereals	4.393.383	3.917.248	476.135	12%
Waste & residues	12.800.166	3.085.084	9.715.082	315%
- thereof UCO	2.848.775	427.299	2.421.476	567%
- thereof animal manure	5.745.771	2.201.704	3.544.067	161%
Total	24.789.537	14.017.549	10.771.988	77%

The total volume of feedstock reported under the REDcert-EU went up by 77% with a major share of waste and residue feedstock (4-times up!). A significant increase of UCO gathered by collectors was reported which can only partially be explained by an increase of collectors certified under REDcert (+14% in 2022). There were obviously growing quantities in 2022 of UCO on the market.

The increase of animal manure by 1.5-times can be easily explained by the growing share of German biomethane producers certified under REDcert-EU. With the so-called 'manure bonus' animal manure is quite attractive as feedstock for biomethane as it significantly improves the GHG savings.

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The volume of agricultural biomass went up by 10%, strongly influenced by a 'revival' of rapeseed (after two years of declining harvest due to climate impact in Europe).

Detailed figures of all types of feedstocks gathered under the REDcert-EU scheme is attached to this report in table 3 in the annex.

The total volume of biofuels produced under the REDcert-EU scheme went up by 3%:

Type of product	2022	2021	Difference	+/-%
Biodiesel	2.114.376	1.783.251	331.125	19%
Bioethanol	1.068.997	1.056.788	12.209	1%
Bio-LNG	44.749		44.749	
Biomethane	9.908.707	487.230	9.421.477	1934%
FT diesel		91.315	-91.315	-100%
HVO	3.438	1.655	1.783	108%
Methanol	9.497	6.853	2.644	39%
Other	53.169	34.151	19.018	56%
Pure vegetable oil	184.753	292.905	-108.152	-37%
Total	13.387.686	3.754.148	9.633.538	257%

The quantity of biofuels under the REDcert-EU scheme went up by 257% mainly caused by biomethane in Germany where a lot of installations switched from the electricity production (biogas) to the fuel production (biomethane).

Also, biodiesel went up by 19% while bioethanol, which is still mainly produced from agricultural feedstock, only went up by 1%. The volume of HVO was doubled but is still quite low. Sustainable certified methanol seems to become a valuable feedstock for the chemical industry which is strongly moving towards a more sustainable production and circular economy.

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8. System that tracks the proofs of conformity with the sustainability criteria

Each operator in the REDcert-EU scheme is obligated to provide appropriate evidence for the sustainability claims he makes by documentation which has to be kept and archived for a minimum 5-year period.

Such documentation must provide traceability of the sustainability criteria according to the principles of mass balancing or segregation.

The documentation shall be provided in an auditable form based on a management system which defines type, content, frequency, way and duration of storage/archive.

During the inspection the operator is obliged to open all files and documentation requested by the auditor which are related with the sustainability criteria under the REDcert-EU scheme and must be prepared to provide further information about feedstock/biofuel under other certification schemes on site or accounting details on request of the auditor. On request of the auditor an operator has to provide additional information on any non-sustainable feedstock / biofuel, or those quantities covered by a different certification scheme when the operator has joined more than one certification scheme.

The upcoming 'Union Database' is already anchored as a mandatory system in The REDcert-EU scheme for tracking all consignments of biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels provided in the European Union for the fulfilment of the GHG saving obligations. The implementation of the UDB is currently under progress but still faces some technical obstacles and challenges. The goal to achieve an operational status of the database until the end of 2023 is quite ambitious and maybe failed partially when it comes to feedstock transactions. While most of the biofuel producers are quite familiar with databases like nabisy, feedstock producers and traders are not yet under the obligation of using a mandatory database to register each transaction.

'Proofs of Sustainability' for biofuel (PoS) are regular under special scrutiny with respect to the calculation and declaration of GHG emission savings. Certification bodies are requested to assess all PoS in detail and to follow the methodology of GHG calculation for the particular pathway. Since 2017 certification bodies are required to assess individual GHG calculations of an operator prior to their first implementation to assure a robust calculation methodology from the very beginning.

In addition, REDcert still tracks those PoS registered in the nabisy system and provided by the Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food (BLE) where the GHG emission saving is more than 10% higher than the average value of the particular biofuel (so called 'yellow flag list'). Those PoS will be assessed by REDcert and have to be confirmed by the certification body in charge.

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Inconsistencies may impose further means according to the Integrity Management System if they provide evidence for non-conformities and fraud.

9. Entities to be authorized to recognize and monitor certification bodies

All certification bodies which are registered in the REDcert-EU scheme (see annex table 1) must be recognized by a national public authority or hold an accreditation in line with ISO/IEC 17065 or ISO/IEC 17021. This kind of accreditation is performed by members of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), by the bodies referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 or by bodies that have a bilateral agreement with the European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA).

All certification bodies resident in German territory are recognized by the German Federal Office of Agriculture and Food (BLE).

All certification bodies resident in Poland are recognized by the Krajowy Ośrodek Wsparcia Rolnictwa (KOWR). In addition, as a REDcert prerequisite, these certification bodies must at least hold an accreditation pursuant to the certification activity applied for.

The certification body Baltic Control Certification A/S is accredited against ISO/IEC 17021 (for ISO 22000 and GTP certifications) and ISO/IEC 17065 (e.g. QS, Global GAP) by the Danish accreditation body DANAK (DANAK accreditation no. 7027, 7032 and 5016).

According to the 'Implementing Act' REDcert has – together with SURE – started a joined project with ANAB to establish the certification schemes as accreditable according to ISO/IEC 17065. The option of establishing a scheme-specific accreditation seems to be the only way as nobody will take over the challenge to establish a generic RED II accreditation as it is offered by the Implementing Act. Certification bodies operating under several voluntary schemes therefore would have to seek an individual accreditation for each of the schemes.

In 2022 REDcert continued to perform surveillance audits according to the Polish biofuel legislation at every certification bodies registered for the REDcert-EU scheme in The audits have been reported to the KOWR according to the specific reporting obligations imposed by the Polish biofuel legislation.

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10. Criteria for the recognition or accreditation of certification bodies

The criteria for the recognition or accreditation of certification bodies are also published in the document:

[‘Scheme principles for neutral inspections’](#).

To become a certification body within the REDcert-EU scheme it is until today required to provide recognition by a national public authority or an accreditation in line with ISO/IEC 17065 or ISO 17021. This kind of accreditation has to be performed by members of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), by the bodies referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 or by bodies that have a bilateral agreement with the European Cooperation for Accreditation. Future requirements on accreditation have been describe already in chapter 9.

The certification body submits an application for registration with REDcert as outlined in annex 1 of the document mentioned above (‘Application for registering a certification body’) under the REDcert voluntary scheme. After all required documents have been submitted, REDcert decides whether to approve or reject the application within 4 weeks and informs the applicant of the decision in writing. The certification body is recognised by REDcert by concluding a written, legally binding contract created by REDcert. The certification body is only authorised to perform inspections and issue certificates under the REDcert certification system once the signed contract has been received. Granting access to the scheme’s database requires a valid contract.

11. Rules on conducting the monitoring of certification bodies

REDcert performs a systematically monitoring of its certification bodies and certification activities as a part of its Integrity Management System (IMS).

The monitoring focuses on a properly performed certification process with respect to time flow (defined time slots for reporting of inspections and issuing of certificates), documentation (proper peer review and significance of findings in the audit report, potential contradictions between findings and results etc.) and duration of an inspection (expended inspection time with respect to an operator’s scope and complexity of process).

An assessment on the time-slot failure (>42 days) made in November 2022, covering all certificates from January 2021 until November 2022 shows the following result:

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certificates issued in that period 4.167

certificates issued in time (<42 days after audits) 2.6.10
issued by 17 of 28 certification bodies

certificates issued with delay (>42 days) 1.557
issued by 11 of 28 certification bodies

thereof

average of delayed certificates per certification body
2,3%

with minimum value
0,3%

maximum value
10,5%

Backdating of certification for more than 3 days was detected in 62 cases (3,1% of all certificates) during the recent monitoring period which is comparable with the ratio in former reports.

All certification bodies with delayed certificates were asked to explain reasons for the delays and to impose corrective action to improve the administrative process inside the back office. As every case of backdating requires REDcert administrator role for the certificate upload certification bodies have to apply for this by explaining the reason for each case. The main reason for this is a lack in back office/administration resources in some certification bodies. In case of repetitive problems REDcert is authorized to exclude a certification body from the scheme.

The 'quality' of inspections with respect to an auditor's specific skills and knowledge is assessed by REDcert, too. Therefore, auditors are registered for REDcert-EU scheme according to their proven expertise, trainings and education. With respect to their proven skills and expertise one or more specific scopes are assigned to each auditor in which he's allowed to perform inspections. REDcert is monitoring its certification bodies if auditors are only active within their

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assigned scope. If not, an audit cannot be registered in the REDcert database and must be repeated.

Certification bodies are required to perform regular trainings for all auditors and staff working within the frame of the REDcert-EU scheme. Therefore, each certification body has to nominate as a minimum one trainer which has been trained directly and is registered by REDcert.

Beside the monitoring activities of competent authorities and accreditation bodies REDcert itself is authorized to perform surveillance and witness audits in certification bodies headquarters or in the field (witness audit of auditors) as part of its Integrity Management System (IMS). Such surveillance audits are performed in case of repetitive problems, complaints and any other observations which may indicate potential non-conformities affecting certification body's work.

Certificates issued with validity from January 1st until December 31st 2022:

total	1.974		
thereof withdrawn	91	(=4,6%)	
- by REDcert	15		
- by CB in charge	76		

While REDcert only withdraws a certificate in a case of extraordinary termination of the system contract in case of e.g. continuously outstanding payment of the system fees or other reason stipulated in the system contract, there are several reason why a certification body may withdraw a certificate:

- termination of the contract with an economic operator
- adapting the certificate's validity with other certificates in case of a joint certification process
- critical non-conformities detected during a regular audit or an integrity audit which haven't been corrected in due time (according to scheme provisions)

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In 2022 about 7 cases were processed under REDcert's Integrity management program. In 3 cases the certificate was withdrawn after the assessment of the case due to critical non-conformities.

12. Possibilities to facilitate or improve promotion of best practice

By involving experts from all economic groups affected, particularly practitioners from companies situated along the production chain of biomass and biofuels/bioliquids, the aim is to ensure a practice-oriented structure of the scheme. The technical committee of REDcert is the platform to encourage and to promote this approach of promoting best practise. To grant a robust decision process and to avoid potential conflicts of interest the board's working procedure is defined in appropriate 'Rules of Procedure'.

The expertise as well as recommendations and tools developed for an efficient implementation of the scheme are published and shared among operators and certification bodies via

- the REDcert INFO (regular newsletter for scheme participants and certification bodies,
- a special newsletter for the head of a certification body
- public announcements on REDcert's website
- trainings and webinars
- presentation at seminars and conferences dealing with sustainable biofuels
- publication in branch media (national/international journal)

Certification bodies must attend minimum once per year a full day training and 'Exchange-of - Experience' (EoE) provided by REDcert (see chapter 5). This EoE events focus on updates on

- legal and scheme requirements and
- the improvement and harmonization of the certification process among the registered certification bodies.

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Certification bodies must report to REDcert about all internal trainings and topics addressed for auditors in the scope of the REDcert-EU scheme.

REDcert cooperates with all national competent authorities of European Member States. Typically, authorities are asking about the status of particular certified operators or specific Proofs of Sustainability (PoS) in case of uncertainty or suspect of fraud.

Consequently, REDcert continues to cooperate with other voluntary schemes with respect to inter-scheme-tracking of major non-conformities and a common understanding of certain best practises to achieve mutual recognition between schemes. The implementation of the RED II has raised a couple of practical questions which have been addressed and discussed by the voluntary schemes already. In addition, the 'Implementing Act' requires an ongoing exchange of information and interpretations.

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III. Annex

#	Certification Body	Street	No.	Postal code	City	Country	Ident-code
1	AGRIZERT Zertifizierungs GmbH	Siebenmorgenweg	6-8	53229	Bonn	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-106
2	Baltic Control Certification A/S	Kulsviervej	150	DK-2800	Kongens Lyngby	Denmark	DK-7032-557
3	Bureau Veritas Polska Sp. z o. o.	ul. Migdalowa (wejscie D)	4	02-796	Warszawa	Poland	PL-BIO-JC-002-2014-551
4	Control Union Certifications Germany GmbH	Dorotheastr.	30	10318	Berlin	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-105
5	CONTROL UNION POLAND Sp. z o.o.	al. Wojska Polskiego	45	65-764	Zielona Góra	Poland	PL-BIO-JC-010-2015-555
6	Dekra Certification GmbH	Handwerkstraße	15	70565	Stuttgart	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-110
7	DEKRA Certification Sp. z o.o.	Legnicka	48H	54-202	Wroclaw	Poland	PL-BIO-JC-003-2014-550
8	DIN CERTCO Gesellschaft für Konformitätsbewertung mbH	Alboinstraße	56	12103	Berlin	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-143
9	DQS CFS GmbH	August-Schanz-Straße	21	60433	Frankfurt am Main	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-101
10	DQS Polska sp. z o. o.	ul. Domaniewska	45	02-672	Warszawa	Poland	PL-BIO-JC-013-2017-556
11	ELUcert GmbH Umweltgutachter	Kastanienweg	35	48653	Coesfeld	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-136
12	Global Creative Energy GmbH	Kurfürstendamm	194	10707	Berlin	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-103
13	greencert. Umweltgutachter GmbH	Kappishäuser Str.	72	72581	Dettingen an der Erms	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-155
14	GUT Zertifizierungsgesellschaft für Managementsysteme mbH	Eichenstraße	3b	12435	Berlin	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-104
15	IFTA AG	Neukirchstraße	26	13089	Berlin	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-109
16	LACON GmbH	Moltkestraße	4	77654	Offenburg	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-112
17	ÖHMI EuroCert® GmbH	Berliner Chaussee	66	39114	Magdeburg	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-114
18	Lukasiewicz PIMOT	ul. Jagiellonska	55	03-301	Warszawa	Poland	PL-BIO-JC-011-2016-553
19	Normec Zertifizierung	Kapellenweg	8	48683	Ahaus	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-148
20	proTerra Umweltschutz- und Managementberatung GmbH	Am TÜV	1	66280	Sulzbach	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-123
21	QAL Umweltgutachter GmbH	Am Branden	6b	85256	Vierkirchen	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-115
22	sc@pe international ltd.	Am Schapenteich	2	38104	Braunschweig	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-138
23	SGS Germany GmbH	Europa Allee	12	49685	Emstek	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-100
24	Score GmbH Umweltgutachter	Borkener Straße	68	48653	Coesfeld	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-151
25	sicZert Zertifizierungen GmbH	Lotzbeckstraße	22	77933	Lahr	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-142
26	TÜV NORD CERT GmbH	Langemarckstraße	20	45141	Essen	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-129
27	TÜV SÜD Industrie Service GmbH	Westendstraße	199	80686	München	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-102
28	ValueCert Hub & Partner mbB	Niedwiesenstraße	11a	60431	Frankfurt a. Main	Germany	DE-B-BLE-BM-ZSt-152