

SURE-Notification of 2021-07-26:

Start of REDII certification - Certification according to the requirements of REDII with the SURE-EU system possible since 1 July 2021

On December 21, 2018, Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (REDII) came into force, in which operators of plants for the generation of electricity or heat from biomass are obliged to provide evidence of the sustainable generation and use of biomass. In a transitional period, the member states had time until 1 July 2021 to transpose the directive into national law. The economic operators concerned can provide proof of sustainability via voluntary certification schemes that are approved by the European Commission for this purpose.

Since then, only a few EU member states have managed to create the legal requirements for implementing the REDII on time, and the European Commission has not yet been able to fully complete the recognition procedures for the voluntary schemes. One reason for this is that the European Commission has greatly delayed the process of publishing the delegated legal acts, which serve as the basis for both the national implementation and the recognition process of the voluntary certification schemes.

Even if the recognition process for the voluntary schemes has not yet been completed, the European Commission has reacted, particularly with a view to the continuity in the biofuel sector. In a communication to the voluntary schemes EC proposed a transitional regulation, according to which those voluntary schemes, which were able to successfully complete the technical assessment of the relevant scheme requirements by 30 June 2021, are allowed to carry out audits according to the specifications of the REDII under certain conditions.

This also includes SURE (see https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/renewable-energy/biofuels/voluntary-schemes_en?redir=1#recognition-criteria).

The prerequisite for this is that the audits are carried out according to the valid SURE system documents and checklists and that any subsequent adjustments, e.g. due to the outstanding implementing acts, are immediately incorporated by the systems and implemented by the system participants and certification bodies.

Against this background, the published system documents on the website and in the system database of SURE have been updated and are valid as the basis for the audits under the REDII from 1st July 2021 onwards. Only the English-language system documents are valid. The German-language documents will be made available as read-only versions at the appropriate time.

Each updated document also includes an annex with detailed information on the revision history. The updated checklists are available in the internal area of the SURE database for certification bodies that have already been provisionally registered by the SURE-EU system. Each certification body that has already been provisionally registered will also receive the updated and mandatory templates of the

certificates and inspection certificates in a separate e-mail to the respective designated SURE contact person.

Please note that the documents are subject to change depending on further legislation and requirements of the European Commission. The scheme documentation published on the SURE website always reflects the current status and is constantly updated.

Audits that have been successfully carried out before 30th June 2021 but for which a certificate has not yet been issued by the date of the changeover remain valid in principle. However, when issuing a SURE-EU certificate in accordance with RED II, the certification body must ensure that all RED II requirements have been adequately addressed and, if not, take appropriate measures (e.g. gap audit, etc.).

The exemption for conducting initial audits as remote audits communicated by SURE is no longer permissible with the certification according to RED II. All initial audits must henceforth be carried out on site.

SURE is aware that this transitional phase for the final implementation of RED II is a major challenge for all parties concerned. SURE will do its best to assist its system participants and certification bodies in this task.

Should you have any questions about the changes or system documents, we are happy to assist you under the known contact details.

Please understand that we may not be able to answer all the questions conclusively at this stage.

Thank you very much.

Your SURE team