SURE announcement dated January 30th, 2025:

Union Database (UDB) 01/2025

What is the UDB?

The UDB is a Europe-wide recognized database that ensures traceability along the value chain of gaseous and liquid fuels . It ensures compliance with the sustainability and greenhouse gas criteria in accordance with the Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (RED II). The UDB documents data on transactions, conversions and sustainability characteristics, including lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions, from raw material production to (bio)-fuel production.

As a voluntary certification scheme recognized by the European Commission, SURE supports the introduction of UDB in accordance with Article 28 (2) and (4) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001, Article 18 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996 and, in the future, Article 31a of the amended Directive (EU) 2023/2413. Further details can be found in the system documents, in particular in chapter 3.4 of the "Technical Instructions for Mass Balancing".

Who must use the UDB in the SURE system?

Article 18 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996 provides that '*all intermediate stages from the withdrawal of gaseous fuels from the interconnected infrastructure until the point of final consumption of the final gaseous or liquid fuels have to be registered in the Union database*'.

As participants in the SURE system, we would like to point out that all relevant players in the biomethane sector (SURE scopes 3403, 5301, 5302) are obliged to use the UDB. The upstream supply chain must also implement the UDB to ensure the traceability of biomethane production. Since the production of biomethane depends on the upstream processes, the use of UDB is also necessary in these areas.

Although the solid biomass sector (e.g. wood) is generally excluded from the use of UDB, there is also an obligation to use UDB in certain cases, such as wood (pyrolysis) gasification. In the future, there will be a separate solution for participants who would like to optionally participate in the UDB via an access option to the UDB in the SURE database.

Note: Unfortunately, SURE is currently not in a position to specifically identify all system participants who must use the UDB, which is why it is your responsibility in the future to inform your suppliers or upstream supply chain about the use of the UDB. In addition, the operation of the UDB means a further bureaucratic burden for economic operators. In the future, SURE will offer solutions in cooperation with an IT service provider to simplify the entry of transaction data.

Integration of SURE into the UDB

The European Commission is providing a test version of the Union database (UDB) the so-called Acceptance-Version may refer to: and is available under https://webgate.acceptance.ec.europa.eu/UnionDatabase . It is for testing purposes only. To ensure a smooth transition, the process begins with the use of the Acceptance-Version provided by the European Commission.

The Acceptance-Version is for preparation and training. The entered data cannot be transferred from the Acceptance-Version to the live version.

SURE will initially carry out the onboarding to the Acceptance-Version (test version) of the selected biomethane scopes. Onboarding to the final live version of the Union Database will take place at a later date.

Important notes about the Acceptance-Version

To set up a company account in the Acceptance-Version, your master data from the SURE database is used.

Important: If your Value Added Tax Identification Number (VAT-ID) is missing from the SURE database, it is not possible to create a business account in the Acceptance-Version. Please add a missing VAT-ID to the SURE database as soon as possible.

Access to the Acceptance-Version is – as in the live version – via your personal EU Login account.

- ✓ In the test environment, the functions of the Union database can be proven against test data.

- ✓ The Acceptance-Version is different from the live version and is for preparation and training purposes only.

Please note that data provided in the Acceptance-Version cannot be transferred to the live version.

Access to the Acceptance-Version

Invitation links for access to the Acceptance-Version are expected to be sent to the first contact person mentioned in the SURE database. Please note that these emails are from the **@ec.europa.eu** domain, as they are triggered from the UDB.

- ✓ Since your company information in the UDB comes directly from the SURE database, you should ensure that your data is up to date in our database.

- ✓ For security reasons, the invitation email will only be sent to the first contact person listed in the SURE Database is deposited. Therefore, the EU Login Account also match this email.

- ✓ If you do not receive an invitation email, please check your spam/junk folder and make sure that the sender domain is included in your whitelist.

Note: The acceptance version is not yet a fully developed version of the UDB. For this reason, there may always be discrepancies in the above steps. SURE can, for example, initiate the sending of the

invitation link. However, SURE has no influence on the technical implementation. We therefore ask for your understanding and patience if any inconsistencies occur.

In the Acceptance-Version

After **login**: check and correct your company details if necessary, as well in the SURE database.

EU Login Account

To ensure security and privacy when logging in and registering for the Union Database (UDB), we strongly recommend that you do the following:

- ✓ Be sure to use a personal email address **for your personal EU** Login account.
- ✓ Avoid using generic email addresses such as info@company.com or office@company.com.
- ✓ Ideally, you should use your business, personalized email address (e.g., firstname.lastname@company.com).
- ✓ If you don't have a personalized business email, you can also use a private email address that can be uniquely assigned to you.

These measures are designed to:

- ✓ Ensure that the EU account is associated with a specific person
- ✓ Prevent unauthorized access to sensitive company data
- ✓ To ensure the traceability of actions in the UDB
- ✓ Comply with EU data protection directives and security standards

Please note that using a personal email address is an important step in protecting the security of your company and your data in the UDB.

A detailed description of how to create a EU Login Accounts can be found in our Step by step instructions or on the EU Login Help Page account.

What happens if I don't take action?

The originally planned start of the UDB on 24.11.2024, the EU Commission published the clarification that "after 21.11.2024 there will be no direct sanctions for economic operators. [However], "the EU plans to agree with EU member states on a date from which use will be mandatory and sanctions could actually be imposed after that date." Accordingly, the use of the UDB can become mandatory for you at any time. Failure to take action is in breach of the legal obligations of economic operators under Article 28(2) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 to "enter into the Union database in a timely manner accurate data on the transactions carried out and the sustainability characteristics of the fuels that are the subject of those transactions, including their life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions". Article 17(1)(c) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996 further elaborates and clarifies this legal obligation that voluntary schemes must pass on to the economic operators certified by you.

Voluntary schemes are urged to take appropriate measures to remedy such situations by suspending the sustainability certificates of those economic operators.

Contact for technical questions about the UDB

Fachverband Biogas e.V.
Angerbrunnenstrasse 12
85356 Freising
Phone: 0049 8161 / 984660
Fax: 0049 8161 / 984670

Phone time:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday:
09:00 AM - 12:00 AM
01:00 PM - 04:00 PM

Wednesday and Friday:
09:00 AM - 12:00 AM

Support team of UDB (European Commission)

Send an email to EC-UNION-DB@ec.europa.eu and add udb@sure-systems.org in CC.

In your e-mail to UDB support, please include the following information:

- ✓ **Description of the problem**: Briefly explain what exactly is not working.

- ✓ **Information** on the company incl. unique company identifier (NTR ID) or unique VAT ID and SURE ID (for further enquiries)

- ✓ **Error message**: If you receive an error message, include it (as a screenshot) in your message.

- ✓ **Browser and version**: Specify which browser and version you are using.

Further information can be found on our webpage www.sure-system.org

Thank you very much!

Your SURE Team

Disclaimer

All information in this letter and on the website has been taken from the currently valid legal texts, the official wiki of the UDB or the exchange with the UDB managers. However, there is no guarantee of the accuracy or completeness of the information provided. Further information can be found on the official wiki of the UDB.