

Biogasregister Deutschland (German Biogasregister)

General Principles Concerning its Mode of Operation

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1 Scope

Contracts with all users of the German Biogasregister are based on these General Principles concerning the Mode of Operation of the German Biogasregister. Users include both registered companies and their registered staff, as well as the registered auditing organisations and registered auditors as defined in the German Biogasregister. The document is also used to inform stakeholders receiving and using Biogasregister statements.

German Biogasregister

The German Biogasregister allows registered companies to manage verification of biogas batches in regard to the quantity, properties and origins in a standardised documentation system and to make these resources available to other registered companies or third parties (business partners). In particular, the German Biogasregister enables simple transfer of proofs of biomethane concerning individual (partial) batches due to its accounts system. Registered companies can transfer proofs of biomethane to the account of another registered company or prepare Biogasregister statements. This supports users in the provision of proof of biomethane to third parties (business partners, recipients of Biogasregister statements). The register statements provide structured documentation of proof of biomethane that can be entered in the system by the registered company or the registered audit organisation it commissions. Biogasregister statements are considered highly credible, as the verification is obtained from independent and qualified auditors.

The German Biogasregister is a mass balance system that builds on the interpretation aids by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) for mass balancing according to Section 27c paragraph 1 point 2 Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG) (in the version of 29/6/2012 – referred to in the following as “interpretation aids” (available at <http://www.erneuerbare-energien.de/EE/Redaktion/DE/Downloads/Broschuere/auslegungshilfe-massenbilanz-biomethan.html>). It therefore satisfies the highest standards in regard to documenting verification of origins, quantities and properties within a system of mass balancing. Certificates can also be documented in the Biogasregister.

2 Definitions

2.1 General definitions

(1) Biogas: Biogas describes methane gas that is produced or created by all kinds of biomass due to fermentation or thermochemical processes. Biomethane is a biogas that is upgraded to natural gas quality and then fed into the natural gas grid. When mentioned in connection with the German Biogasregister, biogas means biomethane.

The German Biogasregister also lists synthetic hydrogen or synthetic methane under the term biogas/biomethane, provided it is obtained from electricity and water by means of electrolysis (power to gas). For the hydrogen or synthetic methane to be considered as a biogas according to the Energy Industry Act (EnWG),

it is necessary to demonstrate that the electricity for electrolysis and the carbon dioxide for methanisation were predominantly obtained from renewable energy sources in the meaning of Directive 2009/28/EC. A quota of 80 per cent is sufficient to count as predominant. Hydrogen or synthetic methane obtained from electrolysis is considered a renewable energy source according to the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG) if exclusively renewable energy sources were used in its production.

(2) Biogas plant: A biogas plant is a facility in which biogas is produced.

(3) Biogas batch: this describes the quantity of biogas produced in a biogas plant that satisfies the requirements for injection into the natural gas grid after purification and is therefore a tradeable commodity. The German Biogasregister records batches of biogas in whole kWh.

(4) Proof of Biomethane: Proof of Biomethane provides evidence of the origin, quantity and properties of a biogas batch.

(5) Mass balance The mass balance accounts for the quantities fed into and extracted from the natural gas grid, as well as the individual stages of their trading. In this context, the trading route of a physical gas supply that is the subject of proof of biomethane is documented along the entire value chain.

This guarantees traceability of each kWh of biogas from its production to withdrawal from the natural gas grid. In regard to gas mixtures as well, this ensures that a volume of gas extracted from a gas mixture in the natural gas grid can never exceed the quantity of biogas added in the reporting period. A Biogasregister statement for a biogas supply can then be prepared to provide mass balance verification in line with the principle of mass balancing for the quantity withdrawn. The definition and legal bases for mass balancing are described in section 2.A.IV.1 of the guideline “Grid access and fulfilment according to the biogas supply model”. The guideline is available at www.biogasregister.de.

(6) Biogas certificate: A biogas certificate is issued when the volume of gas it relates to was separated from the biogenic properties of a volume of gas. It verifies that a particular batch of biogas was produced with the verified properties and then fed into the natural gas grid. Unlike the Biogasregister statement, the biogas certificate can be traded separately and independently of the underlying batch. Biogas certificates are the basis of a supply according to the “book & claim”, i.e. the “certificate model”. The market model for book & claim, i.e. the certificate model, is described in section 2.A.IV.2 of the guideline “Grid access and fulfilment according to the certificate model”. The guideline is available at www.biogasregister.de.

(7) Substrate: The input materials used to produce biogas in a biogas plant are known as substrates. They may be residual materials, agricultural products or electricity from renewable energy sources (power to gas). Possible substrates and substrate groups are defined in the Criteria Catalogue “Substrate criteria”.

2.2 Definitions for the verification documents in the Biogasregister

Proof: Generic term for confirmed data on the origins, quantity or properties of biogas batches and certificates. A registered auditor or a cooperating register confirms the accuracy of the data toward the registrar.

Guarantee of origin: The guarantee of origin contains data on a biogas batch's place of production and first injection into the grid. The guarantee of origin always refers to precisely one biogas plant. Included in particular in the guarantee of origin are the injection point number, the production facility and the production country. This documentation enables a batch of biogas to be traced back to its origins at a later date.

Proof of Quantity: Proof of Quantity contains the produced, i.e. traded, quantity of biogas in kWh and for a production period. Proof of Quantity can be issued for a biogas batch or a biogas certificate.

Proof of properties: A proof of properties describes the properties of a biogas plant or a biogas batch based on the Criteria Catalogue of the German Biogasregister.

Audit report: The audit report states the findings of an inspection conducted by a registered auditor on a registered plant or biogas batch according to the criteria defined by the Biogasregister. By issuing this report, the auditor confirms that the content of the data provided in the Biogasregister concerning the origins, quantity and properties is accurate and that the criteria of the Biogasregister have been satisfied.

Biogasregister statement: The Biogasregister statement (in short: register statement) is an electronic document that lists the proof of origin, as well as the proof of quantity and properties, for a particular biogas batch. It can be generated in the Biogasregister (refer in particular to section 7). The register statement also contains information on use. This information is provided by the issuing companies and is not checked by the registrar or an auditor.

Each Biogasregister statement has a unique number. This number is used to check the existence and status of the Biogasregister statement at www.biogasregister.de. It also permits transparent traceability along the trading chain until it is recorded by the registrar. An application for inspection of the audit report/s underlying the statement/s can be filed with the registrar.

Transfer of proof of biomethane: During a transfer, proofs of origin and/or quantity are shared between dena and the cooperating registers on the basis of a defined standard. A transfer of proof of biomethane documents the country in which the verified biogas batch was produced and by which cooperating register it was transferred.

For mass balance supplies to Germany, the recipient must prove that the biomethane batch was transported into the German natural gas grid via a border connection in line with the principles of mass balancing. Verification is provided by an audit report within the framework of the process described in section 3. The eligibility of transferred proofs of biomethane for national funding programmes in order to obtain tax benefits or for compliance with any contractual obligations in Germany or elsewhere is not guaranteed.

2.3 Definitions of the stakeholders in the Biogasregister

(1) Registrar

As operator of the Biogasregister, dena provides an electronic database and conducts plausibility checks. In its function as registrar, dena adds nothing, checks nothing, removes nothing and assesses nothing in

regard to the details provided by the registered companies and audit organisations, i.e. a cooperating register. Where proofs of biomethane are imported, the registrar adopts the officially checked information provided by the cooperating register.

(2) Registered companies

Registered companies in the Biogasregister are legal entities (also partnerships) and entrepreneurs in the meaning of the German Commercial Code (HGB) that have entered into a user agreement with dena.

(3) Registered users

Registered users are natural persons appointed by the registered companies and vested with certain rights of representation. The registered companies submit the names of the registered users to the registrar (registration), i.e. issue them with suitable powers to deal with dena. Registered users are authorised to perform certain operations in the company's account (e.g. booking in, division, transfers, issue of Biogasregister statements). These operations are attributed to the registered company that registered the user in its name.

(4) Registered audit organisations

Registered audit organisations in the Biogasregister are natural persons, legal entities or partnerships that prepare audit reports in the Biogasregister on behalf of their clients. An individual assessor can also be an audit organisation as defined by the Biogasregister.

A registered audit organisation has an account with the German Biogasregister.

(5) Registered auditors

Registered auditors are natural persons registered by the audit organisations and vested with particular rights of representation who are authorised to take certain actions in the account of the audit organisation (e.g. to confirm data on the origins, volume or properties of a biogas batch), which are then attributed to both the registered auditor and the registered audit organisation. Registered auditors hold personal qualifications, e.g. as environmental verifiers according to the Environmental Audit Act (UAG). Proof of these qualifications must be presented to the registrar upon registration and then once yearly thereafter. The scope of authorised actions in the Biogasregister is determined by these qualifications. Detailed information on the qualifications required for particular actions and how they are verified is provided in the "General terms of use for audit organisations and auditors". An individual assessor can be both a registered audit organisation as well as its only registered auditor as defined by the Biogasregister. The German Biogasregister neither qualifies nor certifies auditors.

(6) Recipients of Biogasregister statements

The recipient of a Biogasregister statement is a natural person or legal entity and does not have to be registered in the Biogasregister. The user enters the recipient when issuing a Biogasregister statement. This means that besides the issuer, only the designated recipient can use the Biogasregister statement in legal transactions.

(7) Transferring register and receiving register

In connection with the transfer of proof of biomethane from or to a different register, the transferring register is the one with which the proof of biomethane is registered at the time of application and from which the verification will be transferred.

The receiving register is the one to which the proof of biomethane is transferred, so the register in which the proof of biomethane will be registered once transfer is complete.

3 Recording volumes/Preparing proof of biomethane

3.1 Data entry

In order to prepare proofs of biomethane, a registered user enters the necessary data concerning a biogas plant or a biogas batch into the input screen of the Biogasregister.

Proof of biomethane may only be documented in the Biogasregister for biogas plants that are operated commercially and only for biogas batches that have already been fed into the gas grid.

3.2 Verification for biogas plants and biogas batches

Only one biogas batch can be entered (in the “Production batch” input screen) for each plant in a single production period. It is not possible to book-in these volumes/increase biogas volumes later on if there has already been an entry in the particular period. The registrar therefore advises that the complete batch for the documented period is entered.

When entering biogas batches, the report must indicate whether the complete biogas batch for a production period is being registered and in which other mass balance systems, verification and/or certification systems the biogas batches are registered. If biogas batches were originally registered in other systems, a proof of their deactivation/cancellation must be submitted when they are entered and documented in the Biogasregister.

The documentation of proofs of biomethane is always the responsibility of the registered company operating the biogas plant. This principle is not mandatory if a biogas plant, a biogas processing plant and/or a biogas injection facility is operated by several companies. In this case, the

- batch must have been transferred completely and without division to the registered company (even after several transfers of rights), and
- the batch must have been injected completely and without division by the registered company, i.e. transferred to the grid operator for injection, and
- this trading chain must be described in the report by the registered auditor.

3.3 Auditing of data and plausibility check by the registrar, (green status)

3.3.1 Auditing of data.

In order to create a proof of biomethane, the registered user transfers the data to an audit organisation for confirmation once it has completed the processing.

A registered auditor confirms in the Biogasregister on behalf of the audit organisation that the findings of the inspection (audit report) he or she performed at the location on behalf of the plant operator are consistent with the information provided by the registered company:

The following details are confirmed:

Proof of origin (biogas plants)	Proof of quantity	Proof of properties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Plant name/address ■ Injection point ■ Meter number ■ Year of commissioning ■ Company ownership ■ Time from which the audit is valid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Production facility ■ Audit client ■ Production period for each batch confirmed in the audit report ■ Injection point und meter number ■ Injected quantity of each batch confirmed in the audit report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Satisfaction of the verification criteria based on their definition in the Criteria Catalogue and the statutory bases defined therein

3.3.2 Plausibility check by the Biogasregister, green status

Once confirmation has been obtained from the auditor, the user submits the confirmed data to the registrar for a plausibility check, during which the registrar reviews whether the report contains the required data and whether it is consistent with the registered datasets. The registrar may conduct additional plausibility reviews and checks at any time and extend the scope of the check in individual cases or as a rule. The registrar does not guarantee that the data is accurate or complete.

The registrar will only switch the dataset status to “green” to enable preparation of a Biogasregister statement if its check reveals that the data underlying the report is consistent with the company’s information. The process is sent back to the user’s company for correction if the dataset contains implausible data. Data that is returned for corrections can be changed accordingly, and the process is then submitted again for switching to green status.

3.3.3 Uploading audit documents and data

Registered audit organisations and auditors undertake to upload the audit reports prepared for a registered company in a complete and readable form or to request that the registered company does so on their behalf.

By uploading the documents, the registered audit organisations and auditors consent to the storage and transfer of documents to other companies registered in the Biogasregister – for instance to recipients of register statements.

The Biogasregister states explicitly that the registered audit organisations and auditors must obtain consent from the registered company in order to upload and transfer the documents. The audit organisations provide the registrar with assurance that suitable consent for the uploading of each document has been obtained from the registered companies. The batches cannot be switched to green status in the Biogasregister until the audit report has been uploaded (cf. the green status process in section 6.6 “General Principles Concerning the Mode of Operation” (Annex 1)).

4 Criteria Catalogue for the German Biogasregister

The Criteria Catalogue sets out the rules by which the users can document their biogas plants and biogas batches in the Biogasregister and have them confirmed by the auditor. The explanations contained in the Criteria Catalogue provide more detail on their key components. For instance, they refer to the underlying legal texts and other relevant documents. The explanations on the Criteria Catalogue can be referenced at any time on the public page of the Biogasregister (www.biogasregister.de). The “Matrix of criteria and products” provides an overview of the various ways in which biogas batches can be used, depending on the criteria they satisfy. The information contained in the matrix is compiled by dena in an unbinding form and without any acceptance of liability.

The same applies to the criteria profiles that are derived from this information and made available within the Biogasregister. Terms used within the Biogasregister such as “EEG 2014 basic remuneration for biogas” do not imply any entitlement to remuneration.

The “Explanations for the Criteria Catalogue” and the “Matrix of criteria and products” do not claim to be complete, accurate, relevant, necessary or current in regard to any possible legal obligations concerning the use of biogas. The responsibility for ensuring that all legal obligations in regard to biogenic properties have been verified when using the register statements rests with the users and auditors themselves. The registrar is entitled to amend the Criteria Catalogue. The registrar makes efforts to keep the Criteria Catalogue up to date and in line with statutory amendments.

Other data (for instance the properties of a production facility or biogas batch) can be enclosed with the proof of origin or quantity as addenda to the criteria set out in the Criteria Catalogue and submitted as freeform “Comments with relevance to verification”.

5 Status of the batches, conditions and significance

The datasets shown in the German Biogasregister are colour coded. A colour is assigned to each of the datasets, indicating its particular processing status.

Table 1: Verification status and its significance

Status	Significance
grey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A registered company entered the data in the register, but it has not yet been confirmed by an auditor.
green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ An auditor has confirmed the data entered by the registered company. The registrar has performed a plausibility check. The dataset can be used as proof of biomethane and satisfies the requirements of mass balancing documentation. ■ Green status is only available for supplied biogas batches, but not for certificates.
yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ This status is reserved for proof of quantity, but not for proofs of origin and proofs of properties. ■ The auditor/s has/have confirmed the proof of quantity ■ A registered user has declared separation of the biogenic properties ■ A supply of certificates/according to the block & claim method can be documented.
Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ This status is reserved for proof of quantity, but not for verifications of origin and verifications of properties. ■ The proof of quantity has been booked out and the verification process is therefore complete ■ A Biogasregister statement for a biogas supply or a biogas certificate has been prepared ■ The proof of quantity can no longer be transferred to another user account ■ The proof of quantity can no longer be separated from the batch.

6 Editing proof of quantity

6.1 Overview of editing options for proof of quantity with different statuses

	Transfer (6.3.1)	Batch division (6.2.1)	Division by mass balance (6.2.2)	Merge (6.2.3)	Undo division by mass balance (6.2.4)	Yellow status (6.4)	Book out (6.3.2)	Export (8)	Check register statement (7.3)	Withdraw red status (6.9)	Application for correction of the register statement (6.7)	Withdraw yellow status (6.8)	Withdraw green status (6.5)
Grey	X	X		X									
Green	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X
Yellow	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				x	
Red									X	X	X		

6.2 Edit proof of quantity

6.2.1 Batch division

The registered user can divide the originally registered biomethane quantity in order to document the supply of a partial biogas batch.

Once division has been carried out, the registered user will receive two part proofs of biomethane, which are equal to the former proof of biomethane in an aggregate sense. The proof of origin and the proof of properties remain identical for both partial proofs of biomethane.

6.2.2 Division by input materials

The registered user can also implement verification according to the properties of the input materials used for the production of the biogas batches and hence to document division based on the input materials contained in the partial batches. This results in two proofs of biomethane with identical quantities. The proof of properties is assigned to these two part proofs of biomethane based on the properties of the input materials.

Division by input materials is only possible if the data on the batch and properties, as well as the information on input materials, are contained and assigned green status.

The proof of biomethane is marked in the Biogasregister in such a way that the implementation of division by input materials is identifiable. It is also documented on Biogasregister statements.

6.2.3 Merging divided batches

Two proofs of biomethane belonging to the same biogas batch can be merged after division to produce a single proof of biomethane.

6.2.4 Undo division by input material

Registered users can undo a division by input material. For this to be possible, all accompanying proofs of biomethane (and partial proofs of biomethane)

- must be on the account of the respective company,
- cannot have been divided any further,
- cannot have been transferred to other accounts,
- cannot have been booked out, and
- cannot have been merged.

Merging proofs of biomethane that had been divided by input materials produces a single proof of biomethane that, in terms of its proof of properties (in particular substrate criteria), confirms that the proofs of origin and the proofs of quantity are identical to the original proof of biomethane before it was divided.

6.3 Transferring and booking out batches

6.3.1 Transfer

Registered users can document trades with biogas batches by transferring the corresponding proof of biomethane to the account of the trading partner. This step may be part of the performance of supply contracts if it provides the partner with proof of the biogenic properties. Documentation of the transfer is a requirement for unbroken chain of mass balance documentation as defined in the interpretation aid (2nd stage of documentation).

6.3.2 Booking out (red status)

Registered users can book proofs of biomethane out of the Biogasregister if they have green or yellow status. A register statement is created during the booking-out process, which names the user and is assigned a separate document number. The purpose of booking-out a batch and preparing a register statement is to provide a buyer of a biogas batch with proof of the quantity, origin and properties of the biogas batch. The proof of biomethane is then assigned red status in the Biogasregister.

6.4 Separation of quantity und biogenic properties, yellow status

Registered users can submit a self-declaration to separate the proof of properties for a biogas batch from the physical quantity, i.e. the proof of quantity, and then trade them separately. Once the self-declaration has been submitted, the proof of quantity is assigned yellow status. This separation is irreversible.

6.5 Special case: Withdrawal of green status

The registrar can withdraw green status if the user files an application that credibly explains why green status was erroneous.

The requirements for withdrawal of green status are that

- a register statement was prepared neither for the proof in question nor for the ones produced by means of division,
- there is no yellow status,
- there is no division by mass balance, and
- all batches are on the company's account.

Deliberate use of erroneous register statements may lead to the pressing of criminal charges and liability for damages on the part of the user.

6.6 Special case: Correction and withdrawal of a register statement

Registered companies can file for the correction or withdrawal of a register statement that they created themselves. To do this, they must submit a reasoned application to the registrar.

One of the following reasons must apply for correction of a register statement to proceed:

- The recipient, the recipient's address and/or the town/city were entered incorrectly.
- The purpose was entered incorrectly.
- The period of use was entered incorrectly.
- The meter and/or the meter point designation was/were entered incorrectly.

Written consent from the recipient of the register statement must be presented if the name of the recipient is to be corrected. For all other corrections, it is sufficient to prove that the recipient of the register statement was informed in writing of the request for correction. The registered company must present, upon instruction of the registrar, other documents, certifications or verifications confirming the validity of the reason for correction. Where the requirements are satisfied, the registrar will prepare a corrected register statement bearing a new register statement number. The German Biogasregister visibly invalidates the original register statement.

Withdrawal of the register statement takes place upon application and is performed by the registrar if one of the following reasons applies. Correction of the register statement is not possible in these cases:

- Deviation between the biomethane quantity in kWh on the register statement and measurement data obtained from the meter.
- A biogas batch was erroneously booked out (register statement prepared), instead of being transferred to another account.
- Criteria and/or comments with relevance to verifications were incorrectly or incompletely documented during the audit.

Reasons pertaining to the contractual relationship between the registered company and the recipient of the register statement do not constitute grounds for withdrawal of the register statement.

For the withdrawal of the register statement, it is sufficient to prove that the recipient of the register statement was informed in writing of the request for withdrawal.

The registered company must present suitable documents that confirm the validity of a reason for withdrawal. The registered company must present, upon instruction of the registrar, other documents, certifications or verifications confirming the validity of the reason for withdrawal. The registrar will withdraw the register statement if the requirements are satisfied. When the register statement is withdrawn, it is invalidated and publicly designated as invalid by the German Biogasregister; the trade batch underlying the register statement is then reactivated and placed at the disposal of the registered company (with green or yellow status), which means that trading operations can again be documented.

The registrar will publish the number assigned to the corrected/withdrawn register statement on a list of invalid register statements, including the first date of invalidity.

Neither the registered company nor the recipient is authorised to use the original register statement if it is corrected or withdrawn. The registered company is, without undue delay, obliged to notify the recipient of the original register statement in writing that the original register statement is invalid and must no longer be used. The registered company provides suitable evidence that the recipient of the register statement was duly informed. The registered company will otherwise be liable for damages incurred through use by the recipient of the original register statement and will hold dena harmless of all claims exercised by third parties in this regard.

7 Biogasregister statements

In the German Biogasregister, registered users can issue Biogasregister statements for proofs of biomethane assigned green or yellow status. A proof of quantity with status green is used to issue a Biogasregister statement for a **biogas supply**; a proof of quantity with status yellow is used to issue a Biogasregister statement for a biogas certificate.

The Biogasregister statement contains:

- Proof of origin
- Proof of Quantity

- Proof of properties
- Information on use
- Type of supply
- Name of the company that initiated the booking-out in the Biogasregister
- Date and time of creation
- Register statement number

Biogasregister statements are not original verifications of biogenic properties.

7.1 Register statement about a biogas supply

Register statements about biogas supplies are standardised records that state the name of the users and the auditors; they also confirm that the specifically referenced verification and audited datasets satisfy the requirements of mass balance documentation. The German Biogasregister does not check the information about the users and the auditors for correctness.

7.2 Register statement about a biogas certificate/book & claim

Based on a self-declaration by the user, a register statement about a biogas certificate confirms that the specifically referenced verification only document the biogenic properties and that the gas batch itself is not a subject of the documentation.

In regard to a Biogasregister statement about a biogas certificate referring to imported quantities, the quantity verification for the physical quantity of biogas may already have been separated from its biogenic properties in the cooperating register.

7.3 Checking of Biogasregister statements

The existence and content of Biogasregister statements can be publicly viewed at the page www.biogasregister.de.

Moreover, recipients of Biogasregister statements have the option to file a request with the registrar to inspect the audit and other reports underlying the Biogasregister statement that were placed there by the audit organisation and the registered auditors. The recipient must present authentication (as recipient) to the registrar. Usually this will take place by providing at least the register statement number and the verified quantity of biogas.

The deposited audit and other reports will not be disclosed without this application being made to the registrar. Errors and irregularities must be reported without undue delay to the registrar.

8 International transfer of proofs of biomethane (import and export)

dena cooperates with Biogasregisters that are domiciled in Member States of the EU in order to simplify and standardise the international transfer of proof of biomethane, to prevent double registrations when possible and to contribute to transparency in the international transfer of proof of biomethane.

Therefore, verified biogas batches or certificates that were produced, injected or registered in Member States of the EU may also be registered and traded in the German Biogasregister. Vice versa, proofs of biomethane and biogas certificates that are registered in the German Biogasregister can also be exported to a register domiciled in a Member State of the EU and transferred in registers there.

Where proofs of biomethane or biogas certificates are transferred by a register that cooperates with the German Biogasregister, the cooperating register will confirm the proof of origin and quantity ascertained in the report in place of the registered auditor. Only a registered auditor can confirm documentation pertaining to proof of properties.

8.1 General requirements

Where the purpose is to obtain verification of a biomethane batch that was produced in a Member State of the EU, documented according to the mass balancing system and then injected into the local natural gas grid, it must be demonstrated that the quantity of biomethane was transported to the German natural gas grid via a border connection in line with the principles of mass balancing. A registered auditor must prepare a report that plausibly explains and confirms that the quantity was transferred in line with the principles of mass balancing.

8.2 Transfer of proofs of biomethane to a cooperating register

8.2.1 Export

The transfer of a proof of biomethane present on the account of a registered company to a cooperating register is performed upon application by the registered company. The registrar provides the user company with the application form. In this regard, a user company and an account in a cooperating register must be stated as the recipient of the transfer. The application is filed with the registrar of the German Biogasregister (= transferring register).

Export is conditional upon the proof of biomethane for transfer being assigned green or yellow status at the time of application, as well as on the data required for the transfer being available (e.g. receiving register, recipient, batch number ...).

The registrar will transfer the proof of biomethane to the receiving register if the requirements are satisfied. The verification will be assigned to status red in the German Biogasregister if the receiving register accepts the proof of biomethane and declares it to be valid. The applicant is informed if the receiving register rejects the transfer; in this case the proof of biomethane is booked back onto the account of the applicant.

8.2.2 Import of proofs of biomethane or biogas certificates from cooperating registers

A proof of biomethane can be transferred to the German Biogasregister upon application to a cooperating register. A definite recipient who confirms acceptance of the quantity must be named before the registrar

will carry out any such transfer. Where the transfer is made to the German Biogasregister as receiving register, the registrar deals with recording the data and conducting a plausibility check on the proof of biomethane based on the data that is transmitted by the transferring register. In these cases, an auditor/assessor acting for the transferring register will have checked and confirmed the data according to the principles upheld by the transferring register. The proof of biomethane is placed on the main account of the recipient company named in the application once the transfer is complete and confirmation is obtained that the proof of biomethane has been deactivated in the transferring register.

The following comments are added to imported proofs of biomethane in the German Biogasregister and on register statements:

“The plant is located in {country of origin}. It was registered in the {transferring register} under plant number {xx}.”

“The biomethane batch documented here was registered in the {transferring register} and transferred to the German Biogasregister within the framework of the cooperative agreement between the registers (transfer no. {identifier of the transferring register}-{yyyy-mm-dd}-{XX}).“

Only proofs of the plant and the quantity are prepared if documentation took place in a different register. It is possible to document proofs of properties for imported biogas batches at a later date. Details concerning the properties (criteria from the Criteria Catalogue by the German Biogasregister or other comments with relevance to verification) can be confirmed by audit documentation once import is complete. The recipient states the name of, and commissions, the registered audit organisation. This auditor audits the proof of biomethane in the Biogasregister in cooperation with the registrar.

8.2.3 Disclosure of state aid received

During the transfer of proofs of biomethane (import or export), it is possible to record whether state aid – as defined in Article 107 TFEU and in the Guidelines on State Aid for Environmental Protection and Energy 2014–2020 – was obtained for the biogas in question. When importing from a cooperating register, this information can be provided either by the cooperating register or by means of a self-declaration. In cases of export, applicants can provide this information in the application form.

8.2.4 Recognition for national renewable energy targets

Article 3 of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC) sets out that Member States of the European Union must define national targets. Biomethane that is transferred internationally can only be recognised for the achievement of these targets if offsetting mechanisms have been agreed. There are currently no agreements of this kind between Denmark and Germany or between Austria and Germany. As a result, biomethane that is traded transnationally is not eligible for recognition.

The German Biogasregister and the cooperating registers reserve the right to refer to this circumstance in their systems and on their proofs of biomethane.

8.2.5 Adherence to the mass balance system

Confirmation by a registered auditor is required for the transfer of a verification whose purpose is adherence to requirements of the mass balancing. The intention to include confirmation of adherence to the mass balance requirements in the imported verification must be communicated to the transferring register in the application. The recipient states the name of, and commissions, the registered auditor. In order to confirm adherence to the mass balancing requirements until injection into the natural gas grid in Germany, the auditor must confirm that the requirements of mass balancing were adhered to until injection into the German natural gas grid.

8.2.6 List of cooperating registers

At present, the German Biogasregister has cooperative agreements with AGCS Österreich and Energinet Danmark. The aim is to expand the network of cooperating registers over time.

8.2.7 Export to the Energinet register

The following peculiarities must be taken into consideration when exporting proofs of biomethane to the Energinet register:

- Proofs of biomethane are valid in the Energinet register for no more than 12 months after the end of the feed-in period.
- The end of the feed-in period must be no later than 6 months after the start of the feed-in period.
- Energinet only accepts proofs of biomethane whose feed-in point is located in Germany.

9 Transparency

dena is determined to continue increasing transparency in the documentation of biomethane and other renewable gases and will therefore improve the sharing of information with other verification systems, certification systems and government authorities.

9.1 Publication of the plant name and location

The registrar is authorised to publish the name and location of all registered plants (biogas injection facilities, power to gas plants) on the website of the German Biogasregister(www.biogasregister.de).

10 Rights of the registrar

The registrar is authorised to mark as invalid deficient or incorrectly issued register statements and to communicate their invalidity. The registrar is otherwise authorised in every way to take measures that eradicate abuse and errors in the system as quickly and effectively as possible.

The registrar reserves the right to remove from the register all malware and electronic documents that are suspected of containing malware. The registrar reserves the right furthermore to limit the size of the electronic documents that can be deposited in the register.

11 Communication between the Biogasregister and users

The German Biogasregister sends automated messages to the email addresses stored in the register in order to notify users of matters that pertain to them. The users, i.e. their registered system users, must ensure that the email addresses are always current.

The registered user is also responsible for the currency of the contact details stored in the system for the appointed contact, as well as the email address stored in the system in particular. Where the contact details are no longer current, dena will deactivate the account until current contact details are submitted. Automated notifications will not be sent to these contacts.

12 Terms of use for the marketing logo of the German Biogasregister

dena is the owner of the “dena Biogasregister” logo, to which it holds all rights. dena grants to the registered companies and audit organisations (in the following: “users”) the right to use the German Biogasregister logo based on the following conditions:

The logo may only be used in accordance with the terms set out in this contract and only in its prescribed design and form. Changes to the colours or artwork are not permitted.

When using the logo in HTML documents, the logo must be integrated as a link to the dena website at www.biogasregister.de.

The user is liable for ensuring that use of the logo is consistent with legal obligations. Dena accepts no liability for use of the logo by the user. By internal arrangement, the user indemnifies dena of any liability risks associated with use of the logo and will hold dena harmless at first request.

Users may use the logo free of charge in this agreed form.

The use of the logo is predicated on the existence of this contract and trading by means of the register statements produced by the German Biogasregister and must come to an end when these conditions no longer apply. dena is authorised at any time to prohibit use of the logo with effect for the future. The right of use shall end automatically if this agreement is violated, without any withdrawal of these rights by dena becoming necessary. Where the right of use is withdrawn or ends, the user must discontinue use of the logo without undue delay.

13 Right to make amendments

dena reserves the right to amend these General Principles Concerning the Mode of Operation. The amendments will enter into force when they are published by dena on the website of the Biogasregister, dena has informed the contractual partners of the amendments by notification to the email address stored in the register and the contractual partner has not raised an objection within two weeks. dena reserves the right to terminate this agreement in the event that an objection is raised.