

# Summary of the assessment of national guarantees of origin for electricity produced from renewable sources (GO) and disclosure systems for the purpose of decisions about the recognition of imported GO

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy

## Netherlands

### Introduction

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) and the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA) are currently assessing general questions on whether guarantees of origin for electricity produced from renewable sources (GO) from other Member States of the European Union and further states can be recognized in the course of Article 15 of the Directive 2009/28/EC. The evaluation of the legal and practical set-up of the national systems for GO and electricity disclosure is performed by a consortium of external lawyers (Becker Büttner Held Rechtsanwälte (BBH)) and consultants (Öko-Institut e. V.).

### General

As of 29.07.2014, assessment of available information regarding system-related issues does not result in well-founded doubts about accuracy, reliability or veracity of GO issued in and imported from the Netherlands, so that in accordance with Article 15 Directive 2009/28/EC, there seems to be no reason at present for non-recognition of such GO.

### Specifics

Dutch GO meet all the **criteria mentioned in Article 15 Directive 2009/28/EC**. Dutch GO are issued for the standard size of **1 MWh** and are practically **used for electricity disclosure only**. However, it is worth stating that GO in the Netherlands also play a role in the support system as issuing of GO is also used as proof of eligibility for the Dutch premium support scheme. Due to that, there might also be some issuing for gross rather than for net production, with these additional GO not being tradable or eligible for use in disclosure. **Renewables are distinguished from other fuels**, namely coal, natural gas, nuclear other non-renewables.

Electricity from renewable energies can only be disclosed based on **cancelled GO**. The **residual mix** which is provided by ACM (Autoriteit Consument en Markt, the competent body for disclosure), is calculated according to RE-DISS principles, but does not contain any renewable energies, while shares of other fuels are increased on a pro-rata basis.

There is **no evidence** that GO might be **used to meet the binding renewable energy targets** imposed by Article 3 Directive 2009/28/EC, nor to impact the calculation of the gross energy consumption. GO can not be cancelled later than 12 months after the end of the production period, but do only expire 12 months after the issuing date. Production period is limited to one month.

Dutch legal regulations as well as the EECs Rules which are applied by the competent body for the issuance of GO in the Netherlands, CertiQ, safeguard that Dutch GO can be **used only once**. CertiQ is the **only competent body** in the Netherlands for GO. The rules in place in the Netherlands, and here in

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	<p>particular <b>the EECS Rules, safeguard accurate, reliable and fraud-resistant issuance, transfer and cancellation of GO and the electronic register.</b> There is no indication that CertiQ acts in violation of those rules. CertiQ is a subsidiary to TenneT, the Dutch TSO, and can be considered <b>independent from production, trade and supply.</b></p> <p>Issuing of GO which can be traded and used for disclosure takes place only for net production and based on <b>meter readings</b> provided by grid operators. Documentation for production devices is checked when being registered, and plants can be audited on-site on random basis. Re-registration is due each five years. Dutch regulations include <b>provisions both for correction of erroneous GO and of erroneous or outdated registered data for production devices.</b> Further, Dutch GO include <b>all the information required by Article 15 (6) of the Directive.</b> Therefore, for the moment and regarding system-related issues, there are <b>no well-founded doubts as regards the accuracy, reliability or veracity of Dutch GO</b>, so that it can be concluded that they can generally be recognized.</p> <p><b>Critical issues</b></p> <p>Dutch regulation on expiry can be considered a quite liberal interpretation of the 12-months-lifetime-rule as imposed by the Directive 2009/28/EC. However, this should normally not have a direct impact on other domains which apply a stricter interpretation, as GO are not imported after “expiry date” of the importing country at all via the AIB hub, or expire at the moment of import.</p> <p><b>Reasons for non-recognition</b></p> <p>none</p>
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## Please note

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