



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the REDcert² system

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1 REDcert² system

1.1 How do I become a participant in the REDcert² system?

a.) The company is already a participant in the REDcert system

In this case, the company needs to register for the REDcert² system (by phone or in writing by e-mail) and sign an additional system contract for REDcert². The certification body responsible also needs to send a legally binding declaration for performing REDcert² inspections to REDcert.

b) The company is not a participant in the REDcert system

First, you have to register the company at www.redcert.eu/Registrierung. Your company will then be sent the REDcert² system contract. The system documents are available for downloading from the REDcert website at [www.redcert.org/REDcert²](http://www.redcert.org/REDcert2). If a company decides to take part in the REDcert² certification system, the process for joining is as follows:

- The company sends back the signed REDcert² contract
- The selected certification body sends back the legally binding declaration
- REDcert sends the confirmation of participation to the company
- The operation undergoes an initial inspection conducted by the commissioned certification body

The certifications are performed by independent certification bodies that verify sustainability using procedural instructions and checklists.

- REDcert registers the inspection report
- The certificates are issued and published on the REDcert website
- Follow-up inspection in accordance with REDcert² system principles

1.2 How much are the system fees?

REDcert charges an annual usage fee to participants (contract partners) for the contractually-based services – regardless of which REDcert system is being used (REDcert-DE, REDcert-EU and/or REDcert²) and how many systems are in use. This is made up of a basic fee, a scaled fee based on the number of registered sites and a quantity-dependent fee. The current fee schedule is published at [www.redcert.org/REDcert²](http://www.redcert.org/REDcert2).

1.3 Which economic actors does the SAI requirements level relate to? To the producer group, the respective producer inspected in the random sample or also the interfaces?

The SAI requirements level is only determined for the entire producer group.

1.4 Where can buyers of REDcert² certified biomass get information on the SAI requirements level of the producer group?

The SAI requirements level achieved by a certified producer group is not shown on the certificate issued. This is, unfortunately, only stored in the protected area of the REDcert certification portal and can only be released by the certificate holder (producer group) for his buyer(s) to view.

2 Self-declaration of the farm

2.1 Can the farmer "participate" - as before - by submitting the self-declaration for the REDcert² system?

Yes, the farmer can "participate" - as before - by submitting the self-declaration for the REDcert² system.

2.2 What additional requirements are included in the self-declaration for REDcert²?

In addition to the requirements in the self-declaration for the REDcert systems, the farmer only needs to confirm that he can furnish proof that the sustainable biomass he produced conforms with the REDcert² system requirements under item 7 of the self-declaration which was supplemented for REDcert².

2.3 Is there a "legal" obligation for farmers to provide a self-declaration?

No, submitting the self-declaration was and is in principle voluntary. Submitting the self-declaration, however, is the prerequisite for the downstream phases to be able to sell the respective quantity/quantities as sustainable biomass for the food industry under the REDcert² system.

2.4 How long is the self-declaration valid?

The self-declaration of the farmer is valid for a maximum of one year (harvest year).

2.5 Does the self-declaration cover the entire quantity supplied by the farmer or operation?

The entire quantity supplied to a first gathering point can generally be captured with the self-declaration regardless of the type of crop.

The farmer and first gathering point, however, can also agree to provide the self-declaration separately for every supply contract or restricted to certain types of crops.

3 REDCert² - Requirements of agriculture

3.1 Are the REDCert² requirements covered by the cross compliance requirements?

The REDCert² requirements are largely covered by the CC requirements. In some areas, however, they even go beyond these requirements. REDCert², for example, requires a water use plan to be created that includes, among other things, reports on precipitation duration/quantity (see 3.2).

3.2 What additional questions are asked beyond cross compliance?

This are a total of 18 additional questions which also pertain, however, to areas regulated by law – outside of the scope of the CC regulations. The explanations for the individual criteria are intended to give an idea of which proof or measures (generally examples, not an exhaustive list) are suitable for evaluating the respective criterion.

Because verification of criteria 1-3 deals with some sensitive data, a confidentiality agreement is signed either as an addendum to the contract between the certification body and the first gathering point or as a form that the inspector takes to the on-site inspection.

Criterion	Explanation
1. Sustainable economic development of the farm	Is management of the farm's business documented and updated annually? For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Finances (e.g. accounting result, business report, annual financial statements, liquidity plan)- Investments (depreciation volumes, capital value analysis)- Sales (e.g. contracts, supply contracts)- Crops (e.g. crop planning),- Risk assessment (e.g. natural events, price fluctuations, changes in laws, etc.)
2. Transparent business planning to optimise long-term profitability	See above (answer to question 1)
3. Operations management/identification of operational risks	For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Leases- Insurance (hail, multiple risk insurance policy,

REDcert² - Requirements of farmers

Criterion	Explanation
	<p>etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-contracts
<p>4. Operational diversification and specialisation</p>	<p>see above (answer to question 1) and e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Non-agricultural income</u>: - Secondary income - Different customer and buyer structures - Feed-in tariffs set by the Renewable Energy Act - Rental of apartments/holiday apartments
<p>5. Communication with buyers with awareness of price and quality</p>	<p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established quality standards considered - Quality and prices defined in supply contracts/contracts - Quality agreements with buyer
<p>6. Advice, training and further education</p>	<p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The regularly producer takes part in suitable basic and advanced training. The following topics, among others, should be addressed and included in the training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farming aspects (e.g. nutrient management) - Economic factors (e.g. sales, regional added value) - Employee management, work organisations - Proof is considered, e.g. participation certificates or training records (training certificates) that show the course content - Use of consulting services/trade journals

REDcert² - Requirements of farmers

Criterion	Explanation
7. Adapted selection of varieties	<p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of the respective information sources - Published national variety trials - Cultivation trials - Publication of seed producers
8. Quality and origin of plant and/or propagating material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This has to do with providing proof of certified seeds or grain reproduction (e.g. invoices/delivery documents, proof of seed origin, etc.)
9. Documentation of crop and seed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The legally standard retention periods must be complied with for the respective documents (e.g. invoices, delivery slips, etc.)
10. Selective and systematic use of plant protection products	<p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advice from plant protection offices, warning services - Observance of damage thresholds - Plant protection products (PPP) that are officially approved and registered for a specific target crop shall be handled and applied as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Selectively</u>, i.e. effectively used against a specific pest but not damaging or deadly for a much larger range of organisms (corresponds to a "broad" impact spectrum) - <u>Targeted</u>, i.e. the pest is targeted at the right time. - Treatment of the seed with a protective chemical layer (seed treatment)

REDcert² - Requirements of farmers

11. Prevention of resistance for plant protection	For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Changing active substances- Combinations of active substances- Reducing the frequency of treatment- Selective plant protection products are prioritised over those with a broad impact unless several damaging organisms occur at the same time, there is high probability that they will occur or products with a broad impact offer advantages for the natural environment.
12. Measures for field hygiene	For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Conscious selection of varieties- Crop structure- Testing for pests- Chopping up plant material (e.g. mulching after corn is harvested)- Machine/transport vehicle cleaning
13. Prevention of soil compaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The following measures are examples of ways to use machinery to prevent soil compaction:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Adjusted tyre pressure (e.g. use low-pressure tyres or tyre pressure control systems)- Conscious selection of place where machinery is used- Number of passes on the field minimised (combined work processes)- Soil of vehicle tracks loosened
14. Use of available water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Producers have to create a water use plan that is updated at least once a year and documented in writing which aims to, among other things,<ul style="list-style-type: none">- show water availability (e.g. precipitation quantity records, weather report) or water consumption (e.g. duration/quantity of rain)

REDcert² - Requirements of farmers

15. Proof of appropriate water use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See also answer to question 14 - Priority of irrigation in various crops
16. By-product and harvest residue treatment and separate collection of waste of all kinds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harvest residues (straw or sugar beet leaves) are chopped up and used to improve the soil; potential harvest or process by-products can be otherwise sold if there is no way to reuse them - Other waste such as plant protection containers, waste oil, etc. must be documented in corresponding disposal documents.
17. Measures for energy efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The producers undertake measures, e.g. to reduce all greenhouse gas emissions arising from operational processes, e.g. such as methane, nitrogen oxides and carbon dioxides. These measures can include the following aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restricted use of non-renewable energy sources and increased use of renewable energy, e.g. photovoltaics, solar thermal energy, biogas or wind power. - Appropriate use of agricultural machinery (e.g. combination of work processes, optimisation of transport logistics) or drying processes (control/regulation technology) to prevent energy waste. - Optimisation of the machine fleet (e.g. fuel consumption, compliance with exhaust standards, use of GPS-supported steering devices)
18. Active participation in social life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integration into village life - Involvement in local council - Participation in sports clubs, etc.

3.3 What does compliance with ILO core labour standards mean?

The core labour standards are social standards set by the World Trade Organisation designed to guarantee humane working conditions and adequate protection. They were established in a declaration of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 1998. As Germany has ratified

REDcert² - Requirements of farmers

the treaty on the ILO core labour standards, the following basic core labour standards apply and are respected by the producer:

- Convention 29 - Forced Labour (employment is voluntary)
- Convention 87 - Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise
- Convention 98 - Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining
- Convention 100 - Equal Remuneration
- Convention 105 - Abolition of Forced Labour
- Convention 111 - Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation
- Convention 138 - Minimum Age
- Convention 182 - Worst Forms of Child Labour

These standards have been incorporated into many different German legal standards (minimum wage, collective bargaining, protection of young people, etc.) and are subject to government monitoring. As a result, no detailed check is required in the inspection as is also the case for the CC criteria.

You can find more information on the ILO core labour standards at: www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/index.htm

3.4 Is it sufficient to have an accounting system, a net income statement and account statements for operating areas to meet the additional "business plan" criterion?

The proof for accounting documents, net income statement or account statements for operating areas are a key component of farm management and planning but should be supplemented by other documents which are usually available, such as crop planning, that can be viewed by the inspector.

3.5 Are there other management requirements, e.g. for fertiliser and plant protection, associated with the REDcert² requirements?

No, there are no other requirements associated with the REDcert² system beyond the legal stipulations for fertiliser or plant protection.

3.6 Are greenhouse gas emissions calculated under REDcert²?

No, greenhouse gas emissions are not calculated under the REDcert² system.

3.7 What impact does the conversion of specific grassland since 2008 have?

There is no problem for grassland converted before 01.01.2008. REDcert² is oriented around the REDcert-EU system with respect to this issue. According to this system, biomass from grassland converted after 01.01.2008 is generally not permitted for sustainability certification.

4 REDcert² - Requirements of first gathering points (agricultural trader)

4.1 What does the first gathering point need to do to use REDcert?

The first gathering point must

- be a participant in the REDcert² (see question 1.1)
- commission a certification body to inspect the REDcert² requirements criteria
- satisfy the requirements criteria in the current REDcert² system principles (see REDcert² system principles for biomass production for the food industry – chapter 1 Certification system and REDcert-EU system principles for "neutral inspections")

4.2 What do farmers need to "additionally" declare so that a first gathering point can sell products with a REDcert² certificate?

see question 2.2

4.3 How do the self-declarations of the first gathering points have to be archived?

The self-declarations must be kept for at least 5 years notwithstanding any legal requirements (see REDcert-EU system requirements for production).

4.4 What does the first gathering point need to be careful of for incoming/outgoing goods?

The same requirements apply here as in the REDcert-EU system (see REDcert-EU system principles for the production of biomass, bioliquids and biofuels chapter 4.2.1 "Incoming sustainable biomass" and 4.2.3 "Outgoing sustainable biomass").

4.5 How does the first gathering point have to perform mass balancing in the REDcert² system?

The system principles for mass balancing in the REDcert² system correspond to those in the REDcert-EU system.

Contrary to the requirements set forth in the REDcert-EU system, economic actors are free to define a balance period after which the balance is positive (less outgoing than incoming biomass) as long as this period is not longer than 12 months. The operational mass balance always has to show and provide proof of the property "REDcert²-certified biomass".

REDcert² - Requirements of first gathering points (agricultural trader)

4.6 Can a first gatherer decide whether to record biomass supplied to him as REDcert-EU or REDcert² biomass in the incoming biomass (mass balance)?

In principle, yes and on the condition that the first gatherer has a certificate for both certification systems (REDcert-EU and REDcert²).

If the biomass supplied to the first gatherer satisfies the system requirements of both certification systems at the same time, he can, however, also record it as a "combined biomass" in the incoming biomass. The same applies for outgoing biomass. In this case, the first gatherer can also define whether the biomass is passed on as "combined biomass" or REDcert-EU and REDcert² biomass. This way, he can retain greater sales flexibility.

4.7 Up to what point in the production and supply chain can the biomass be designated "combined biomass"?

Up to the point in time when the final decision is made about which area (biofuel or food) the biomass will be used in.

4.8 Can "combined biomass" be reallocated as REDcert-EU or REDcert² biomass?

Only "combined biomass" may be reallocated upholding the familiar principles of mass balancing, because only the "combined biomass" is biomass that satisfies the requirements of the REDcert² and REDcert-EU certification system.

4.9 Different mass balancing periods for REDcert-EU (3 months) and REDcert² (up to 12 months): Can this be shown in a mass balance if both REDcert-EU and REDcert² biomass are traded simultaneously?

If "combined biomass" is recorded in the mass balance, the period of 3 months is not exceeded because the "combined biomass" otherwise does not satisfy the requirements of REDcert-EU certification. Balancing of REDcert-EU- and REDcert²-only biomass is carried out in compliance with the familiar principles of mass balancing.

4.10 What information does the first gathering point have to pass on to buyers?

The same requirements in the REDcert-EU system generally apply in the REDcert² system (with the exception of GHG emissions; see REDcert-EU system principles for production). Key requirements here are the existence of a valid certificate and passing along the certificate number and name of the certification system.

REDcert² - Requirements of first gathering points (agricultural trader)

4.11 What is additionally required of further processing companies in the REDcert² system?

Nothing above and beyond the familiar requirements in the REDcert-EU system. It only has to be ensured that REDcert²-certified goods are listed as such on the accompanying documents and can be identified.

5 Certification/inspection

5.1 How long is a certificate valid?

A certificate is valid for one year from the date of issue.

5.2 How often are farmers inspected?

Farmers – if they are part of a certified producer group - are subject to a sample inspection once a year (\sqrt{x} , where x is the number of operations) (see REDcert-EU system principles for "neutral inspections").

5.3 Who commissions the certification body (or inspectors) and who is responsible for the inspection costs?

As is the case in the REDcert-EU system, the certification body is generally commissioned by the company needing certification. The party that commissions the certification body bears the costs for the inspections.

5.4 Which of the farmers' documents are inspected? Is it enough to present a notification of EU direct payments?

In the case of CC criteria, it is sufficient to present the EU direct payment notification and the respective land verification. For other criteria in the REDcert² system, see 3.2. Information on suitable proof of compliance with these criteria is provided here.

5.5 Which additional inspections and associated costs are there for the first gathering point in the REDcert² system?

The number of inspections required does not change. If the first gathering point is also the customer for certification of a producer group, it can expect a certain increase in inspection costs because the scope of the inspection (length of the inspection) is based on the target SAI requirements level. However, these details must be clarified with the commissioned certification body.

5.6 Are agricultural inspections under the REDcert-EU system enough to obtain a REDcert² certification?

No, even though the content of the inspections is almost identical, a formal certification process must have been completed to issue a REDcert² certificate.

This means that inspections conducted at an earlier point in time for the REDcert-EU system cannot be subsequently used for REDcert² certification.

5.7 How are the groups defined for the sample inspection of farms if the sum total of all farms is comprised of farms with both REDcert-EU and REDcert² certification?

When the REDcert-EU and REDcert² certification procedures are combined at farm level, the sum total of all farms is based on the number of self-declarations submitted. The square root of this sum total is used to determine a representative and risk-oriented sample.

The sample size of each group of farms to be determined must correspond to the respective percentages (REDcert EU only, REDcert² only, combination of REDcert EU and REDcert²) that make up the sum total. Within the respective group, the already familiar risk assessment (see REDcert system principles "Neutral inspections") must be taken into account.

It is possible to deviate from this mathematical distribution, and in some cases, this is mandatory given various other risk aspects.

5.8 Can the inspections for the REDcert-EU and REDcert² systems be conducted as a combination inspection?

Yes, the inspections for the REDcert-EU and REDcert² systems can be conducted as a combination inspection. This eliminates additional bureaucratic hurdles and prevents duplicate certifications.

5.9 Which requirements were added to the checklist for the inspection of the first gathering point?

One requirement (property "REDcert²-certified biomass" clearly shown) has been added to item 1.4 Mass balancing in the checklist for inspecting first gathering points.

5.10 Does a KO evaluation in the REDcert-EU system also automatically result in a KO evaluation in the REDcert² system?

Because the REDcert-EU system is the basis for the REDcert² system, a KO evaluation in the REDcert-EU system automatically leads to a KO evaluation in the REDcert² system (exception: GHG calculation).

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