

## Info-Mail from 8<sup>th</sup> of Dezember 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

This e-mail is to inform you once again about the Union Database for Biofuels (UDB). Please read the following text carefully.

The UDB is a mandatory database established at European level in accordance with Article 28(2) and (4) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001, which economic operators, certification bodies and certification systems must use to trace liquid and gaseous fuels for transport. To this end, from 03.01.2024, information on the transactions carried out and the sustainability characteristics of the fuels, including their life cycle greenhouse gas emissions, must be provided in this database for the biofuels sector, starting from the place of their production up to the fuel supplier who introduces them on the market.

The entire supply chain of gaseous biofuels can only be fully utilized by the UDB once the national registers of guarantees of origin have been connected to the UDB. This should take place during the **1st quarter of 2024** so that trading in gaseous fuels can start from April 2024. In principle, economic operators along **the solid biomass fuel value chain are not affected by the scope of the UDB**. In the course of this, REDcert, as a certification system recognized by the European Union, has been obligated to support the introduction of the UDB and to oblige its participants to use the UDB. We have already referred to this in the REDcert-EU system principles (see, among other things, "System principles for the mass balance" chapter 3.5). This also includes transferring the current data of REDcert-EU scheme participants (except pulp mills) from our participant administration as well as the valid REDcert-EU certificates. **REDcert fulfilled this obligation on time and will keep the participants and their certificates and status up to date from 03.01.2024 using a direct interface between the REDcert database and the UDB.**

All companies registered in the UDB are **now** requested to set up their own access to the UDB (EU login account) - if this has not yet been done as part of field trials with the test UDB - in order to enter the necessary information (initial stock levels as of 03.01.2024 or end of the current mass balance) in the UDB from 03.01.2024 (with regard to the liquid biofuel value chain). Communication between the UDB and you as a company takes place **via the email of the contact entered as your company's 1st contact person in the REDcert database**. This contact should be kept up to date in accordance with your contractual obligations, otherwise there may be problems with the following steps.

## Info-Mail from 8<sup>th</sup> of Dezember 2023

### An overview of your tasks:

#### 1. Create EU-Login account (if not already existing)

To create your own EU Login account, please use our step-by-step guide (see below). The registration process for the account requires 2-factor authentication (2FA) according to the current security standard.

#### 2. Follow invitation link

The UDB will send an invitation link to the contact you entered as the 1st contact person in the REDcert database. Accept the invitation and log in to the UDB using your EU login account.

#### 3. After logging in to UDB: check and correct the company details

##### a) NTR-ID must be unique!

The NTR ID (National Trade Register) is either your registration number in the commercial, cooperative or comparable register or your VAT ID. The latter is already stored in the REDcert database and has been transmitted by us to the UDB.

##### b) Create sourcing contacts

First gathering points/collectors or group manager must create producers as a "sourcing contact". In order to be able to accept biomass from agricultural production or residual and waste materials from origination companies in future and record these in the UDB as a goods movement (goods receipt), the first gathering points and collectors must - if they also act as group managers of their generation and origination facilities (scopes 101 and 104 in the REDcert-EU system) - create these facilities as "sourcing contacts" in the UDB. This data is not stored in the REDcert database and must therefore be entered and maintained independently. The basis for this is the list of self-declarations that have been submitted to you and already serve as the basis for group certification of these companies. Without entering this data into the UDB, no raw material records/collections can be mapped in the UDB!

#### 4. Initial stocks in relation to a separate cut-off date (e.g. 03.01.2024).

The UDB expects that existing stocks (initial stocks) will be recorded in the UDB for the first time on the cut-off date 03.01.2024. If no sustainable stock is available, you will only be able to enter transactions once your suppliers have transferred sustainable goods to the UDB. To ensure that the stocks reported by you can be checked by the responsible certification body during the next audit, you should draw up and store a small "interim balance sheet on the key date" as part of your operational mass balance.

## **Info-Mail from 8<sup>th</sup> of Dezember 2023**

### **5. Record transactions**

Once your data is up-to-date and complete, you must document all transactions in accordance with the UDB. This applies to all companies in the value chain - from the first gathering point and collector to the trader of biofuels. It is intended that the sustainability certificates entered in nabisy will be transmitted to the UDB (see below).

**Please note that sending the invitation link (point 2) is currently still causing technical issues that still need to be resolved! These errors should be fixed in the course of next week. We will provide further information.**

### **What happens if you do not become active in the UDB?**

Failure to take action is a contravention of the legal obligations of economic operators under Article 28(2) of the Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (RED II) "to enter 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, into the Union database in a timely manner". Article 17 paragraph 1 (c) of the Implementing Regulation on sustainability certification (1 ) further elaborates and clarifies this legal obligation that the Voluntary Schemes must pass on to the economic operators they certify. Voluntary schemes are required to take appropriate measures to remedy such situations by suspending the sustainability certificates of those economic operators. The suspension of your certificate is therefore the intended "leverage" to remind defaulting or unwilling companies of their obligations.

### **How are incorrect entries (transactions) handled in the UDB?**

Misstatements in transactions in the UDB are in principle a violation of the mass balance rules and will be pursued accordingly. You should therefore ensure in particular that the information in your company mass balance sheet corresponds to that in the UDB and can be documented accordingly.

### **Link to national databases**

The UDB team has already initiated a technical process with all Member States that have expressed an interest in the option of linking their national databases to the UDB. The aim of the UDB team is to create the technical requirements and carry out the actual technical linking before the system is launched in January 2024. However, it is doubtful whether this will happen in time in view of the BLE's nabisy application. For biofuel producers and "suppliers according to the last interface", who already make corresponding entries in the BLE's nabisy database, this means additional recording until further notice.

**Info-Mail from 8<sup>th</sup> of Dezember 2023**

**Further information**

Public wiki page of the UDB: <https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/UDBBIS>

UDB Live Version: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/UnionDatabase>

UDB Test Version: <https://webgate.acceptance.ec.europa.eu/udb>

Step-by-step instruction to access:

[https://redcert.org/images/UDB/How to get access to the UDB.pdf](https://redcert.org/images/UDB/How_to_get_access_to_the_UDB.pdf)

NTR-ID (Unique company identifier in the UDB):

<https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=90278474>

Guides: <https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/UDBBIS/User+Guides>

Data protection regulation of the UDB:

<https://webgate.acceptance.ec.europa.eu/udb/privacy-statement> and [https://commission.europa.eu/publications/security-standards-applying-all-european-commission-information-systems\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/publications/security-standards-applying-all-european-commission-information-systems_en)

In the case of any technical problems with the UDB, e.g. access problems, missing materials or biomass codes, etc., please contact the UDB managers directly at [EC-UNION-DB@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EC-UNION-DB@ec.europa.eu). Unfortunately, REDcert cannot offer any support in these cases.

Our central UDB mailbox [udb@redcert.de](mailto:udb@redcert.de) remains at your disposal for any other queries.