

INSPECTIONS OF GREEN-GAS FACILITIES

The purpose of these inspections and when they must be performed are set out in the modified Flemish Government decree amending the Energy Decree of 19 November 2010 with regard to guarantees of origin for gas and heat and cold, which was published in the Belgian Official Gazette on 7 August 2019 and came into force on 17 August 2019.

NEW FACILITIES

A facility for the production of green gas must be inspected when it starts up so that an inspection report valid for up to two years can be submitted. The inspection report may consist of a number of model reports prepared by one or more auditors.

The inspection report or model reports must contain the following data, insofar as they are relevant for the auditor's area of activity:

- the inspection date;
- the auditor's name, as registered by the production registrar;
- the energy carrier produced;
- the main type of input flow (feedstock) used and the share thereof that is renewable;
- for biomass input flows, the basic biomass inspection report;
- the type of production facility;
- the production facility's nominal and maximum capacity in kW (or a multiple thereof);
- the EAN of the meter used to measure green gas production;
- a simple process diagram indicating:
 - the production chain, from the input flows to the end product, and the energy flows;
 - the measuring points for the auxiliary flows of heat and electricity for its own use that are relevant to producing green heat.

When the inspection takes place, all the relevant meters must have valid calibration certificates. To be valid, a calibration certificate must include the following information:

- the serial number of the measuring device;
- the calibration date (on the inspection day, this date should not exceed 5 years);
- the signature of the person responsible for the calibration;

- the results of the measurements taken;
- confirmation that the test results comply with the applicable standard, regulation or procedure;
- the name of the body that performed the calibration.

The calculation parameters must also be determined, in addition to the inspection report. To this end, the producer must submit a proposal to the production registrar using the form for calculation parameters as described in the calculation methodology. The production registrar may ask the producer (insofar as this is not already clear from the inspection report) to have the parameters substantiated by an auditor.

The guarantees of origin for a given facility can be issued from the date on which the inspection report is completed, at the earliest.

REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT INSPECTIONS ON A TWO-YEARLY BASIS

For facilities exceeding 1 MW of production, the inspection report must be renewed every two years. This biennial report is important for the subsequent issuing of guarantees of origin. During inspections, also make sure to check whether there is still a valid calibration certificate for all the meters.

Two-yearly inspections are not required for those measurements needed to obtain guarantees of origin as these are managed by the system operator.

CHANGES

The facility may need to be re-inspected if a change is made to it. Any change to a production facility must be reported to the production registrar, who will issue an opinion. If there is a major change, a new inspection will be required. A change is considered major if it involves any modifications to the facility, the measuring equipment, the energy source, or any other aspect which affect the calculation of the renewable share of the energy produced in the facility.

RECOGNITION OF INSPECTION BODIES

In Flanders, auditors certifying green gas produced from biomass must meet the conditions outlined in the Flemish Ministerial Decree of 5 April 2019 on demonstrating biomass characteristics, issued by the Flemish Government's Department of Environment and Spatial Development.

If there is no specific type of accreditation (e.g. with BELAC) for an auditor for a given area of activity, the production registrar may independently decide, based on substantiated credentials submitted by the auditor, whether the auditor's credentials are sufficient for the auditor to issue inspection reports or model reports. The production registrar can ask the auditor to undergo an external audit in connection with the reports provided by the latter.

Auditors can only act for a green-gas producer and issue a valid inspection report if they are registered with the production registrar. This enables the auditor to monitor the validity of the data and report changes or errors to the production registrar.

The producer and its auditor are responsible for the data they submit. The production registrar can under no circumstances be held (directly or indirectly) liable for the performance of its activities, except in the case of malicious intent.