

# Biomethane certification in the EU: current challenges and next steps



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# How do we certify biomethane nowadays?

## Guarantee of Origin

for biomethane as an energy carrier

**Electronic certificate**  
on the trader's account

**Supported by the IT system  
of the GO registry**

**Book and claim**

**Limited lifetime**  
(12 – month validity, 18 – month expiry)

## Proof of Sustainability (POS)

for biomethane in transport/ EU ETS compliance

**Self-declaration in PDF/ XLS format**  
issued by producers, traders certified under  
ISCC/ REDcert/ other voluntary schemes

**Nabisy in DE, but no EU – wide  
IT system => Union Database from  
November 2024**

**Mass balance**  
for the interconnected gas infrastructure

**No lifetime limitations**  
due to storability of fuels

# What are the current challenges with biomethane certification?

## Blockers for the cross-border trade of biomethane

### Technical blockers

Lack of standardisation (e.g. carbon intensity data fields are not available in all GOs; format of POS is not harmonised)

Two cross-border schemes for transfer of GOs

No back-up if the GO transfer cannot be executed (e.g. ex-domain cancellation is not always available)

### Regulatory fragmentation

Different documents are required for compliance verification in different Member States

Different approaches to biomethane accounting in renewable energy targets (production vs consumption)

# Way forward with the biomethane certification: what to expect from the UDB?

**Our goal is a more efficient cross-border trade of biomethane**

**UDB as a central data hub/ registry  
allowing to check:**

absence of double claims/ double  
counting

sustainability and GHG emission saving  
requirements across the full value chain

mass balance for the interconnected gas  
infrastructure

**i) Single interface via UDB**

connection of GO registries, Nabisy and other  
national databases to UDB

**ii) Single freely transferable electronic  
certificate**

**iii) Link between certificates and gas to be  
demonstrated via UDB**

(reconciliation between 'mass balance' and  
'book and claim')

**iv) Harmonized biomethane accounting by  
Member States**