



Notification Number: 2014/592/UK

The Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme and Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2015

Date received : 08/12/2014

End of Standstill : 09/12/2014

Fiscal Measures : Yes

Message

Message 001

Communication from the Commission - TRIS/(2014) 03563

Directive 98/34/EC

Notificación - Oznámení - Notifikation - Notifizierung - Teavitamine - Γνωστοποίηση - Notification - Notifica - Pieteikums - Pranešimas - Bejelentés - Notifika - Kennisgeving - Zawiadomienie - Notificação - Hlášení-Obvestilo - Ilmoitus - Anmälan - Нотификация : 2014/0592/UK - Notificare.

No abre el plazo - Nezahajuje odklady - Fristerne indledes ikke - Kein Fristbeginn - Viivituste perioodi ei avata - Καμία έναρξη προθεσμίας - Does not open the delays - N'ouvre pas de délais - Non fa decorrere la mora - Neietekmē atlikšanu - Atidėjimai nepradedami - Nem nyitja meg a késésket - Ma' jiftaħ il-perijodi ta' dawmien - Geen termijnbegin - Nie otwiera opóźnień - Nao inicia o prazo - Neotvorí oneskorenia - Ne uvaja zamud - Määräaika ei ala tästä - Inleder ingen frist - He ce предвижда период на прекъсване - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare.

(MSG: 201403563.EN)

1. Structured Information Line

MSG 001 IND 2014 0592 UK EN 08-12-2014 UK NOTIF

2. Member State

UK

3. Department Responsible

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
Innovation & Enterprise Group
1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET.

Email: 9834@bis.gsi.gov.uk.

3. Originating Department

Department of Energy and Climate Change

4. Notification Number

2014/0592/UK - N00E

5. Title

The Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme and Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2015

6. Products Concerned

1) Solid biomass, biogas or biomethane will need to meet new greenhouse gas criteria of less than or equal to 34.8g of CO₂ eq per MJ of heat generated (in the case of solid biomass or biogas) or biomethane injected.

2) Sustainability audit reports for participants who are self-reporting, must be prepared in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised): Assurance engagements other than audits or reviews of historical financial information or an equivalent standard.

3) New land use criteria for solid biomass which is wood or wholly derived from wood, excluding energy crops, must comply with new land use criteria.

Keywords: renewable heat; technology; installation; land use criteria; International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised); Timber Standard

7. Notification Under Another Act

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8. Main Content

The RHI scheme is designed to incentivise the generation of renewable heat in Great Britain, taking into account the financial and non-financial barriers present, whilst ensuring that the renewable heat technology and its installation are of suitable quality and value for money and that the heat generated and used, for which payments will be made, is measured using suitable measuring equipment.

These changes are to introduce sustainability requirements for biomass, biomethane and biogas production, including Green House Gas emissions limits, and land use criteria.

Keywords: land use criteria; International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised); Timber Standard

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

The RHI scheme is designed to pay a financial incentive to generators of renewable heat provided the equipment they use meets certain eligibility criteria. Following the launch of this scheme in November 2011 work has continued to make improvements to the scheme. Feedback from consultation has confirmed criteria which should be used to ensure heat is generated by renewable sources and that technologies are of suitable quality without placing an undue burden. We are now introducing biomass sustainability criteria to ensure the scheme meets with new



EU emissions limits.

- 1) Solid biomass, biogas or biomethane meets the greenhouse gas criteria if the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions associated with that solid biomass, biogas or biomethane are less than or equal to 34.8g of CO₂ eq per MJ of heat generated (in the case of solid biomass or biogas) or biomethane injected.
- 2) Sustainability audit reports are required for all those choosing to self report for the purposes of demonstrating they meet the sustainability criteria. These audit reports must be prepared in accordance to the International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised) or equivalent.
- 3) New land use criteria for solid biomass which is wood or wholly derived from wood, excluding energy crops, must comply with new land use criteria. This means that 100% of the biomass in any 'consignment' must be legal, and that 70% of this must comply with land use criteria. This includes, amongst other things, provisions that there must be a forest management plan in place to ensure that the forest ecosystem is not being damaged and the soil is protected; that the extraction of wood is done in a way to minimise the impact on other uses of the area; that there is an adequate inventory of the trees; that the health of the trees is maintained; and that there are contingencies in place for emergencies such as fire.
- 4) Sustainability audit reports are required for all those choosing to self report for the purposes of demonstrating they meet the sustainability criteria. These audit reports must be prepared in accordance to the International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised) or equivalent.
- 5) Solid biomass, biogas or biomethane meets the greenhouse gas criteria if the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions associated with that solid biomass, biogas or biomethane are less than or equal to 34.8g of CO₂ eq per MJ of heat generated (in the case of solid biomass or biogas) or biomethane injected.
- 6) New land use criteria for solid biomass which is wood or wholly derived from wood, excluding energy crops, must comply with new land use criteria. This means that 100% of the biomass in any 'consignment' must be legal, and that 70% of this must comply with land use criteria. This includes, amongst other things, provisions that there must be a forest management plan in place to ensure that the forest ecosystem is not being damaged and the soil is protected; that the extraction of wood is done in a way to minimise the impact on other uses of the area; that there is an adequate inventory of the trees; that the health of the trees is maintained; and that there are contingencies in place for emergencies such as fire.

Keywords: land use criteria; International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised); Timber Standard

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

References of the Basic Texts: The draft regulations will be made using powers conferred on the Secretary of State by section 100 of the Energy Act 2008. The amendments are proposed to introduce support for new technologies, ensuring that new plants accredited on the scheme are of suitable quality and are generating heat from renewable sources. A copy of this amendment is enclosed.

The scheme was established by the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/2860). That instrument has been amended by S.I. 2012/1999, S.I. 2013/1033, S.I. 2013/2410, S.I. 2013/3179, S.I. 2014/928 and S.I. 2014/1413. Copies are enclosed.

Details of the suite of changes to the Renewable Heat Incentive are in the policy document "Non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Improving Support Increasing Uptake" found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/265855/Non-Domestic_Renewable_Heat_Incentive_-_Improving_Support_Increasing_Uptake_-_PUBLISHED.pdf

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

No

12. Grounds for the Emergency

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13. Confidentiality

No

14. Fiscal measures

Yes

15. Impact assessment

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16. TBT and SPS aspects

TBT aspect

No - The draft has no significant impact on international trade

SPS aspect

No - The draft is not a sanitary or phytosanitary measure

European Commission

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