

NI Generators and Suppliers

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Dear

NORTHERN IRELAND RENEWABLE ENERGY GUARANTEES OF ORIGIN (NI REGOs)

Background

The Electricity (Guarantees of Origin of Electricity Produced from Renewable Energy Sources) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 implemented Article 5 of EU Directive 2001/77/EC on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market. It provides that the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation (NIAUR) should issue Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGOs) as proof of electricity generated from renewable energy sources in Northern Ireland if requested to do so. We are also given powers to audit generating stations in receipt of REGOs, revoke REGOs where they were issued in error or on the basis of a fraudulent request, to maintain a Register of REGOs and recognise non-NI issued Guarantees of Origin (GoOs). Please refer to the 2003 Regulations for full information on NIAUR's duties and powers.

On 1 September 2008 section 121A was inserted into the Energy Act 2004 by *The Origin of Renewable Electricity (Power of Gas and Electricity Markets Authority to act for Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation) Regulations 2008*. This provides that NIAUR and the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) are entitled to enter into an agreement for Ofgem to act on behalf of NIAUR to administer the 2003 Regulations. An agreement has subsequently been entered into for Ofgem to administer the REGO scheme on our behalf with effect from 1 February 2009.

Generating Stations (NFFO & Non-NFFO) – How to Apply for REGOs

From 1 February 2009 Ofgem will be responsible for administering the NI REGO Regulations. Ofgem will administer the NI REGO scheme in the same way that they administer the GB REGO scheme. Please refer to the *'Renewable Energy Guarantees of Energy – Ofgem's Administrative Procedures'* for guidance on how Ofgem administers the scheme.

To receive REGOs for renewable electricity generated in NI, generating stations will need to follow the steps below.

1. Apply for an account on the Renewables and CHP Register (if you do not already have one). Your request for an account will be reviewed by Ofgem and if approved an account created.

- a. You will be required to submit a signed letter of authorisation confirming that your company authorises you to administer their account on the Renewables and CHP Register on their behalf. Ofgem have produced a template for the '*Renewables and CHP Register – Authorisation Form*'.
 - b. You will also be required to sign the Information Declaration confirming the information submitted onto the Register is and will be accurate.
2. Once your account is activated you will be able to apply for accreditation under the REGO scheme by completing a new application for accreditation. If your station is already accredited for NIROCs please amend your current application rather than submit a fresh application. Your station will then be reviewed for eligibility under the scheme, and if eligible for REGOs will be granted accreditation. Ofgem will issue an accreditation letter to confirm this.
3. Once your station is accredited for REGOs you may submit output data into the Renewables and CHP Register, sign the online REGO Declaration, and REGOs will be automatically issued into your account. **Please note that the first REGO issue by Ofgem will be January 2009. Ofgem will not be able to issue REGOs prior to this month.** REGOs may only be requested for a period of one calendar month or greater, but cannot overlap the period 1 April to 31 March. The Regulations set no deadline for submitting output data. However, REGOs are predominantly used for Fuel Mix Disclosure (FMD) purposes and therefore you should keep the NI FMD compliance deadline (to be determined) in mind when applying for NI REGOs.
4. You may transfer your REGOs to other account holders within the Register.

Please refer to the '*Ofgem Renewables and CHP Register – User Guide*' for full information on how to use the Renewables and CHP Register.

Suppliers – How to Use REGOs

To receive REGOs from generators or other users of the Renewables and CHP Register, electricity suppliers should follow the instructions given in point 1(a) and (b) above (if you do not already have a supplier account on the Renewables and CHP Register). You should ensure that you hold a supplier account for each supply licence you are trading under.

Holders of REGOs (generators or other users) may transfer REGOs into your account. You are given the option to accept or decline transfers.

Currently REGOs are predominantly used for Fuel Mix Disclosure (FMD) purposes. The NI Regulations governing this are being consulted on at present. However it is anticipated that the first FMD compliance round, for the supply of electricity generated during the period 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009, will take place on 31 March 2010. This is likely to be the date you will need to hold REGOs in your Renewables and CHP Register account.

Please refer to the '*Ofgem Renewables and CHP Register – User Guide*' for full information on how to use the Renewables and CHP Register.

Useful Information Sources

The following information sources available from the Ofgem website, www.ofgem.gov.uk should be read before applying for REGOs.

REGOs

REGO section of the Ofgem website:

<http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/REGOs/Pages/REGOs.aspx>

Renewable Energy Guarantees of Energy – Ofgem’s Administrative Procedures:
<http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/REGOs/Documents1/8498-rego%20procedures%20sept04.pdf>

Renewables and CHP Register

Renewables and CHP Register section of the Ofgem website:

<http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/RCHPreg/Pages/RCHPreg.aspx>

Link to the Renewables and CHP Register:

<https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/>

Ofgem Renewables and CHP Register – User Guide:

<http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/RCHPreg/Documents1/Ofgem%20Renewable%20and%20CHP%20Register%20User%20Guide%20March%202008.pdf>

Renewables and CHP Register – Authorisation Form:

<http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Pages/MoreInformation.aspx?docid=15&refer=Sustainability/Environment/RCHPreg>

Contacts at Ofgem

All contact with regard to the administration of the NI REGO scheme should be directed to Ofgem. Should you need to contact Ofgem about applying for REGOs either in person or by email please contact the Renewables team in the first instance on Tel: 020-7901-7310 or by email to Renewable@ofgem.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

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Social & Environmental Branch

cc. Rebecca Dixon, Manager CCL, REGO & NFFO, Ofgem