



# **New Zealand Energy Certificate System Rules: Gas**

**VERSION 1.1**

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# SECTION A: Introduction

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. This document (Rules) explains the key processes and standards that govern the New Zealand Energy Certificate System (NZECS).

**Account Holder** means a Registrant or Participant (as context requires).

**Energy User** means the consumer of the energy for which NZ-ECs are issued, transferred and redeemed.

**Installation Control Point** or **ICP** has the meaning given to that term under the Code.

**MWh** means megawatt hour.

**New Zealand Energy Certificate System** or **NZECS** means the system owned and operated by NZBCI and known as the New Zealand Energy Certificate System through which NZ-ECs certifying the characteristics and origin of electricity generation or gas production can be tracked (issued, transferred and redeemed).

**NZBCI** means the New Zealand Body for Certificate Issuance Limited (NZBN 9429046808417), the New Zealand issuing agent for the NZECS, trading as BraveTrace.

**NZ-EC** means a renewable energy certificate that has been issued to the Registrant by NZECS via the NZECS Registry in accordance with these Rules.

**NZECS Registry** means the electronic registry used by NZBCI to administer the NZECS and provide issuance, transfer and redemption for NZ-ECs.

**Output** means generation output from a Production Device.

**Participant** means a party that is registered with NZECS to purchase NZ-ECs, on behalf of an Energy User, on the NZECS Registry.

**Production Device** means the generation assets from which renewable energy is generated.

**Production Year** means each 12-month period commencing on 1 October and expiring on the following 30 September.

**Redeemed** means, in respect of a NZ-EC, a request of redemption made in accordance with section 15 of these Rules having been accepted by NZECS, and such NZ-EC having been removed from circulation in the NZECS.

**Redemption** has the corresponding meaning.

**Registrant** means a party that is registered with NZECS to sell NZ-ECs to a Participant on the NZECS Registry.

**Request for Issuance** has the meaning given in section 12 of these Rules.

**Sub-ICP Energy User** has the meaning given in section 11 of these Rules.

## 2. NEW ZEALAND ENERGY CERTIFICATE SYSTEM (NZECS)

- 2.1. The **NZECS** is administered by the **NZBCI**, trading as BraveTrace. By participating in the NZECS you acknowledge and accept these Rules
- 2.2. BraveTrace is the New Zealand issuing agent for the NZECS, issuing New Zealand Energy Certificates (NZ-ECs or Certificates). One **NZ-EC** corresponds to the production of 1 megawatt hour (MWh) of energy.
- 2.3. The only certificate instrument currently recognised under the NZECS is the NZ-EC; available for issuance from any eligible Production Device located within the country boundary of Aotearoa New Zealand (NZ).

- 2.4. The NZ-EC is intended to underpin a range of eligible renewable energy production types, in order to verify the proper transfer of production attributes within the NZ market boundary.
- 2.5. Where gas production is certified under the NZECS, the NZ-EC will correspond to the production of 1 megawatt hour (MWh) of energy on a Higher Heating Value (HHV) basis.
- 2.6. The rules governing the creation and management of NZ-ECs are outlined in Section B.

### **3. CERTIFICATE CLASS**

- 3.1. NZ-ECs denoting the verified attributes of gas production shall be classed as 'New Zealand Gas'. This classification is applicable to all gaseous fuel types produced within, or imported into, the NZ market boundary.
- 3.2. These rules pertain to any certificates recognised by the NZECS and used for the purpose of certifying gas production.

# SECTION B: Operation of the system

## 4. REGISTRY

- 4.1. The NZECS registry (Registry) is the online platform within which users of the NZECS (Account Holders) shall transact NZ-ECs and make changes within their trading accounts.

## 5. PRODUCTION YEAR

- 5.1. All activities and transactions relate to a specific 12-month period (Production Year) and are time-bound to particular date ranges within that year.
- 5.2. No NZ-EC issued in relation to production output (Output) that occurred within a particular Production Year can exist in any other Production Year unless this Output is placed into a Storage Device (as evidenced by the redemption of Certificates as described in section 15). NZ-ECs may be issued when that Output is withdrawn from storage irrespective of time of withdrawal.
- 5.3. Within the Production Year a number of key dates govern the process of gas certification. These are:
- (a) 1 October in Production Year X: the first day of the NZECS Gas Production Year – NZ-ECs related to this Production Year can be issued against Output occurring from this day forward.
  - (b) 30 September in Production Year X: the last day of the NZECS Gas Production Year – the last day of Output for which Certificates can be issued that relate to this Production Year.
  - (c) 31 October in Production Year X+1: the last day that Account Holders can perform transactions that relate to Production Year X. This is also the last day that an Account Holder can be registered in the system.
  - (d) 30 November in Production Year X+1: the date by which the official supply mix of all registered Users and gas retailers will have been calculated and communicated.

- (e) 31 December in Production Year X+1: the date by which all actions and processes relating to Production Year X will have been finalised, and the date by which the residual supply mix will have been calculated and published.
- (f) Requests for extensions or adjustments to this timeline may be granted at the discretion of BraveTrace, where no other Account Holder is unfairly disadvantaged by the granting of the request;
- (g) Where an extension is granted, it shall be available to all Account Holders, who shall be duly notified.

## 6. INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR ALL DEVICE REGISTRATION

- 6.1. For the purposes of gas certification, an NZ-EC can only be issued in relation to the associated Output of a registered Device;
- 6.2. Output from a registered Device can comprise new production, or gas that has been stored, and is now being released, from a storage device.
- 6.3. Any Device may be registered in the Registry by:
  - (h) the owner of the Device; or
  - (i) an agent duly authorised by the owner, who has provided adequate evidence:
    - i. of such authorisation; and
    - ii. that it can comply with the requirements of the Rules with respect to the imposition of duties on the owner and/or operator of the Device;
- 6.4. Applicants for registration of a Device must provide the following information to BraveTrace before registration can be completed:
  - (a) the applicant's name and address and any additional contact details;
  - (b) the identifying number of the Registrant account into which the Certificate in respect of the Output of such Device is to be Issued;
  - (c) demonstration of applicant's authority to request registration of the Device;
  - (d) the location of the Device, being its:



- i. latitude and longitude; or
    - ii. region, city and postal code;
  - (e) details of any pipeline injection point(s) for the Device;
  - (f) the output gas type of the Device;
  - (g) the date on which that Device was, or is expected to be, commissioned;
  - (h) details of any payments (other than payments arising from the sale of Certificates):
    - i. which have been received by any person in relation to the Device under any Government or other public support schemes; and
    - ii. that are due to accrue to any person in relation to the Device under any public support scheme;
  - (i) a diagrammatic explanation of that Device, including details of the location of any pipeline injection point(s) for the Device;
  - (j) the name commonly used to identify the Device;
  - (k) the expected annual Output of that Device; and
- 6.5. Additional information as detailed in sections 7-8 as required by the Device type.
- 6.6. Applicants for registration of a Device will be subject to audit and, as part of that, are obliged to provide the NZECS (or an appointed agent) access to the Device in order to verify the information provided in connection with that application, and any application for registration is to be rejected where such access is not provided upon reasonable request.

## 7. PRODUCTION DEVICE REGISTRATION

- 7.1. In addition to the information described in section 6, applicants for registration of a Production Device must also provide the following information to BraveTrace before registration can be completed:
- (a) the type and nature of the Production Device, where this reflects:
    - i. the type of gas comprising the Output (including proportional composition);
    - ii. all relevant inputs into the production process;
    - iii. details of the technology used in the production process; and
  - (b) the maximum daily gas deliverability of the Device (MWh/day HHV).

## 8. STORAGE DEVICE REGISTRATION

- 8.1. In addition to the information described in section 6, applicants for registration of a Storage Device (which includes any Storage Device that is to be used for eventual export) must also provide the following information to BraveTrace before registration can be completed:
- (a) the storage capacity of the Storage Device;
  - (b) the stored volume of working gas within the Storage Device (i.e. excluding any volume of cushion gas);
  - (c) the primary purpose of the Storage Device (e.g. storage and release of gas within NZ, or storage for gas being exported from, or imported to, New Zealand).
- 8.2. For the purposes of these Rules neither a transmission pipeline nor a distribution system may be Storage Devices.

## 9. MEASUREMENT OF OUTPUT OF REGISTERED DEVICE

- 9.1. In relation to the measurement of Output for the purposes of establishing an NZ-EC, the following criteria apply:
- (a) All devices must be fitted with gas measurement systems that meet the relevant NZ Standard (e.g. NZS 5259 in the case of pipeline-quality biomethane) and measure injections into storage and withdrawals from storage separately. Where no measurement standard exists, then the measurement process as defined in the Production Device registration documentation will be used;
  - (b) The Registrant must provide sufficiently detailed Output and/or Input data for any purpose reasonably required in the operation of the NZECS;
  - (c) Notwithstanding paragraph 9.1(a), the Registrant may permit BraveTrace to source data on the Output and/or Input of a registered Device from the Gas Industry Company (GIC) for the purposes of operating the NZECS and NZECS Registry;

- (d) BraveTrace may request evidence of the process undertaken by the Registrant to ensure that Output and/or Input data is accurate, and may withhold the ability to issue Certificates against that Output if BraveTrace considers that the Output data may be inaccurate;
- (e) the Registrant of a Device is wholly responsible for the delivery, quality and accuracy of measured values with respect to the Output and/or Input of any Device registered within the NZECS.

## 10. REGISTRATION OF ENERGY USER

- 10.1. An Energy User that wishes to redeem NZ-ECs against its account to match its gas consumption (User) must be registered on the Registry by a Participant Account Holder; which has provided adequate evidence that:
  - (a) it has been authorised by the User to do so; and
  - (b) that it is the only entity authorised to act in relation to the attributes of the User's consumed gas.
- 10.2. A User's consumption is seen to be all of the gas supplied to its network or pipeline Installation Control Point (ICP), where the supply of that gas is used in the operations of that User.
- 10.3. Where a User has control of the ICP, and where a portion of the gas supplied to that ICP is used in the operations of a separate entity located at the same site, those volumes are seen to be excluded from the consumption of the User.
- 10.4. Where an entity that wishes to certify their consumption is operating on a site that is supplied by an ICP that is controlled by another party, they may be registered as a sub-ICP energy user (Sub-ICP Energy User), with registration subject to requirements as laid out in section 11.

## 11. REGISTERING AN ENERGY USER OR SUB-ICP ENERGY USER

- 11.1. When registering an Energy User that is not a Sub-ICP Energy User, the Participant must provide the following information to the NZECS at the time of application:
- (a) the applicant's name and address and any additional contact details;
  - (b) a contact for the Energy User and contact details including, but not limited to, email and mobile phone details;
  - (c) the location of the Energy User;
  - (d) details on the nature of the Energy User, including but not limited to industry, number of ICPs, and expected annual gas consumption by type;
  - (e) the trading name of the Energy User, if relevant.
- 11.2. When registering a Sub-ICP Energy User, the Participant must provide the following information to the NZECS at the time of application:
- (a) the applicant's name and address and any additional contact details;
  - (b) a contact for the Sub-ICP Energy User and contact details including, but not limited to, email and mobile phone details;
  - (c) the location of the Sub-ICP Energy User;
  - (d) details on the nature of the Sub-ICP Energy User, including but not limited to industry, and expected annual gas consumption;
  - (e) the network ICP from which the Sub-ICP Energy User receives supply;
  - (f) the name of the organisation that has control of the network ICP;
  - (g) a high-level description of the controlling organisation's operations;
- 11.3. An Energy User and a Sub-ICP Energy User must be registered within the NZECS Registry prior to the end of the last day of the first month following the end of the Production Year for which they wish to transact.

## 12. REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE

- 12.1. An NZ-EC may only be issued for Output from any Device which has been registered in the Registry, as per sections 6-8 above.

- 12.2. A Certificate may be issued against Output from a Production Device occurring within the Production Year to which the Certificate is to relate. A Certificate may be issued against output from a Storage Device occurring in the Production Year during which the output was stored, or in any later Production Year.
- 12.3. Issuance of a Certificate can be initiated by submitting a Request for Issuance<sup>1</sup>, providing the following information to the NZECS at the time of request:
- (a) the identity of the relevant Device, where this shall include:
    - i. the identification number which has been assigned to the Device and optionally,
    - ii. the name of the Device as specified in the application for registration of that Device.
  - (b) the location of the relevant Device, being its:
    - i. latitude and longitude; or
    - ii. region, city and postal code;
  - (c) the identity of the requesting party;
  - (d) details of the Output against which Certificates are to be issued, including:
  - (e) the type of gas comprising the Output (including proportional composition);
  - (f) all relevant inputs into the production process;
  - (g) details of the technology used in the production process;
  - (h) the volume of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions associated to the Output; including
    - i. the volume of scope 1 carbon dioxide equivalent emissions; or
    - ii. the volume of biogenic carbon dioxide emissions;
  - (i) the first day on which the Output to which it relates was produced; and
  - (j) the last day on which the Output to which it relates was produced.

## 13. ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES

- 13.1. BraveTrace retains the right to perform verification of details provided in the Request for Issuance prior to authorising Issuance;

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<sup>1</sup> The requirements of a Request for Issuance may be met automatically where requested via the Registry.

- 13.2. NZ-ECs issued in response to a Request for Issuance are to contain information as follows:
- (a) the identity of the relevant Device, where this shall include:
    - i. the identification number which has been assigned to the Production Device and optionally,
    - ii. the name of the Device as specified in the application for registration of that Device.
  - (b) the location of the relevant Device, being its:
    - i. latitude and longitude; or
    - ii. country, city and postal code;
  - (c) the date on which the Device was commissioned; as verified by BraveTrace during the registration process for that Device;
  - (d) the date of issue;
  - (e) a unique serial number as identifier of this issuance;
  - (f) where the relevant Device is a Storage Device, the identity of the originating Production Device, where this shall include:
    - i. the identification number which has been assigned to the Production Device and optionally,
    - ii. the name of the Production Device, as specified in the application for registration of that Production Device, or, where the energy was produced outside of New Zealand, the name of the overseas Production Device shown on any accompanying certificate(s),
  - (g) details of the Output against which Certificates are to be issued, including:
    - i. the type of gas comprising the Output (including proportional composition);
  - (h) all relevant inputs into the production process;
  - (i) details of the technology used in the production process;
  - (j) the volume of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions associated to the Output; including
    - i. the volume of scope 1 carbon dioxide equivalent emissions; or
    - ii. the volume of biogenic carbon dioxide emissions;
  - (k) the first day on which the Output to which it relates was produced; and
  - (l) the last day on which the Output to which it relates was produced.

## 14. TRANSFER OF CERTIFICATE

- 14.1. An NZ-EC may be transferred without cost between Registrant and Participant Account Holders within the Registry.
- 14.2. Transfer of a Certificate can be initiated within the Registry by submitting a Request for Transfer, providing the following information to the NZECS at the time of request:
  - (a) the number and type of Certificate(s) to be transferred;
  - (b) the name and account number of the recipient account; and
  - (c) the name and account number of the account from which the Certificate(s) are to be transferred.

## 15. REDEMPTION OF CERTIFICATE

- 15.1. NZ-ECs can be redeemed only once, and once redeemed are removed from circulation.
- 15.2. A Certificate can only be redeemed against the associated consumption of a registered User, a registered Sub-ICP Energy User, or injections into a Storage Device.
- 15.3. Where the Certificate being redeemed is of class 'New Zealand Gas', energy consumption of the registered Energy User against which the Certificate is being redeemed must be of gaseous fuel.
- 15.4. Redemption of a Certificate can be initiated within the Registry by submitting a request for redemption.
- 15.5. A request for redemption of a Certificate against an Energy User or a Sub-ICP Energy User must meet the criteria set out below:
  - (a) the request for redemption must state, amongst other things, the User / Sub ICP Energy User to whom redemption is to apply;
  - (b) the Energy User / Sub-ICP Energy User must be registered within the account of the Participant;

- (c) a request for redemption must be accompanied by a verifiable record of the consumed electricity of the Energy User / Sub-ICP Energy User for the period for which redemption is sought; and
- (d) redemption of Certificates may not exceed the consumed energy of the User / Sub-ICP Energy User for the period for which redemption is sought; as evidenced by the consumption record provided.

## **16. CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATE**

- 16.1. An unredeemed NZ-EC may not continue to exist beyond the end of the Production Year in which it was Issued.
- 16.2. A Certificate that has been issued and remains within the Registry at the end of day on 31 October of the relevant Production Year X +1 will be cancelled for the purposes of returning these attributes to residual supply.
- 16.3. This cancellation will take place without cost and without notice.