Swiss Gas Industry Association
Verband der Schweizerischen Gasindustrie
Association Suisse de l'Industrie Gazière
Associazione svizzera dell'industria del gas

gaz
energie

Principles Of The Swiss Gas Industry Relating To Biogas And Other Renewable Gases

- The target of the Swiss gas industry is the decarbonisation of the gas supply by 2050. The marketing of renewable gases such as biogas, synthetic methane from renewable sources, and green hydrogen as well as natural gas mixtures in all markets (fuel, heat, & electricity) is part of this climate strategy.

- The Swiss Gas Industry Association (VSG) promotes the supply and distribution of renewable gases via the gas network and will gradually be increasing the quantity.

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VSG members commit themselves to adhere to the following conditions in the production, trade and distribution of renewable gases.

A) The renewable gases marketed by the Swiss gas industry shall categorically comply with the following criteria:

- residual and waste materials as well as agricultural intercrops serve as a raw material for the production of biogas. The source materials for the production of biogas shall not compete with the manufacture of food and feed.

- if the biogas comes from residual and waste materials deposited in landfills, then it must be demonstrated that a comparable plant in Switzerland would meet the requirements of Swiss legislation regarding renewable combustibles and fuels .

- if the biogas comes from agricultural intercrops, the supplementary criteria according to the positive list apply in Switzerland. In the case of imported renewable gases, the requirements of Annex IX of EU Directive 2018/2001 (RED II) apply: Intercrops are permitted if they originate from regions where only one harvest is possible due to the short vegetation period and if their cultivation does not trigger any additional land requirements and the content of organic matter in the soil is maintained.

- renewable electricity only shall be implemented for the production of renewable gases from power-to-gas processes (synthetic methane, hydrogen).

- vis-à-vis the application of fossil fuels, an ecological added value shall be guaranteed, inter alia in the shape of a reduced climate impact.

- the renewable gases shall, in the period before being used by the end customer, be physically fed into the gas network. The feed-in location shall be linked to the European gas network (no stand-alone grids, except when delivering directly to a biogas filling station in Switzerland).

- the legal provisions of the country of production shall be adhered to.

- the renewable gases produced or supplied in Switzerland shall comply with the minimum ecological and social requirements pursuant to Swiss legislation concerning renewable fuels, in particular according to the Mineral Oil Tax Act (*MinöStG*, SR 641.61), the Mineral Oil Tax Regulation (*MinöStV*, SR 641.611) and the *UVEK* [Federal Energy Department] Regulation concerning evidence of compliance with ecological requirements in regard to biogenic fuels (*BTrV*, 641.611.21).

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B) Conditions regarding registration and delivery

- the ecological added value shall benefit the end customer, and shall be evidenced by certificates. The gas supply company shall acquire and manage the certificates for the customer. The gas supply company shall ensure that the transferred ecological added value is attributed to one user only. This shall apply in particular to financially subsidised renewable gases.

- All volumes imported, traded and delivered to the end customer shall be reported quarterly to VSG via the "Clearingstelle". The import notification shall be accompanied by documentary evidence of origin. If the volumes are not imported separately by the supplier of the end customer, proof of evidence may be delegated to the pre-supplier (importer).

- the imported renewable gases shall be registered and balanced in the country of production via a registry recognized by VSG. The head office of VSG shall maintain a list of recognized registries. Registries shall be included which are accepted by government agencies and/or widely used. In countries without registries, a VSG-accredited testing institution may assume this task.

VSG/202304