MiQ Program Guide

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Rules of the MiQ Registry and MiQ Certificates

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This page is a guide to key concepts and is not part of the rules of the MiQ Registry. Refer to the relevant part of the main document for further information.

Key concepts

Account Holder	Account Holders can transfer certificates to other Account Holders on the Registry and can retire certificates. Account Holders can also request changes to the region of their certificates using CIRIS.
Certificate	Each certificate (also called an *Environmental Attribute Certificates* or *EAC*) is a unique electronic identification of environmental attributes for 1 MMBtu or 1 barrel of commodity issued against an independent third-party audit for a specified Facility. Production Certificates also act as guarantees of origin.
Certificate Inter-Regional Import System (CIRIS)	CIRIS facilitates the export of certificates from one region to another and supports Account Holders in the provision of documentation for voluntary or regulatory purposes (e.g., EUMR).
Expiry	Certificates automatically expire 36 months after the issue month if not retired.
Facility	An oil and gas plant, asset or operation where a commodity is produced (e.g. an offshore gas platform), transformed (e.g. a gas processing plant) or transported (e.g. a pipeline).
Facility Operator	A Facility Operator manages its facility certifications including issuance on the MiQ Registry.
Issuance	The Registry Administrator issues certificates on receipt of evidence supporting issuance from Facility Operators.
Issue Month	The month of production or throughput, sometimes called *Vintage*.
MiQ Registry	The MiQ Registry is the digital register of all Certificates and tracks each Certificate through its lifecycle, from issuance to retirement.
Registry Administrator	The organisation that manages the Registry and issues certificates.
Retirement	The permanent assignment of certificates to an end consumer. Retirement is sometimes called *Cancellation* or *Redemption*.
Certificate attributes	The information on each certificate is determined by the standard the facility was audited against. Here is an example:

Facility	Century Production Unit – Appalachia
Operator	Century Operating Company, Inc.
Segment	Onshore production
Country of operation	United States of America

Issue Month	MiQ Grade	CH_4 intensity	CO_2 intensity	N_2O intensity	CO2e (20y GWP)	CO2e (100y GWP)	Quantity	Certificate numbers
Apr-25	A	8.8	5,600	0.0072	6,300	5,900	100,000	G0000-0123-8824-2071 - G0000-0000-8834-2070
May-25	A	8.8	5,600	0.0072	6,300	5,900	100,000	G0000-0123-9872-8071 - G0000-0000-9882-8070
Jun-25	A	8.8	5,600	0.0072	6,300	5,900	100,000	G0000-0125-0654-1241 - G0000-0125-0664-1240

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1. Introduction

This MiQ Program Guide describes the implementation of the MiQ Program, which provides for the issuance, transfer and retirement of Certificates for Certified Commodities, such as Certified Gas and Certified Crude. Such Certificates include MiQ Certificates, tradeable environmental attribute certificates that evidence the greenhouse gas intensity of natural gas and crude oil audited against the MiQ Standard and EO100™ Certificates that evidence a range of ESG attributes assessed against the EO100™ Standard for Responsible Energy Development. The MiQ Program is delivered through the MiQ Registry (www.miqregistry.org). The MiQ Standard is owned by the MiQ Foundation. The EO100™ Standard is owned by Equitable Origin.

1.1. Certificates

Certificates are tradeable instruments evidencing the greenhouse gas management and ESG attributes of Certified Commodities.

An MiQ Certificate evidences the greenhouse gas performance of natural gas or crude oil produced, gathered & boosted, processed, transported & stored, liquefied, shipped or regasified at specific Facilities, and may include additional attributes associated with total greenhouse gases. An EO100™ Certificate evidences the wider ESG performance of natural gas produced, processed or transported at or by specific Facilities. A combined MiQ+EO™100 Certificates evidences the verified ESG attributes of a Facility against both Standards. Facilities that have been audited against both Standards will be issued with combined MiQ+EO™100 Certificates.

Certificates facilitate reliable reporting for a variety of requirements including scope 1 and scope 3 emissions reporting, national energy reporting and general end-user claims. Certificates allow consumers to make a conscious and evidence-based choice to purchase commodities according to their greenhouse gas emissions performance and other ESG attributes.

The recording of Certificates on the Registry is critical to ensuring that double-counting cannot occur. Double counting (also known as double claims) occurs when two different parties claim the same environmental benefits from the same unit of a commodity. Certificates that are held on a Registry help to significantly reduce the risk of double-counting in two ways. Firstly, a single Certificate is Issued against each unit of a Certified Commodity. When Certificates are used to evidence the delivery of a Certified Commodity, by design the same unit of a Certified Commodity cannot be sold by the same seller to two different buyers. The Registry tracks the entire life cycle of the Certificate, from Issuance to Retirement, ensuring that each unit of the Certified Commodity only has one Certificate recorded against it. When a Certificate is sold, the unique serial number for the unit of Certified Commodity is transferred from the seller's account to the buyer's account.

Secondly, when a buyer wishes to 'use' the Certificate by making a claim for the environmental attributes of the Certificate, the Certificate is permanently Retired such that the Certificate can no longer be sold or transferred to another party.

The MiQ Program provides a robust chain-of-custody for environmental attributes from issuance to retirement.

1.2. Regulatory scope

The MiQ Program encompasses Services that are delivered within a voluntary commercial environment. Where Services under the MiQ Program are provided within a legislative environment (such as the EU Methane Regulations), that legislation shall take legal precedence.

1.3. About this document

This **MiQ Program Guide** sets out the definitions, processes and procedures of the MiQ Program that govern the Issuance, Transfer, Export (via CIRIS) and Retirement of Certificates under the MiQ Program.

Certificates are issued against Audits of Facilities carried out by third-party independent Auditing Bodies under one of the Standards that is recognized under the MiQ Program, being the MiQ Standard for Methane Emissions Performance, the MiQ Standard for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Performance and the EO100™ Standard for Responsible Energy Development.

The **MiQ Standard for Methane Emissions Performance** combines several elements to provide a robust and reliable method to certify natural gas and crude oil production, as well as natural gas gathering & boosting, processing, transmission & storage, and LNG operations according to methane emissions performance. The elements include greenhouse gas intensity, policies and procedures focused on methane emissions prevention, detection, and abatement, and deployment of monitoring technology. The MiQ Standard for Methane Emissions Performance is designed to incentivise continuous improvement in methane emissions monitoring and abatement. The MiQ Standard for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Performance defines the measurement and reporting requirements of an operator's overall greenhouse gas emissions intensity for use in the MiQ Program. The MiQ Standards are available at https://miq.org/documents/.

The **EO100™ Standard for Responsible Energy Development** is a set of rigorous performance standards for energy development projects. Developed through a three-year, multi-stakeholder engagement process, the EO100™ Standard is the product of extensive consultation with the energy industry, international NGOs, Indigenous organizations, financial institutions, government, and communities affected by energy projects. The standard establishes metrics and performance targets to objectively and independently evaluate the environmental, social and governance (ESG) impacts of energy development projects.

2. Key terms used in this document

2.1. Defined terms

Term	Definition
Account	A data store within the Registry that is attributed to a single Organisation for the purpose of recording holdings of Certificates within the Registry, such Accounts being either Trading Accounts or Retirement Accounts.
Account Holder	An Organisation holding one or more Accounts.
Additional Information	Information that is not explicitly described in this document, but which may be requested by the Registry Administrator.
Applicant	An Entity applying to be an Organisation on the Registry.
Approved Measurement and Reconciliation Protocol	A Measurement and Reconciliation Protocol for a Facility that is approved by the relevant Standard Holder.
Audit	The systematic, independent and documented assessment of a Facility against a Standard by an Auditing Body prior to a Certification Period, validating the information reported by the Facility Operator.
Auditor	An individual that has been recognized by the relevant Standard Holder to carry out Audits of Facilities against the requirements of the relevant Standard.
Auditing Body	An Organisation made up of Auditors that has been recognized by the relevant Standard Holder to carry out Audits of Facilities against the requirements of the relevant Standard.
Audit Report	A document detailing the findings of an Audit performed on a Facility by an Auditing Body.
Audit Registry Data	The set of data included as part of the Audit Report relevant to operation of the MiQ Program and submitted by the Facility Operator on the Registry.
Beneficiary	An Entity that is an end-user of a certified commodity, to which Certificates may be assigned during Retirement.
Certificate	A unique electronic identification of a Certificate Unit of a Certified Commodity on the Registry.
Certificate Unit	The unit of a Certificate, for example one MMBtu for Certified Gas and one barrel for Certified Crude.
Certificate Region	A Certificate Region is a geographical area defined by the MiQ Program and is typically a connected commodity system that may include production, transportation, trading hubs and consumption points. Within a Certificate Region, the commodity is typically co-mingled from many producers

	and/or transporters. Certificates attributed to a Certificate Region may only be Retired on behalf of Beneficiaries that consume the commodity in that Certificate Region.
Certification Period	A period of 12 whole calendar months during which the commodity produced, processed or transported by a Facility is eligible for the Issuing of Certificates at a given Grade. Any variation to the duration of the Certification Period must be agreed with the Standard Holder.
Certified Commodity	A commodity that has been certified under the MiQ Program, such as Certified Gas or Certified Crude.
Certified Crude	Crude oil whose ESG attributes have been independently verified against a publicly available Standard at one or more Facilities along the crude oil supply chain.
Certified Gas	Fossil natural gas whose ESG attributes have been independently verified against a publicly available Standard at one or more Facilities along the natural gas supply chain.
CIRIS	MiQ's Certificate Inter-Regional Import System for exporting Certificates between Certificate Regions subject to the CIRIS rules set out in Section 7.
Delivered Quantity	The quantity of commodity produced, processed or transported by a Facility and eligible for the Issuance of Certificates.
Entity	An organisation such as a corporate entity registered in a recognised national register of companies.
EO100™ Standard	The EO100™ Standard for Responsible Energy Development, available at https://energystandards.org/responsible-energy-development/.
Facility	One or more assets where production, gathering & boosting, processing, transmission, storage, liquefaction and/or regasification takes place.
Facility Operator	An Organisation that registers Facilities on the Registry and provides information to the Registry Administrator relating to Facilities.
Gathering and Boosting Facility	Gathering and Boosting Facilities relate to assets used to compress, dehydrate, sweeten and/or transport natural gas from Production Facilities to other Facilities.
Grade	The grade of a Facility determined in accordance with the relevant Standard by an Auditing Body and evidenced in an Audit Report.
Integrated Facility	A Facility that includes assets from more than a single Segment of the supply-chain.
Issue Month	A calendar month of production, processing or transportation of a commodity.
Issue Request	A request by the Facility Operator of a Facility to Issue Certificates in relation to that Facility against a Proof of

	Quantity provided for a given Issue Month.
Issuing	The act of creating a record of one or more Certificates in an Account on the Registry in relation to an approved Audit for a specific Facility.
Liquefaction Facility	A Facility involved in the processing and liquefaction of natural gas into LNG, storage of LNG and loading of LNG onto Vessels.
Methane Intensity	As defined in the relevant MiQ Standard.
MiQ Foundation	The MiQ Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation registered in the United Kingdom and established to facilitate a significant reduction in methane emissions through the development of the MiQ Standard and the MiQ Program.
MiQ Program	The global environmental attributed tracking and reporting system implemented through the Registry for the Issuance, Transfer and Retirement of Certificates.
MiQ Program Guide	This document describing the rules and processes of the MiQ Program.
MiQ Standard	The MiQ Standard for Methane Emissions Performance that defines principles for an effective methane management and the measurement and reporting requirements of an operator's overall methane intensity for production, gathering & boosting, processing, transmission & storage, liquefaction and/or regasification segments of the natural gas or crude oil value chain, and/or the MiQ Standard for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Performance that defines the measurement and reporting requirements of an operator's overall greenhouse gas emissions intensity for use in the MiQ Program, both available at https://miq.org/documents/.
Organisation	An Entity registered in the Registry and able to access and interact with the Registry.
Platform Operator	An Organisation with a third-party trading platform that has a linkage to the Registry to facilitate trading of Certificates.
Processing Facility	A Facility where natural gas liquids, non-methane gases and impurities are separated from produced natural gas, and/or natural gas liquids are fractionated.
Production Facility	A Facility where a commodity is produced.
Program Holder	MiQ Registry Limited
Proof of Import	Evidence of transportation of a Certified Commodity, such as loading of a Delivered Quantity of LNG or crude oil onto a named Vessel at a named Liquefaction Facility or port and unloading of the Delivered Quantity at a named Regasification Facility or port.
Proof of Quantity	Evidence of the Delivered Quantity of Certified Commodity provided by the Facility Operator to facilitate Issuing of Certificates.

Recognized Entity	An Organisation that has been recognized by MiQ Foundation to carry out a specific role, such as an Auditing Body.
Regasification Facility	A Facility involved in the unloading of LNG from Vessels, storage of LNG and regasification of LNG into natural gas.
Registry	The electronic register of Certificates that records the full chain of events from Issuing to Retirement.
Registry Administrator	The operator of the Registry that has been recognized and contracted by MiQ Foundation to operate the Registry. The Registry Administrator is responsible for onboarding Facility Operators and Account Holders, registering Facilities, Issuing Certificates.
Reportable Event	With respect to a Facility with an Audit against the MiQ Standard, an event or circumstance occurring during a Certification Period that could result in a worsening of the Facility's methane emission performance, including but not limited to an increase in its methane intensity or a change in its company practices, and where the cumulative effect of one or more such events could lead to a change to a Facility's Grade if it were to be re-audited based on such revised information.
Reportable Quantity	A single emissions event additional to an operator's reported inventory that exceeds or is believed to exceed a flow rate of 25 kg/hr and a duration of at least 24 hours, or a single methane emissions event greater than 600 kg.
Reporting Methane Intensity	The methane intensity used on Certificates, calculated as set out in Section 7.
Retire or Retirement	The act of permanently assigning a Certificate to a Beneficiary for the purpose of making a disclosure statement, whereby the Certificate is removed from circulation on the Registry and may no longer be Transferred.
Retirement Account	An Account that can only hold Certificates that have been Retired.
Retirement Statement	An electronic, non-transferrable receipt attributable to a single Beneficiary that provides evidence of the Retirement of one or more Certificates and associated environmental attributes.
Sample Proof of Quantity	A sample of the Proof of Quantity that is agreed with the Registry Administrator prior to a Facility's first Issuance.
Segment	The part of the commodity value chain in which a Facility operates. Certain segments may only apply to certain commodities. The full list of Segments is set out in Section 6.1.1
Service	The activities provided by the Registry Administrator
Standard	A Standard for a Certified Commodity, being either the MiQ Standard or the EO100™ Standard.

Trading Account	An Account that can hold Certificates that have not been Retired, receive transfers of certificates from another Account, and make transfers to another Account.
Transmission and Storage Facility	A Facility that transports a commodity in a pipeline and/or stores the commodity for managing fluctuating supply and demand.
User	An individual that has been provided with access credentials to the Registry and is authorised by an Organisation to access the Registry on its behalf. A User is linked to a single set of contact details.
Vessel	An ocean-going ship that transports commodities such as LNG from Liquefaction Facilities to Regasification Facilities or crude oil between ports.

2.2. Interpretation

Except for definitions expressly defined in the text, the terms in this MiQ Program Guide that are identified by capitalisation have the meanings assigned to them in Section 2.1.

The singular of a term defined in Section 2.1 include the plural and vice versa.

Where a word or phrase is given a particular meaning in Section 2.1, other parts of speech and grammatical forms of that word or phrase have corresponding meanings.

3. Principles

This section outlines the principles that underpin the MiQ Program and how the Standard holder and Registry Administrator structure their activities and relationships with agents to provide a transparent and robust service consistent with the requirements of the MiQ Standard.

3.1. Organisational Principles

3.1.1. **A Consumer's Right to Information**

The Beneficiary of any Certificate has a right to obtain detailed information concerning the associated origin and attributes of Certified Commodity sufficient for it to be able to evidence the methane emissions profile of the relevant commodity for reporting purposes.

3.1.2. **Collaboration**

Wherever possible, the Standard Holder will engage with governments and relevant non-governmental organisations to implement the MiQ Program, ensuring open and fair access to the market.

The Registry Administrator will be collaborative with other similar attribute-tracking systems to help ensure that all such systems can provide full and accurate information for consumers and minimise potential for double-counting of similar attributes. The Registry Administrator structures and maintains its relationships with all service providers to ensure compliance with this principle.

Information held by Registry Administrator will be subject to applicable laws, the Registry Administrator's contractual framework and the Registry Administrator's privacy notice.

3.1.3. **Independence**

The Registry Administrator is independent from the market it serves. It has no role in any Certified Commodity supply chain, market, nor in their regulation. The Registry Administrator will neither engage in any trade or exchange of Certificates, nor enter any transaction that is based on the price of Certificates, except for the purchase of Certificates for its own use as a Beneficiary. The Registry Administrator will maintain confidentiality and not provide privileged or otherwise private information to other parties otherwise than in accordance with its legal responsibilities and this MiQ Program Guide.

Independence from the market allows the Registry Administrator to operate in a clear, transparent and equitable manner, offering a Service in which customers and stakeholders can trust.

3.1.4. **Flexibility**

The Registry Administrator recognises that technologies, markets and laws are subject to evolution and change. Where appropriate, Services provided may accommodate flexibility in how compliance can be demonstrated with the relevant Standard.

3.2. MiQ Program principles

3.2.1. **Immutable Statement of Fact**

A Certificate is a statement of verified historical fact relating to a Facility in the Certified Commodity supply chain. Attributes of a Certificate at Issuing are immutable, other than the Certificate Region, which may be changed using the CIRIS system when a Certified Commodity is physically transported to a new location.

3.2.2. **Uniqueness**

A Certificate is a unique statement representing the evidenced attributes associated with a specific event or activity during a specified period and for a specified quantity (1 Certificate Unit).

No Certificate may be Issued where another certificate or similar instrument relating to any attributes included within the Certificate specification for the respective Certificate Unit of currently exist. This is to ensure the avoidance of double counting of any certified attribute(s).

A Certificate may exist sequentially from another attribute-tracking methodology recording the same attributes in relation to the same event or activity such that only one evidence statement has effect at any point in time.

A Certificate is considered used when it is Retired and it can only be Retired once. A Retired Certificate ceases to be transferable to another Entity. The Retirement of a Certificate is permanent. The use of a Certificate can only be verifiably assigned to a Beneficiary upon Retirement.

3.2.3. **Possession and Ownership**

The clear and uninterrupted chain of possession of Certificates from original holder to Beneficiary is fundamental. Records of possession of all Certificates are recorded within the Registry.

The unique record of a Certificate will only exist within an Account on the Registry but agreements for the transfer of Certificates between parties may be made elsewhere, including on third-party trading platforms.

3.2.4. **Evidence Based**

Certificates can be Issued only against independently verified evidence of historical throughput at a specific Facility.

3.3. Infrastructure Principles

3.3.1. **Operational Reliability**

The Registry utilises a bespoke general-purpose activity digital ledger accounting engine, which provides the secure storage and management of Facilities and Certificates that are essential to the correct and trusted operation of a Registry Service.

The Registry is continuously monitored and developed to ensure consistent and reliable operation.

3.3.2. **Data Integrity and Security**

The Registry is designed with referential integrity, full transaction logs and double-entry bookkeeping protocols to ensure that data integrity is maintained within the Registry and in transfer with other systems.

Security protocols are implemented to prevent unauthorised access to records and the Registry codebase.

3.3.3. **Cost Effectiveness**

The Registry is designed to enable operation over low bandwidth internet connections and general-use specification computer platforms requiring no additional paid-for software.

3.3.4. **Accessibility**

The Registry is accessible via the internet and maintained to be compatible with current versions of both Microsoft Windows and Mac OS. User interfaces are designed in line with best practice for such systems.

4. Organisational and Service Structure

To clearly assign responsibilities to Entities within a best practice environment, the MiQ Program is based around a structure and set of requirements designed to be transparent and auditable. This section sets out the high-level definitions of roles and responsibilities and the structure within which the Service is delivered.

4.1. Overview of Responsibilities

The MiQ Program is designed to enable simple and clear engagement for Facility Operators, Account Holders, Platform Operators and Auditing Bodies.

For any event to take place an associated Organisation must be registered with the Registry. An Organisation can register to hold one or more roles at the Registry. Examples of roles include Account Holder (able to hold Trade Accounts and Retirement Accounts), Facility Operator (able to register Facilities and create Issue Requests) and Auditing Body (able to perform Audits of Facilities). Other roles may be created by the Program Holder as required. Note that an Entity that is an Auditing Body cannot perform any other role.

An Organisation that has access to the Registry may have multiple Users. Users are individuals that have been provided with access credentials to the Registry and are authorised by an Organisation to access the Registry on its behalf.

4.1.1. **Standard Holders**

Standard Holders own and manage their respective Standards for emission and ESG performance of crude oil and/or natural gas facilities.

The Standard Holder for the MiQ Standards is the MiQ Foundation (https://miq.org/). The MiQ Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that has the goal of rapidly reducing methane emissions in the oil and gas sector through the creation of the MiQ Standard and the implementation of a global system for the certification of Facilities that have been audited against the MiQ Standard.

The MiQ Foundation owns, develops and maintains the MiQ Standard. The MiQ Foundation is responsible for recognizing Auditing Bodies against the MiQ Standard and the MiQ Program. The actions and processes of the MiQ Foundation set out in this document may be carried out by its affiliates.

The Standard Holder for the EO100™ Standard for Responsible Energy Development is Equitable Origin Inc. (https://energystandards.org/). Equitable Origin is a stakeholder-based, independent, voluntary standards system designed to enable higher social and environmental performance, greater transparency and more accountability in energy development. The Equitable Origin System applies to energy development sites like oil and gas wells, wind farms, and solar installations. Equitable Origin works with a variety of stakeholders, including communities, companies, governments, and investors to foster dialogue, benchmark performance and promote best practices through the EO100™ Standard.

4.1.2. **Program Holder**

The Program Holder is responsible for defining and evolving the MiQ Program, maintenance of procedures and governance arrangements relating to the MiQ Program, contracting the Registry Administrator, and change management of the MiQ Program, the MiQ Program Guide and any associated documents.

4.1.3. **Registry Administrator**

The Registry Administrator is a Recognized Entity responsible for delivering the Services and ensuring the quality of the Registry. The Registry Administrator's roles include:

- onboarding Organisations onto the Registry
- processing Facility registrations, Issuing Certificates, reviewing Facility Reports
- providing the ability to Transfer and Retire Certificates
- providing support to Organisations and Users and
- overseeing the management of complaints by Entities.

The Registry Administrator may delegate or subcontract some or all these tasks to another entity, including MiQ Foundation.

4.1.4. **Auditing Bodies**

An Auditing Body is a Recognized Entity responsible for carrying out Audits of Facilities as defined in the relevant Standard and as described in the MiQ Program Guide. MiQ's recognition procedure is set out in the MiQ Audit Protocol, available at https://miq.org/document/audit-protocol/. Only Auditing Bodies that have been recognized by the relevant Standard Holder may undertake Audits of Facilities. A full list of Auditing Bodies recognized by MiQ Foundation can be found at https://miq.org/auditors/. Auditing Bodies may not hold the role of Facility Operator, Account Holder or Platform Operator on the Registry.

4.1.5. **Facility Operators**

A Facility Operator is the owner of a Facility or has the authority of the owner of a Facility to undertake relevant activities. Facility Operators can register Facilities, submit Audits and make Issue Requests in relation to their registered Facilities. For each of its registered Facilities, a Facility Operator nominates a Trading Account into which the Certificates will be Issued.

A Facility Operator can also be an Account Holder.

> *Facility Operators may be owners or operators of Facilities, or any other third party authorised to act as such on behalf of the owner.*

4.1.6. **Account Holders**

An Account Holder can hold Trading Accounts and Retirement Accounts within the Registry. An Account Holder can receive and hold Certificates, transfer Certificates to other Account Holders' Trading Accounts, and Retire Certificates on its own behalf or on behalf of other Entities (Beneficiaries).

An Account Holder can also be a Facility Operator.

4.1.7. **Beneficiaries**

Beneficiaries are end-users of a Certified Commodity or classes of consumers under a common tariff to which Certificates may be assigned as part of a Retirement transaction.

4.1.8. **Platform Operators**

A Platform Operator is an Entity responsible for the provision and operation of a platform that provides functions that extend the scope of a Registry, for example through providing a marketplace or trading platform for Certificates. Information about Platform Providers on the MiQ Registry is available at https://miq.org/trading/. Note that such platforms do not constitute a primary record of the custody of Certificates but may remotely initiate actions within a Registry and hold details of legal title to Certificates.

5. Organisation onboarding

5.1. Facility Operators, Account Holders and Platform Operators

5.1.1. Application process

Account Holders hold Accounts in the Registry and can hold Certificates, transfer Certificates to other Account Holders' Trading Accounts, and Retire Certificates. Facility Operators are (or are contracted to), the owner or operator of Facilities. Facility Operators register Facilities, submit Audits and make Issue Requests for Certificates in relation to a Facility. An Organisation may apply to be both a Facility Operator and an Account Holder.

Platform Operators operator third-party trading platforms that transact Certificates on behalf of market participants. Platform Operators hold Accounts in the Registry and can hold Certificates, transfer Certificates to other Account Holders' Trading Accounts, and Retire Certificates on behalf of market participants, who will typically also be Account Holders.

Applicants must be Entities. Proof of identity will be required as supporting evidence to an application. To apply, the Applicant must complete the application form on the Registry website. Details must be completed in English and appropriate supporting evidence provided where requested.

5.1.2. Know Your Customer Checks

The application will be reviewed by the Registry Administrator. The Registry Administrator must satisfy itself to the legal identity of the Applicant. The Registry Administrator will carry out *Know Your Customer* checks on the Applicant. The Registry Administrator may request Additional Information from the Applicant to carry out the *Know Your Customer* checks. The Registry Administrator's review may consult national and international anti-fraud and anti-money-laundering authorities and other relevant procedures as part of the review. Approval of the *Know Your Customer* check is at the sole discretion of the Registry Administrator.

Where the Registry Administrator is unable to verify the Applicant and/or has reason to doubt the authenticity of the evidence provided, it has the right to refuse the application.

5.1.3. Registry Agreement

Facility Operators, Account Holders and Platform Operators are required to enter into an agreement with the Registry Administrator to access Services. The contract for Facility Operators and Account Holders will be in the Registry Administrator's standard form. An example is published at https://miq.org/documents/. A version of the most recent template contract populated with the Applicant's details will be provided by the Registry Administrator during the onboarding process. Variation of the standard terms is only permitted in exceptional circumstances and is subject to the agreement of the Registry Administrator and (if relevant) MiQ Foundation.

An Applicant that wishes to become both a Facility Operator and an Account Holder may enter into one agreement with the Registry Administrator to cover both roles.

5.1.4. **Access to Registry**

Satisfactory completion of the Registry Administrator's *Know Your Customer* checks and execution of the Registry Agreement by both the Applicant and the Registry Administrator is required before access to the Registry is enabled.

Confirmation that the application has been approved will be sent to the Applicant by email.

Following approval of the Applicant, an Organisation with access to the Registry as an Account Holder or Platform Operator can create and operate Accounts on the Registry. Accounts are required to hold or Retire Certificates. An Account Holder may hold multiple Accounts on the Registry. Facility Operators will be able to create Facilities and Audits and make Issue Requests once Approved.

5.2. Auditing Bodies

5.2.1. **Application process**

Auditing Bodies audit Facilities against a Standard for the purposes of the MiQ Program. Auditing Bodies must be recognized by the Standard Holder. Standard Holders manage the recognition procedure in relation to their Standards. MiQ's recognition procedure is set out in the MiQ Audit Protocol, available at https://miq.org/document/audit-protocol/. An Organisation may not be both an Auditing Body and a Facility Operator, Account Holder or Platform Operator.

Applicants must be Entities. Proof of identity will be required as supporting evidence to an application. The application procedure is detailed on the MiQ website.

5.2.2. **Know Your Customer Checks**

The application will be reviewed by MiQ Foundation. MiQ Foundation must satisfy itself to the legal identity of the Applicant. MiQ Foundation will carry out *Know Your Customer* checks on the Applicant. MiQ Foundation may request Additional Information from the Applicant to carry out the *Know Your Customer* checks. MiQ Foundation's review may consult national and international anti-fraud and anti-money-laundering authorities and other relevant procedures as part of the review. Approval of the *Know Your Customer* check is at the sole discretion of MiQ Foundation.

Where MiQ Foundation is unable to verify the Applicant and/or has reason to doubt the authenticity of the evidence provided, it has the right to refuse the application.

5.2.3. **Recognition**

MiQ's recognition procedure is set out in the MiQ Audit Protocol, available at https://miq.org/document/audit-protocol/. Please contact other Standard holders directly for details of their recognition processes.

5.2.4. **Access to the Registry**

Auditing Bodies are not provided with access to the Registry. To the extent that further information is required from an Auditing Body in relation to records held on the Registry, MiQ Foundation or the Registry Administrator, as appropriate, will contact the Auditing Body directly.

6. Facilities, Audits and Certificate Issuance

6.1. Facility Registration

Before Certificates may be Issued in relation to a production, gathering & boosting, processing, transmission & storage, liquefaction, or regasification asset, the asset must first be registered as a Facility on the Registry. Registration is requested by the Facility Operator on the Registry website and is approved by the Registry Administrator. The registration of a Facility on the Registry must be completed before an Audit can be submitted or an Issue Request made for the Facility.

A Facility Operator can have more than one registered Facility.

Following Facility registration, the Facility Operator must inform the Registry Administrator of any changes to the Facility information held on the Registry.

6.1.1. **Facility Segments**

Facilities in the commodity value chain fall into distinct Segments. When a Facility is registered on the Registry, its appropriate Segment is provided by the Facility Operator. Once a Facility is registered to a specific Segment, it cannot be changed.

Some Segments may only be relevant for the supply chains of certain commodities. Supply-chain Segments include:

- Onshore production and Offshore production – assets where a commodity is produced, e.g., extracted from below the ground or seabed
- Gathering and boosting – assets that compress, dehydrate, sweeten and/or transport natural gas from production Facilities
- Processing – assets where natural gas liquids, non-methane gases and other impurities are separated from produced natural gas
- Transmission and storage – assets such as physical pipelines that transport a commodity such as natural gas or crude oil between two different locations and/or where natural gas is stored for managing fluctuating natural gas demand
- Liquefaction – LNG liquefaction terminals that process and liquefy natural gas into LNG, store LNG and load LNG onto Vessels
- Vessels – transport a commodity from a loading port to an unloading port (e.g., LNG from Liquefaction Facilities to Regasification Facilities).
- Regasification – LNG regasification terminals that unload LNG from Vessels, store LNG and regasify LNG into natural gas.

Some Facilities may cover more than one single segment of the supply-chain. These are called Integrated Facilities in the MiQ Program. An example of an Integrated Facility is one where natural gas production, gathering & boosting and processing are essentially operated as a single unit. In such cases, it is possible to register an integrated facility under a combined segment of, for example, Onshore Production, Gathering & Boosting and Processing.

6.1.2. **Registering a Facility**

The Facility Operator must either be the owner or operator of the Facility or be authorised by the owner or operator of the Facility to act as the Facility Operator in relation to the Facility. Proof of this status may be requested as part of the Facility registration process.

To register a Facility, the Facility Operator must provide high-level details of Facility on the Registry website. A summary of the required information is set out in Annex A – Facility information requirements.

All information submitted to the Registry Administrator must be complete and accurate, to the Facility Operator's best knowledge, information, and belief at the time of submission. Any changes to the information should be communicated to the Registry Administrator as soon as possible.

6.1.3. **Certificate Regions**

In general, Facilities will be assigned a Certificate Region by the Registry that reflects the physical location of the Facility.

A Transmission and Storage Facility may be connected to more than one Certificate Region, in which case it may be associated with more than one Certificate Region.

Certificates will be Issued with the Certificate Region of the relevant Facility.

The Registry may from time to time make new Certificate Regions available, such as when a new Facility is registered that is located outside the existing Certificate Regions.

6.1.4. **Processing of Registration Details**

The Registry Administrator will seek to verify that:

a) The Facility Operator is authorised to register the asset for the purposes of the MiQ Program;
b) The information provided at registration is a true representation of the physical assets being registered; and
c) The assets being registered are not already registered.

The Registry Administrator will also seek to verify that the assets are not likely to be receiving environmental attribute certificates under any other standards that would risk double-counting of Certificates. If such a risk exists, the Registry Administrator will raise this with the Facility Operator and, to the extent possible, seek to determine whether any protocols or processes can be put in place to allow registration but ensure that double-counting cannot occur.

The approval of a Facility registration is at the discretion of the Registry Administrator and subject to the satisfaction of its requirements.

On approval of the Facility, the Registry Administrator will confirm by email to the Facility Operator that registration has been completed.

6.2. Certification Period

A Certification Period is a 12-month period during which the commodity throughput of a Facility is eligible for the Issuing of Certificates at a given Grade, as evidenced by an Audit Report. The attributes of a Facility evidenced by the Audit Report will define the attributes of Certificates Issued to such a Facility during that Certification Period.

The Certification Period of a Facility must:

- Start on the first day of a calendar month;
- Be an uninterrupted period of 12 whole calendar months;
- End on the last day of a calendar month;
- Start on or after the month in which the relevant Audit Report is submitted by the Facility Operator to the Registry Administrator; and
- Be confirmed in the relevant Audit Report where possible.

Any variation to these requirements must be agreed with the relevant Standard Holder and the Registry Administrator.

> *To ensure minimal disruption to issuance, it is recommended that Audits for renewal are commenced before the end of the Certification Period.*
>
> *To have an uninterrupted eligibility for Certificate Issuance, the start date of the new Certification Period must be the day directly following the end date of the previous Certification Period.*

6.3. Audits

Before Certificates may be Issued in relation to a Facility, an Audit of the Facility must be completed by a recognized Auditing Body and the results must be submitted to and approved by the Registry Administrator.

The Audit process is the systematic, independent and documented assessment by an Auditing Body prior to a Certification Period, validating the information reported by the Facility Operator against the relevant Standard. The requirements and process of the Audit are set out in the relevant Standard.

It is the responsibility of the Facility Operator and the Auditing Body to agree commercial terms for carrying out the Audit. The Auditing Body must notify the Registry Administrator or MiQ Foundation when it has agreed to carry out a new Audit.

> *Auditing Bodies and Facility Operators should refer to the requirements and procedures outlined in the relevant Standard to perform an Audit. Further information can be obtained from MiQ Foundation directly.*

Audits must be conducted in compliance with the relevant Standard Holder's audit requirements. MiQ's requirements are set out in the MiQ Audit Protocol, available at https://miq.org/document/audit-protocol/. Additional guidance is provided for Integrated Facilities, which must be followed in addition to the MiQ Audit Protocol.

The results of an Audit, including the Grade to be associated with Certificates related to commodity throughput during a Certification Period, are evidenced by an Audit Report that is provided to the Registry Administrator.

The Registry Administrator will only accept Audit Reports produced by Auditors and/or an Auditing Body that has been recognised by the relevant Standard Holder for the relevant supply-chain Segment.

The Facility Operator must provide a requested start date of the Certification Period associated with the Audit, which should be confirmed in the Audit Report where possible.

In addition to the Audit Report, the Facility Operator must provide the Audit Registry Data (high-level details of the results of the Audit), as required by the Standard Holder, on the Registry website. A summary of the required information for each Standard is set out in Annex B – Audit information requirements.

All information submitted to the Registry Administrator must be complete and accurate, to the Facility Operator's best knowledge, information, and belief at the time of submission. Any changes to the information should be communicated to the Registry Administrator as soon as possible. In the case of documentation provided (such as the Audit Report), such documentation must be provided in English and legible.

If a range is presented in an Audit Report in relation a data item for which the Registry requires a specific value, the conservative end of the range will be used in the Registry.

All Facilities that are audited under the MiQ Standard for Methane Emission Performance for Petroleum Operations must also be audited against the MiQ Standard for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Performance.

6.3.1. **Approval**

The Registry Administrator will review the Audit submission to ensure that required information has been provided and that the submission contains a true and accurate representation of the information provided in the Audit Report for the requested Certification Period.

Once complete and satisfactory, the Registry Administrator will activate the Audit in the Registry for the requested Certification Period and will notify the Facility Operator.

6.4. Issuance of Certificates

Before Certificates can be Issued to a Facility, the Facility to which the Issue Request relates must be registered, the Audit must have been approved by the Registry Administrator and the Account for receiving the Certificates must also exist on the Registry.

Only the Facility Operator of a Facility can make an Issue Request relating to a Facility. An Issue Request contains a declaration of facts and associated Proof of Quantity that is submitted to the Registry Administrator for review. The Facility Operator provides the Trading Account that it wishes Certificates to be Issued into.

> *The Trading Account where Certificates will be Issued may be the default Account set at Facility registration but can be amended on each Issue Request by the Facility Operator if required.*

The Registry Administrator will assess the Issue Request and may return it to the Facility Operator for resubmission if there are any omissions, inconsistencies or errors in its content.

6.4.1. **Making an Issue Request**

> *The Facility Operator can make an Issue Request at any time within the Registry. The submission of an Issue Request must be complete, accurate, and legible. Partial, inaccurate, or illegible submissions may delay processing or invalidate a request made to the Registry Administrator.*

It is the Facility Operator's responsibility to satisfy the Registry Administrator that the Issue Request is valid and that the Delivered Quantity of the Production Facility is eligible for Issuance of Certificates. The Registry Administrator may request any Additional Information it deems necessary to verify the admissibility of an Issue Request.

Certificates will always be Issued in monthly blocks. An Issue Request refers to the quantity of commodity a Facility produces during the entire monthly Production Period.

For an Issue Request to be valid, the following criteria must be satisfied:

- A Proof of Quantity has been submitted to the Registry Administrator for the Issue Request
- The Facility has a current registration
- The Issue Month must be within a single valid Certification Period
- No existing Issue Request for the same Facility, commodity and Issue Month has previously been Issued unless such Issued Certificates have been withdrawn
- The date of submission of the Issue Request is prior to the last day of the fourth calendar month following the Issue Month

  For example, an Issue Request with an Issue Month of January 2025 must be submitted on or before 31 May 2025 (last day of the fourth calendar month following the Issue Month). If the Registry Administrator does not receive the complete monthly data by the

deadline, the Registry Administrator has the right not to Issue Certificates for the Issue Month.

6.4.2. **Proof of Quantity**

It is important for the robustness of the MiQ Program and for the credibility of the Certified Commodity markets that issuance of Certificates is based on accurate information. For this reason, the Registry Administrator requires Facility Operators to provide evidence of the monthly throughput at the time of the Facility Operator's request for issuance of Certificates. An Issue Request must, therefore, be supported by a Proof of Quantity that evidences the quantity of production or throughput at the Facility during the Issue Month.

The Proof of Quantity must include data for the full Issue Month and must clearly identify the Delivered Quantity exclusively related to the Facility during the Issue Month.

The item of Proof of Quantity may also show quantities related to other Facilities or equipment that is not at the Facility or quantities for periods other than the Issue Month, provided that the Delivered Quantity for the relevant commodity, Facility and Issue Month is clearly set out and separately identifiable.

The Proof of Quantity should be provided to the nearest whole Certificate Unit.

6.4.2.1. Sample Proof of Quantity

To be approved by the Registry Administrator, the Proof of Quantity provided by the Facility Operator on each Issue Request must conform to the format of the Sample Proof of Quantity approved by the Registry Administrator prior to the first Issue Request. Not doing this may result in a delay to the first month's issuance.

The Sample Proof of Quantity must be agreed prior to the first Issue Request for a Facility. The Sample Proof of Quantity must state the name of the Facility, the name of relevant parts of the Facility that are separately identified in the Proof of Quantity (e.g., pads/metering points), the Issue Month, and the Delivered Quantity.

The Delivered Quantity should be expressed in Certificate Units. If the Delivered Quantity is not expressed in Certificate Units, then the units of measurement and necessary information to allow the conversion to Certificate Units should be clearly set out in the Proof of Quantity.

If applicable, a translation of the necessary sections for evidencing volumes in occidental characters must always be provided with any Sample Proof of Quantity to ensure clarity.

6.4.2.2. Basis of information

The MiQ Program Guide observes a hierarchy of acceptable data for the Proof of Quantity:

a) For a Facility which is directly connected to a commercial pipeline network, the Proof of Quantity should use market settlements metering data where possible.
b) Where such market settlement data is not available, appropriate metering data originating from identified metering points should be used.

c) Where metering data is not available, measured volume documentation for the periodic commercial transfer from the Facility owner to another Entity may be used.

The quantity on which the issuance of Certificates is based must be equivalent to the sales quantity at the relevant metering point. The metering point will generally be the exit point of the Facility, but for Production and Boosting and Gathering Segments it may be the pipeline entry point or other appropriate sales point downstream of gathering and processing, after accounting for any commodity consumed as fuel in gathering and processing facilities.

This means that the Delivered Quantity:

- Must **exclude** any processing shrink prior to the metering point;
- may **include** fuel consumed in gathering systems and processing plants prior to the metering point;
- must **exclude** liquids or other hydrocarbons removed from the commodity stream in processing steps prior to the metering point;
- must **exclude** any production or throughput that is marketed under other environmental attribute certifications or standards during that Issue Month; and
- must **exclude** production or throughput from any assets that have been divested (or production must be pro-rated to include production during the period of ownership/operatorship only).

6.4.2.3. Format of Proof of Quantity

The Proof or Quantity will be provided in the form of a monthly consolidated report setting out the sales quantity at the relevant metering point(s), adjusted for the parameters set out above. Facility Operators must ensure that they have included settlement data from relevant third-party statements and ensure that the relevant adjustments have been made.

Facility Operators must ensure that the information used in the monthly consolidated report is reasonably settled, such that they do not expect any significant variation to the data used to create the consolidated report. Typically, operators receive the required information during the latter part of the month following the Issue Month from their downstream partners. Facility Operators must ensure that they have received all the required information, and that they have a high level of confidence in it, before finalising the monthly consolidated report that is sent to the Registry Administrator as a Proof of Quantity.

Where possible, third-party evidence (such as screenshots or PDFs of third-party settlement statements) should be provided in the Proof of Quantity to substantiate the information provided.

The monthly consolidated report must show the aggregate Delivered Quantity for which the Issue Request is being made, the aggregated quantity of adjustments listed above for the Issue Month, and the production or throughput by month for the relevant breakdown as evidenced by the third-party information (e.g., pad, gathering system, cargo, or other appropriate apportionment).

The monthly consolidated report must also include any new prior-period downward adjustments that have been made to prior Issue Months during the current or previous Certification Period. Typically, there should not be any prior period adjustments, but to the extent that adjustments have been made to prior months' production or throughput data, then these should be reported to the Registry Administrator as part of the Proof of Quantity. Such prior-period adjustments will be reflected in the current month's issuance.

Operators may choose to provide the monthly consolidated report in one of two formats, either:

- The operator can construct the monthly consolidated report by including all relevant source data such as screenshots of each relevant gathering or processing statement and the calculations used to calculate the aggregated quantity for which the monthly issue request is being made; or
- The operator may use a report generated from the operator's own internal systems that conforms to the requirements set out in this document, provided that the operator has provided to the Registry Administrator evidence of third-party statements for a single example Issue Month in the Sample Proof of Quantity and a reconciliation between such sample statements and the Facility Operator's Sample Proof of Quantity.

In both cases, by making an Issue Request the Facility Operator is deemed to be confirming that the Proof of Quantity and the Delivered Quantity conform to the requirements of this Program Guide and that the required adjustments have been made.

The Registry Administrator retains the right to request backup evidence on an ad-hoc basis in respect of any issue request.

In extreme circumstances, where data in the form of the Sample Proof of Quantity is not available, the Registry Administrator may agree with the Facility Operator an alternative Proof of Quantity or an appropriate form of alternative independent verification.

6.4.3. **Approval**

When an Issue Request is submitted on the Registry, it will be reviewed by the Registry Administrator. To the extent possible, the Registry Administrator will check that the measured volume has not been presented to any other system for the purposes of environmental attribute tracking.

When the Registry Administrator is satisfied that Certificates Issued in respect of the Proof of Quantity provided will be a unique representation of the environmental attributes of the Delivered Quantity, it will create a record on the Registry signifying that the appropriate number of Certificates have been Issued into the Trading Account stated on that Issue Request.

The Certificates will be assigned the Grade current at the time of Issue for the Certification Period to which the Issue Month relates. Certificates will be assigned the Certificate Region of the Facility.

A Facility Operator is able to view the current status of all Issue Requests it has created within the Registry. Issue Requests that have been successfully processed will have the status 'Completed'.

The Account Holder holding the Account into which Certificates have been Issued will be able to view the Issued Certificates in the relevant Trading Account in the Registry.

Service Timing

If no further information is required, the Registry Administrator will normally Issue Certificates within 10 business days of receiving a complete Issue Request with appropriate Proof of Quantity. Unless otherwise agreed in the agreement between the Facility Operator and the Registry Administrator, the service level stated in this section is indicative and non-binding.

6.4.4. **Eligibility for Transfer and Retirement**

Once Certificates have been Issued into an Account Holder's Trading Account, they can be transferred to another Trading Account or Retired immediately.

Although Certificates are Issued in monthly blocks, once in an Account, individual Certificates within the monthly blocks can be transferred separately.

6.5. Quarterly Verification Reporting

Only applies to Facilities with MiQ Audits.

To demonstrate an operator's continued compliance with the MiQ Standard during the Certification Period, Facility Operators that have Facilities with MiQ Annual Audits must submit a **Quarterly Verification Report** to the Registry every three months during the Certification Period.

> *Facility Operators that must submit Quarterly Verification Reports are those with Annual Audits for their Facilities, i.e., Audits against MiQ Standard Versions 1.0 or higher, or Audits against an earlier MiQ Standard Version but that have been migrated to an Annual Audit.*

Quarterly Verification Reports are self-attestations that the Facility is still within the scope of its Audit and allow for early flagging and remediation of any issues during the Certification Period.

Quarterly Verification Reports are submitted directly on the Registry.

Quarterly Verification Reports cannot be made before the end of each three-month period, but when available must be made prior making any further Issue Requests.

> *For example, if a Facility's Certification Period runs from November 2024 to October 2025, the first Quarterly Verification Report must be submitted for the three-month period November 2024 to February 2025. This report can be submitted at any time from 1 March 2025. From 1 March 2025, the Facility Operator cannot make any further Issue Requests until it has submitted the Quarterly Verification Report.*

On receipt of a Quarterly Verification Report, the Registry Administrator, in consultation with MiQ Foundation, will review the submitted information and determine whether any follow-up with or remedial action by the Facility Operator needs to take place before Issuance of Certificates in relation to the Facility may continue.

6.6. Reportable Events

Only applies to Facilities with MiQ Audits.

A Reportable Event is any event or circumstance during the Certification Period that exceeds the Reportable Quantity or might result in a deviation from the results of a Facility's Audit, as set out in the relevant Audit Report and that could result in a worsening of the Facility's methane emission performance, including but not limited to an increase in its methane intensity or a change in its Company Practices or its Monitoring Technology Deployment Plan.

It is the responsibility of the Facility Operator to record and communicate to the Registry Administrator when it becomes aware of any potential Reportable Event(s), as outlined in Section 6.6.3.

6.6.1. **Reportable Events**

The following scenarios are to be considered Reportable Events. Note that this is not an exhaustive list, and if the Facility Operator is in any doubt, it should contact the Registry Administrator to discuss.

6.6.1.1. Variation to the Facility's Audited Methane Intensity

Scenarios that may cause a significant increase in Methane Intensity at the Facility:

- Operator-reported or third-party-reported emissions events not captured by the operator's emission calculation methodologies used in the audit that covers the period of the event. These events could be intentional or unintentional sources or activities in which an operator does not currently have a methodology incorporating it into their active methane emissions inventory. Additionally, emission events that an operator detects may be poorly estimated by a non-specific site emission factor in the audit's methodologies, in which case more site-specific treatment of a reported emission event may have a material impact on an operator's emissions inventory.
- Examples of intentional or unintentional sources or activities that may affect an operator's Methane Intensity include:
    - Unlit or poorly operating flares discovered by an operator that does not have a robust methodology for including the impact of these operating states in their inventory
    - Loss of primary containment of a major pressurized vessel or other piece of equipment in which the operator's emissions inventory does not capture comparable impact for a comparable event
    - Repeated or systematic occurrences from pressure relief devices or other pressure-relieving outlets (e.g., leaking/open thief hatches)
    - Normal breathing, flashing and working losses from tanks that are significantly higher than the estimated totals in the operator's bottom-up inventory

- Repeated malfunctioning of gas-driven pneumatic controllers or other pieces of equipment designed to emit methane that are expected to release more methane than estimated
- Malfunctions of emission control devices that emit more methane than design.

6.6.1.2. Variation to Company Practices

Scenarios that may indicate a worsening of Company Practices at the Facility:

- multiple (greater than 3) delays in repair or replacement of identified leak sources or emissions events;
- deviation from a mandatory policy or procedure which leads to the misrepresentation of Emission Sources (training, identification, and reporting); and
- significant downtime (greater than 25% for the total Certification Period) or deviation from any quantifiable Improved Company Practice (e.g., re-route practices for venting).

6.6.1.3. Variation to Monitoring Technology Deployment Plan

Scenarios that may indicate a worsening of emissions monitoring at the Facility:

- A reduction in the planned frequency or scale of monitoring technology deployment from the audited Facility Scale (including exemption clauses) and/or Emission Source Level surveys.

6.6.2. **Notification and Recordkeeping**

The Facility Operator must record all Reportable Events.

When a Reportable Event is determined to have occurred, the Facility Operator must:

- initiate resolution of the issue and document the event;
- implement, as soon as practicable, the necessary steps to correct underlying causes of the Reportable Event, and to the extent practicable, prevent a recurrence of the cause of the Reportable Event;
- maintain a written record of the corrective actions taken in response; and
- notify the Registry Administrator where required (see Section 6.6.3).

6.6.3. **Notification of Reportable Events**

Where a methane emissions release event (by size and/or duration, or accumulation) exceeds or is believed to exceed the Reportable Quantity and/or has likely downgraded the original Grade set out in the relevant Audit Report (based on the Methane Intensity in the Audit Report plus the additional methane emissions quantity of the new event and any other events during the Certification Period), the Facility Operator must notify the Registry Administrator within 30 calendar days of identification of the Reportable Event.

Where notification to the Registry Administrator is required, the information set out in Annex C – Reportable Event information requirements must be provided on Reporting tab in the MiQ

Registry. Any changes to the estimation of the emission resulting from a Reportable Event must also be notified to the Registry Administrator within 30 days of the Facility Operator becoming aware of such change.

6.6.4. **Emission event calculation methodology**

Calculation methodologies will differ depending on the type of method and technology is used to detect an emissions event or elevated site-wide emissions rate. Typically, an operator will need to determine an average emissions rate and representative time duration for each event. To estimate the average emissions rate the operator should typically use these data sources in the following order as applicable: emission rate provided by the detection and quantification technology, engineering calculations using best available pressure, flow or other relevant process data, or emissions factors deemed representative of the event type. To estimate time duration, operators should first determine if the emissions event is continuous or intermittent; most reportable emissions events will be intermittent. For intermittent cases, the time duration should be estimated from observations or assumptions from other sources of relevant data which can include corroborating process data, continuous monitoring sensors, LDAR or AVO inspections that would likely also catch the event, or other effective controls.

Facility Operators should refer to the relevant MiQ Standard for further guidance on emission event calculation methodologies.

7. Attributes reported on Certificates

The following attributes are reported on standard Certificates and are available to holders of Certificates and to Beneficiaries on Retirement Statements:

- The **Facility** against which the Certificate was Issued
- The **country** in which the Facility is located
- The **Issue Month** of the Certificate (which is the month of Production for production assets)
- The **Segment** of the Facility (such as Production or Processing)
- The **operator** of the Facility
- The **Grade**
- The **Certificate Region** in which Certificates may be Retired
- For Certificates issued against an Audit under the MiQ Standard for Methane Emissions Performance, the **Reporting Methane Intensity** of the Facility in gCH_4/MMBtu.
- For Certificates issued against an Audit under the MiQ Greenhouse Gas Intensity Standard, the **CO_2 and N_2O intensities** of the Facility in gCO_2 and gN_2O per MMBtu.

7.1. Reporting Methane Intensity

The Reporting Methane Intensity is the estimated quantity of methane emitted in grams of methane per MMBtu that will be used on the Certificates and in Retirement Statements. The Reporting Methane Intensity for Certificates issued against an Audit under the MiQ Standard is calculated as follows.

- For Segments where MiQ Foundation requires an Approved Measurement and Reconciliation Protocol for the estimated Methane Intensity stated in the Audit Report to be used directly:
  - For Certification issued against an Audit under the MiQ Standard that **confirms** that a measurement-informed inventory in compliance with an Approved Measurement and Reconciliation Protocol was used, then the estimated Methane Intensity stated in the Audit Report will be used as the Reporting Methane Intensity, converted to gCH_4/MMBtu.
  - For Certification issued against an Audit under the MiQ Standard that does **not** confirm that a measurement-informed inventory in compliance with an Approved Measurement and Reconciliation Protocol was used, then the Reporting Methane Intensity will be the Methane Intensity equal to the higher end of the Grade band for the Facility's Grade that is stated in the Audit Report, converted to gCH_4/MMBtu.
- For Segments that the MiQ Foundation does not require an Approved Measurement and Reconciliation Protocol for the estimated Methane Intensity stated in the Audit Report to be used directly, the estimated Methane Intensity stated in the Audit Report will be used as the Reporting Methane Intensity, converted to gCH4/MMBtu.

Currently, the only Segment that the MiQ Foundation does **not** require an Approved Measurement and Reconciliation Protocol for these purposes is Vessels.

Conversion from percentage Methane Intensities (unitless % of methane emitted per unit of methane produced, processed, or transported) to grammes of methane per MMBtu uses a

conversion factor of 57.019 tonnes/MMBtu, rounded to 57.000. This conversion factor is derived from: MI (g CH_4/ MMBtu) = MI (unitless %) * 0.0192 (mt CH_4/mcf CH4) * 0.95 (mcf CH_4/mcf NG) / 1.04 (MMBtu NG/mcf NG) * 10^6.

- the density of methane of 0.0192 kg/ft3 for CH_4 at 60°F and 14.7 psia[1];
- the typical heat content of natural gas consumed of 1.04 MMBtu/mcf natural gas[2]; and
- the typical methane content of pipeline natural gas of 95%[3].

[1] https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-C/part-98/subpart-W/section-98.233

[2] https://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng_cons_heat_a_EPG0_VGTH_btucf_a.htm

[3] See, for example, https://www.naesb.org/pdf2/wgq_bps100605w2.pdf.

8. Certificate Transfer

Certificates held in a Trading Account can be transferred to other Trading Accounts on the Registry.

Transfer of Certificates between Trading Accounts is initiated and completed by the holder of the source Trading Account. Confirmation by the holder of the destination Account is not required for the transaction to be completed.

An Account Holder can transfer any quantity of Certificates from one of its Trading Accounts into any other Trading Account held by itself or another Organisation.

The process for the transfer of Certificates to Retirement Accounts is explained in Section 9.

The act of transfer is irreversible and cannot be cancelled.

9. Certificate Retirement and Expiry

9.1. Retirement of Certificates

For claims to be made against their attributes, Certificates must be removed from a Trading Account and placed in a Retirement Account, from which they cannot be transferred. This process is known as Retirement. All Retirements must be recorded within the Registry.

Retirement of Certificates is initiated by the Account Holder. No confirmation is required by a third party.

> *The Account Holder is the only Entity that can Retire Certificates that it holds in its Trading Accounts. An Account Holder may Retire Certificates on behalf of itself or its clients. In each case, the party that is named on the Retirement Statement is the Beneficiary of the Retirement. Only the Beneficiary may then make claims relating to the retired Certificates.*

Once Retired, a Certificate cannot be transferred to any other Entity. Retirement Statements are available and can be provided as evidence of the Retirement (see Section 9.4).

The act of Retirement is irreversible and error-correction is only permissible upon demonstration to the Registry Administrator that the Retirement details have not been used for any other purpose. Error-correction of Retirements is at the sole discretion of the Registry Administrator and may be subject to payment of a fee, to be agreed in advance, to cover any work involved.

The attributes reported on Certificates are described in Section 7.

9.1.1. **Beneficiaries**

A Beneficiary is an Entity (or a class of Entities) that will be claiming the use of Certificates as evidence of its sustainability commitment. A class of Entities can be a Beneficiary, for example if united by a single tariff product of a gas utility.

In order to Retire Certificates for a Beneficiary, details of the Beneficiary must exist on the Registry. Account Holders can add new Beneficiaries on the Registry. A Beneficiary can be an Account Holder, or an Entity that is not an Account Holder. If the Beneficiary is not an Account Holder itself, then another Account Holder must Retire Certificates on their behalf.

> *A Beneficiary listing is held by each Account Holder. This listing is not visible to other Account Holders.*

A unique Certificate Region will be assigned to each Beneficiary, based on the location where the relevant Entity consumes the relevant commodity.

9.1.2. **Retirement**

The Certificates to be Retired must exist in a Trading Account held by the Account Holder making the Retirement. Likewise, the destination Retirement Account to be used for the Retirement must also belong to the Account Holder making the Retirement.

> *It is not possible for Account Holder 'A' to Retire Certificates into Account Holder 'B''s Retirement Account. The Certificate must first be transferred to a Trading Account held by Account Holder 'B'.*

At Retirement, the Account Holder identifies the Certificates being Retired and the Beneficiary. Once a Retirement has been processed these details may not be amended. Other information relating to the Certificates will automatically be included in any Retirement Statements generated.

Certificates can only be Retired on behalf of a consumer or class of consumers if that consumer or class of consumers has been set-up by the Account Holder on the Registry as a Beneficiary.

> *Beneficiaries can be passive and are not required to have their own Registry Account.*
>
> *Once a Certificate has been Retired, it cannot be transferred or assigned to another Beneficiary.*

The Certificate Region on the MiQ Certificates to be Retired must be the same as the Certificate Region associated with the Beneficiary assigned upon Retirement.

> *Certificates must only be used in the sustainability reporting of entities consuming the relevant commodity in the Certificate Region where the commodity has effectively been delivered. By making a Retirement, the Account Holder attests that this is the case.*

For Beneficiaries with several consumption sites, it is possible to identify the site in the Beneficiary information if required.

> *For example, the Beneficiary information may state "Meat Processing Company LLC, North Dakota Processing Facility" or "Meat Processing Company LLC, New York State operations" rather than just "Meat Processing Company LLC".*

To allocate Certificates to a class of consumers under a single product tariff of a commodity utility or similar, details of the tariff must be included in the Beneficiary information so that it is clear that the Certificates are being matched to customers' commodity use and not to commodity used in the operations of the utility or supplier.

> *For example, the Beneficiary information may state "Natural gas supplied to customers of XXXX Utility LLC – Q1 2020" and not simply "XXXX Utility LLC".*

It is the responsibility of the Account Holder making the Retirement to understand the nature of commodity consumption by the Beneficiary that will be named on the Retirement Statement, and to ensure that sufficient commodity has been consumed to match the Certificates being Retired.

Retired Certificates will be removed from circulation on the Registry and placed into the Account Holder's selected Retirement Account. It will be locked uniquely to the selected Beneficiary upon Retirement.

9.2. Claims of Certificate attributes

Once a Certificate has been Retired, only the Beneficiary may make claims relating to the underlying attributes of that MiQ Certificate.

> *Account Holders may generate a Retirement Statement on the Registry, which can be used by the Beneficiary as a disclosure statement.*
>
> *A claim over the environmental attributes associated with a Certificate can only be made after Retirement.*

The rights to any associated claim vest solely and irrevocably in the Beneficiary assigned to the Certificate at Retirement.

9.3. Expiry of Certificates

Certificates will automatically be expired by the Registry if they have not been Retired 36 calendar months (three years) after the last day of their Issue Month.

A Certificate that has expired cannot be Retired or claimed. No Retirement Statement may be generated from an expired Certificate.

9.4. Retirement Statements

A Retirement Statement is a uniquely verifiable report confirming the Retirement of Certificates and their assignment to a Beneficiary.

> *Although not mandatory to provide to Beneficiaries, the Retirement Statement provides confirmation for the Beneficiary of the Retirement and the evidence the Beneficiary needs to back up its ESG reporting.*
>
> *Account Holders are encouraged to use the Retirement Statement produced through the Registry as this also provides a link and code for the recipient to securely view the details directly on the Registry for independent verification.*

Only Retirement Statements produced within the Registry are valid for disclosure purposes. Transaction copies and extracts do not constitute evidence of Retirement.

Account Holders may not create or use alternative forms of Retirement Statements.

> *A Retirement statement can be produced in pdf format for the consumer on the Registry website.*

10. Certificate Inter-Regional Import System (CIRIS)

As described in Section 1, the goal of the MiQ Program is to provide buyers of Certified Gas and Certified Crude with as much information as possible about the emissions and ESG characteristics associated with the natural gas or crude oil that they are buying. The MiQ Program does this by certifying evidence-based Facility-level data on emission intensities along the supply chain. Certificates carry emissions attributes, including methane intensity (see Section 7).

Certificates are held by Account Holders in the Registry and are tradeable. Certificates may only be Retired for the benefit of a Beneficiary in the same Certificate Region as the Certificate Region of the Certificates being Retired. Under MiQ's Certificate Inter-Regional Import System (CIRIS), Certificates can be moved between Certificate Regions subject to meeting the requirements outlined below.

10.1. Certificate Regions

Each Certificate Region is a geographical area consisting with a single legislative framework or a natural gas or crude oil system connected whereby natural gas or crude oil is commingled from the system entry points (such as production sites) to their exit points (such as buyer offtake points, LNG liquefaction plants or crude oil terminals). A Certificate Region can include production, processing, transportation and storage, trading hubs and consumption points. Within a Certificate Region, gas/crude is typically physically and commercially commingled from many producers and/or transporters.

Certificates may only be claimed and **Retired** in relation to gas or oil consumption that occurs in the same Certificate Region as that of the Certificates. This means that the consumption and claim of the attributes must be located in the same Certificate Region as the production and issuance of the Certificates, **unless** the Certificates are moved to a new Certificate Region using CIRIS (see Section 10.2). Examples of Certificate Regions include the US and the EU, as well as countries such as the UK, Norway, Japan, or Algeria. The full list of current Certificate Regions is set out in Annex D – Certificate Regions.

10.2. Transfer of Certificates between Certificate Regions

Account Holders can transfer Certificates between Certificate Regions using CIRIS on the Registry, subject to the rules set out below.

Except for Certificates being moved between the Unites States, Canada and Mexico, where no physical movement or time correlation need take place or be evidenced, the following rules must be followed and evidenced.

In cases where gas/crude is physically exported from one Certificate Region and imported into another Certificate Region, Certificates corresponding to the physically exported/imported volumes can be changed with the new Certificate Region subject to the CIRIS rules. This allows the import, claim and Retirement of Certificates for consumption located in the importing

Certificate Region, preventing any potential double-claims on the same Certificate in the exporting Certificate Region.

Except in the case of Certificates being moved between the Unites States, Canada and Mexico, the MiQ Program requires that for Certificates to be exported from one Certificate Region and imported into another they must comply with the following inter-regional rules:

- **Volume correlation**: No more Certificates may be transferred from one MiQ Certificate Region to another than the physically imported gas/crude volumes;
- **Legislation or gas/crude system correlation:** In a given Certificate Region the Production Facility and the export terminal or pipeline must (i) be within the same legislative framework (as is the case in the US or in the EU, for example) or (ii) the gas/crude can be transported from the production facility to the export terminal;
- **Inter-region certificate correlation:** Certificates from an exporting Certification Region may only be credited in an importing Certification Region if gas/crude has actually been physically imported, supported by relevant documentation; and
- **Single import:** A Certificate may only be imported into the same Certificate Region once.

The above requirements establish a more restrictive methodology than do many unrestricted book-and-claim systems, such as for renewable energies. Such systems allow Certificates produced in any location globally to be matched to consumption in any other location regardless of whether physical connection or energy flow or transport exists between those locations, reducing the incentives for good emission management in the production and consumption locations.

In summary, MiQ's CIRIS system requires that producers and claimants are either located in the same Certificate Region, or that natural gas/crude has physically been transported from the producer's Certificate Region to the claimant's Certificate Region.

10.2.1. **How Account Holders can update Certificate Regions using CIRIS**

Under MiQ's CIRIS System, the Account Holder holding Certificates can export a Certificate from one Certificate Region to another by making a CIRIS request on the MiQ Registry. Except in the case of Certificates being moved between the Unites States, Canada and Mexico, when making such a request, the Account Holder warrants that the gas/crude has been physically transported from the exporting Certificate Region to the importing Certificate Region. The request must be accompanied by supporting documentation ("Proof of Import") evidencing the physical export/import of gas/crude between the source and destination Certificate Regions. The exact form of the Proof of Import will depend on the nature of the physical import.

LNG shipments, for example, may be evidenced by a Bill of Lading, Discharge Statement and Customs Declaration and pipeline flows may be evidenced by nominations to flow gas to the transmission system operator and a Customs Declaration.

The Proof of Import used must include information allowing the Registry Administrator to confirm the physical export/import of gas such as the vessel name, the loading terminal, the

dates of loading, the unloading terminal, the dates of unloading, the quantity of LNG delivered at the unloading terminal and official confirmation of import.

The Registry Administrator will communicate the exact requirements on request or at the time of that the CIRIS request is made on the Registry. The Account Holder making the CIRIS request need not be the original producer of the Certified Gas or Certified Crude.

10.2.2. **Evidence of import provided by the MiQ Registry for Retirements**

A confirmation of the import of Certificates from one Certificate Region into another will be confirmed to the Account Holder on the Registry. Retirement Statements will evidence the new Certificate Region of the import region.

10.2.3. **Evidence of import provided by the MiQ Registry for regulatory compliance**

Under the CIRIS system, an importer of gas/crude into a Certificate Region can purchase Certificates originating from a gas/crude exporting region (and have such Certificates transferred to its Account on the Registry), and, subject to the demonstration of Proof of Import, request the import of Certificates into the importing Certificate Region. This also means that the exporting terminal does not need to provide any information. This means, for example, that an importer of gas/crude can purchase Certificates directly from a producer in another Certificate Region to evidence producer-level information to the relevant authorities.

On request, an MiQ CIRIS Statement confirming the export of Certificates from one Certificate Region to another will be provided by the Registry Administrator to be used to evidence the source and emissions intensity of gas for regulatory import requirements, such as the European Union's methane import regulations.

10.2.4. **Example – transporting gas from the US to the UK by LNG**

If an Account Holder, such as an LNG importer into the UK, has procured Certificates from an Account Holder with a Production Facility in the US, the importing Account Holder may make a CIRIS request on the Registry by identifying the Certificates that it has procured and by providing the relevant Proof of Import. The Registry Administrator will verify that the correlation requirements are being adhered to, including checks that:

- The loading LNG terminal is in the exporting Certificate Region;
- The unloading LNG terminal is in the importing Certificate Region;
- The quantity of LNG delivered is sufficient to cover the requested transfer of Certificates from one Certificate Region to another and
- The Certificates have not previously been imported into the UK.

Once the Registry Administrator's checks have been completed to the satisfaction of the Registry Administrator, the Registry Administrator debits and credits the corresponding Accounts in the Certificate Regions in the US and the UK and issues a confirmation statement of the change of Certificate Region to the Account Holder.

11. Use of the MiQ Program by EU importers for EU Methane Regulation Compliance

11.1. Introduction

European Union Regulation (2024/1787) on the reduction of methane emissions in the energy sector (**"EUMR"**) establishes certain obligations for importers of natural gas and crude oil into the EU and for member states and their competent authorities. MiQ has updated its methane emissions monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) standard and protocols with the objective of ensuring equivalence in terms. EUMR requirements and MiQ's equivalent terms are described in detail in Section 11.2.

The European Commission issued Recommendations that set out 14 criteria EU member state Competent Authorities should take into account as a minimum standard when recognizing providers of compliance solutions and assessing information submitted to them under the importer requirements set out in Articles 27(1), 28(1) and (2) and 29(1) and (2) of the Regulation. MiQ has undertaken a gap analysis of its framework against these criteria and has concluded that the MiQ Program comprehensively meets all requirements. The Recommendations and MiQ's gap assessment are described in Section 11.3.

Section 11.4 describes MiQ's EUMR Compliance Documentation provided by MiQ to EU importers for reporting to and recognition by Competent Authorities.

While MiQ assesses its framework as meeting the EUMR requirements, it is ultimately for the relevant EU Member State Competent Authorities to formally recognise the applied compliance solutions and the data demonstrated to them by an importer.

11.2. EUMR MRV requirements and MiQ's EUMR-equivalent terms

The EUMR establishes obligations for importers of natural gas and crude oil into the EU and for member states and their competent authorities: for imports as of 2027, importers shall demonstrate to their authorities that imports cover only supplies that are subject to monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) measures applied at the level of the producer (facility level) that are **equivalent** to those set out in the EUMR.

MiQ certifies – for a Facility – the conformity of an operator's methane emissions performance against the **MiQ Standard for Methane Emissions Performance** (the **"MiQ Standard"**), subject to a verification report (Audit Report) by an MiQ-recognized, independent verifier. MiQ certifies more than 30% of US natural gas production and has also certified US crude oil operations and natural gas operations outside the US. The MiQ Standard is a methane emissions measurement and quantification standard similar to OGMP 2.0. **MiQ's Audit Protocol** is a verification protocol that governs the recognition (accreditation) of independent auditors (verifiers) and the required audit (verification) activities of emission data and company practices. Table 1 sets out the EUMR importer requirements and the corresponding MiQ standards and protocols.

Table 1: *EUMR importer requirements and the corresponding MiQ MRV Standard and protocols*

EUMR importer requirements	MiQ's Standard and protocols
Measurement and quantification; use of ISO standard (until effective, use state of the art industry practices); data reconciliation *Articles 12 (1)–(6), 27 (1), 28 (1), 28 (5)*	**MiQ Standard for Methane Emissions Performance** with subsidiary documents on: • Methane Intensity • Company Practices • Monitoring Technology Deployment
Reporting obligations	**Verification (Audit) Reporting Template**
Verification by independent, accredited auditor and issuance of verification statement *Articles 8 (1)–(5), 9 (1)–(2)*	**MiQ Audit Protocol**

MiQ has requested the external expert consultant, Energy & Climate Policy Advisory Europe (E&CPA), to examine whether the MRV terms set out in MiQ's standard and protocols are equivalent to those stipulated in the EUMR4. E&CPA mapped MiQ's MRV Standard and protocols against the EUMR importer requirements (see Table 1 above). The report concludes that MiQ's MRV terms are **equivalent** to those set out in the EUMR (the detailed term by term comparison is available here). **Table 2** sets out the results of the assessment.

Table 2**:** *Summary of equivalence assessment*

EUMR terms		MiQ equivalence?
Measurement and quantification	Measurement and quantification	Equivalent
	Use of ISO standard or state of the art practices	Equivalent
	Reconciliation of source-level with site-level data	Equivalent
Reporting		Equivalent
Verification	Verification and issuance of verification statement	Equivalent
	Verifier independence	Equivalent
	Verifier accreditation	Equivalent[5]
	Verification assurance level	Equivalent
	Verifier activities	Equivalent
	Verifier use of standards and technical prescriptions	Equivalent

[4] Article 28(5) EUMR states that MRV measures shall be considered **equivalent** if monitoring and reporting measures ensure quantification of methane emissions equivalent to those set out in Article 12 or are at OGMP 2.0 level 5 and are subject to independent verification.

[5] External verifier accreditation (in addition to recognition by MiQ) as of 2029 certifications (MiQ could accelerate this accreditation requirement to 2028 subject to Commission guidance and market acceptance)

The summary of the results of the term-by-term equivalence assessment is:

- As required by the EUMR, MiQ requires operators to quantify all **source-level methane emissions** and the quantification needs to be based on measurements or alternative methods. MiQ also requires operators to undertake **site-level** methane emission measurements to enable comparison (**reconciliation**) with the source-level estimates and address possible reasons for the discrepancies.
- The EUMR requires measurement and quantification of emissions to be based on **state-of-the-art industry practices** until a corresponding ISO Standard on methane emission measurement and quantification for the upstream sector is established. The ISO standard is currently under development. The MiQ Standard for Methane Emissions Performance can be deemed as state-of-the-art industry practices: Its terms are similar to Level 5 reporting requirements under the OGMP 2.0 Framework and MiQ is a well-established methane performance certifier with more than 30% of U.S. gas production being measured, quantified and certified based on the MiQ Standard for Methane Emissions Performance and Verification (Audit) Protocol. Once applicable, MiQ will align the MiQ Standard with the ISO Standard on methane emission measurement and quantification for the upstream sector, to ensure continued equivalence in terms.
- As required by the EUMR, importers, who use MiQ Certificates for compliance purposes, will possess the **key data required to be demonstrated / reported to their authorities:**
  - Attributes stated on MiQ Certificates (see Section 7) include the Facility against which the Certificate was Issued, the name of the operator, the production country, the issue month of the Certificate, and the methane intensities (Grades) of the certified production volumes;
  - MiQ's EUMR Compliance Documentation, together with the Certificates, aims at comprehensively providing all information required by the EUMR (refer to Section 11.4 below on MiQ's EUMR Compliance Documentation to EU importers for reporting to and recognition by authorities);
  - some information is **implicit to MiQ certification**: to be certified, producers must have measures in place controlling their methane emissions, emission data from production facilities will have been independently verified, and quantification methods are available to the auditor.

  Exceeding EUMR requirements, MiQ-recognized auditors must review operator methane management practices against the **MiQ Company Practices** standard.
- The EUMR requires that auditors / verifiers of operators' methane emissions reports for gas/crude imported into the EU are recognized (accredited) under EUMR equivalent terms. As required by the EUMR, MiQ recognises **auditors / verifiers** only if they meet strict criteria (similar or identical to the ones set out in ISO/IEC 17029 and ISO 14065 and 14064-3). For certification as of 2029, MiQ requires external accreditation or authorization in line with ISO

17029, ISO 14065 and ISO 14064-3.[6] The EUMR requires that a **verification (audit) statement** is issued, where reliable, credible and accurate data allow for emissions to be determined with a reasonable degree of certainty. The MiQ scheme establishes several layers of requirements that result in MiQ auditors providing a **reasonable assurance level**: MiQ recognizes only auditors that meet the recognition criteria and auditors who verify producer data against MiQ's Methane Emissions Performance Standard need to follow the MiQ Audit Protocol, use the Auditor Checklist and the Audit Report Template.

MiQ will further align its standard and protocols with the EUMR requirements where needed to ensure equivalence. Figure 1 visualizes MiQ's MRV Standards and protocols in the context of the EUMR importer requirements.

Figure 1: *MiQ's MRV Standards and protocols in the context of the EUMR importer requirements*

11.3. How MiQ meets the Recommendations on compliance solutions

Most global natural gas and crude oil supply chains into the EU do not enable importers to identify the production facility where the imported gas or oil was produced. The EUMR does not specify any concrete means or requirements for evidence of compliance and therefore provides flexibility to the authorities in this regard.

In December 2025, the EU Energy Council supported certification as a compliance solution and in July 2026 the European Commission issued Recommendations[7] that set out 14 criteria Member State competent authorities should take into account as a minimum standard when recognizing providers of compliance solutions (such as MiQ) and assessing information submitted to them under the importer requirements set out in Articles 27(1), 28(1) and (2) and

[6] MiQ Audit Protocol 1.0 / Part I Auditing Bodies Recognition Protocol 2.0 / I.4 Requirements and Duties of Auditing Bodies / 2029 Requirements

[7] Commission Recommendation of 20.7.2026 on optional model clauses developed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on the reduction of methane emissions in the energy sector and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/942

29(1) and (2). The Recommendations explicitly recognise certification as a compliance-solution type in its own right and confirmed that the EUMR does not require physical tracing of molecules, deliveries or cargoes.

MiQ has mapped its methane certification program criterion-by-criterion and concluded that it satisfies them. However, under the terms of the EUMR, it is for the competent authority in the member state where the importer is registered, to formally recognize MiQ as a compliance solution provider. MiQ will keep and frequently update a list of EU member state competent authorities that have recognised MiQ as compliance solution provider in *Annex E – EU Member State Competent Authorities that recognise the MiQ Program as a Compliance Solution*, which will be updated on an ongoing basis.

11.4. MiQ's EUMR Compliance Documentation for reporting to authorities

MiQ provides EU importers of natural gas and crude oil with MiQ's EUMR Compliance Documentation (MECD) for reporting purposes subject to the importer having taken the following steps:

- Importer applies for an account on the MiQ Registry
- Importer physically imports natural gas or crude oil into the EU
- Importer to procure valid[8] MiQ Certificates correlating with imported volumes (Certificates can be bought directly from producers or cleared via exchanges)
- Importer to demonstrate physical import into EU (e.g. using discharge report, customs declaration) for MiQ to provide MECD to the importer

The information provided with the MECD aims at comprehensively addressing an importer's reporting requirements under the terms of the EUMR. Table 3 shows how the information provided by MiQ as Compliance Solution Provider in the MECD aligns with the EUMR requirements. The left column of Table 3 sets out the EUMR requirements, the middle three columns list the relevant parts of the MiQ Program applied and the right column provides the content of MiQ's EUMR Compliance Documentation.

[8] The Recommendations (Criteria 13) require that Documents of compliance (Certificates) should be valid at the time of demonstrating compliance with EU Member Sate Competent Authorities and their period of validity should be in accordance with the reporting obligations of the relevant EUMR import requirement for which the document of compliance is being used and should in any case not exceed 24 months from the beginning of the period of production covered in the document of compliance. Reflecting this requirement, MiQ has limited the validity of Certificates imported into the EU to 24 months and recommends that the reported Certificates are from a production period within the reporting period.

***Table 3**: MiQ EUMR Compliance Documentation (MECD) and MiQ Certificates (Documents of Compliance) provided by MiQ (as Compliance Solution Provider) to EU importers for reporting to their authorities*

MiQ EUMR Compliance Documentation (MECD) and MiQ Certificates (Documents of Compliance) provided by MiQ (as Compliance Solution Provider) to EU importers for reporting to their authorities				
EUMR requirements	**MiQ Framework**			**MiQ EUMR Compliance Documentation (MECD)**
Article 27 (1) / Annex IX with reference to Articles 28(1-2) and 29(1-2)	**M+R Standard**	**V-Protocol**	**Certification Program Guide**	
(1) Name and address of the producer			Stated on cert	MECD lists Certificates for reported volumes
(2) Exporting third country where the product was produced			Stated on cert	MECD lists Certificates for reported volumes
(2) Countries/regions through which products were transported			Stated on cert	MECD lists Certificates for reported volumes
(3) Information whether producer is carrying out source- and site-level measurement and quantification, whether data are subject to independent verification, whether methane emissions are reported…	Required by MiQ M+R Standard[9]	Independent verification required[10]	Cert issued only if positive audit statement[11]	MECD refers to MiQ M+R Standard and independent verification requirements
(4) Information whether producer applies measures to control its methane emissions, incl. LDAR surveys or measures to control / restrict venting events and flaring events …, together with … reports from LDAR surveys and venting / flaring events …;	Required by MiQ M+R Standard[12]		Cert issued only if positive audit statement	MECD refers to MiQ M+R Standard
(7) Entity that carried out the independent third-party verification of the reports referred to in point (3)			Stated on cert	MECD lists Certificates for reported volumes
(8) Information under Article 28(1) showing that imports are subject to MRV measures at producer level equivalent to those in the EUMR[13]	Equivalence Assessment[14]	Equivalence Assessment[15]		MECD refers to Equivalence Assessment
(10) Information under Article 29(1) on methane intensity of import volumes			Stated on cert	MECD lists Certificates for reported volumes

[9] Refer to MiQ Standard for Methane Emissions Performance
[10] Refer to MiQ Audit Protocol, v1.1
[11] Refer to Section 6.3.1
[12] Refer to MiQ Standard for Methane Emissions Performance
[13] Note: Art 28(5) states: MRV measures shall be considered to be equivalent if imports are subject to independent third-party verification equivalent to that set out in Articles 8 and 9 and the producer established in a third country applies monitoring and reporting measures ensuring quantification of methane emissions equivalent to those set out in Article 12 or monitoring and reporting at OGMP 2.0 L 5
[14] Refer to EUMR-MiQ Equivalence Assessment confirming equivalence of MiQ M+R Standard
[15] Refer to EUMR-MiQ Equivalence Assessment confirming equivalence of MiQ V-Protocol

EUMR requirements	MiQ Framework				MiQ EUMR Compliance Documentation (MECD)
Commission Recommendations on compliance solutions	M+R Standard	V-Protocol	Certification Program Guide		
Criteria on certificate data & traceability					
1 Content of documents of compliance (certificates): registration/ID; issuance date; validity; country of origin; production-site identity, volume / production period; inform. on compliance with Art. 27, 28(1-2), 29(1-2)			Provided on certs[16] / MECD		MECD lists Certificates for reported volumes and remaining required information
2 Importer to submit documents of compliance (certificates) and all information necessary to demonstrate producer-level EUMR compliance					MiQ provides MECD to importer for reporting to its authority
3 Country-of-origin of the certified production must match the origin of physically imported volumes			Ensured by MiQ CIRIS[17]		MECD refers to MiQ CIRIS terms
9 Where energy transits non-EU countries before final EU delivery, provide evidence of prior import to the EU.			Ensured by MiQ CIRIS[18]		MECD refers to MiQ CIRIS terms
Criteria on registry integrity — anti-double-issuance & single-claim					
4 Registry containing all Criteria 1 data on every certificate issued, including when a certificate is claimed. Confidential information withheld from publication but available to the authority.			Ensured by MiQ Registry[19]		MECD refers to MiQ Registry terms
5 Implement and publicly explain measures to prevent double issuance and double claiming.			Ensured by MiQ Registry[20]		MECD refers to MiQ Registry terms
6 On issuance, cross-check other Providers' registries to prevent multiple issuances for the same producer/site/period.			Ensured by MiQ contract terms/process[21]		Confirming statement on MECD
7 A certificate may be claimed only once; once claimed it is recorded and can no longer be claimed by the same or another importer.			Ensured by MiQ Registry / CIRIS[22]		Confirming statement on MECD
Criteria on independence & conflict of interest					
8 Compliance solutions providers to have independent corporate governance, to be legally distinct, legally			MiQ is fully independent and not conflicted[23]		Confirming statement on MECD

16 Refer to 'Attributes stated on MiQ Certificates' in Section 7

17 MiQ requires for inter-regional transfer of Certificates that importer demonstrates physical import into import region, see Sections 10 and 11

18 MiQ tags Certificates with the Certificate Region they have been imported into

19 MiQ Certificates are stored in a digital registry, recording each claim. The registry withholds confidential business information from publication while making it available to competent authorities, consistent with Art. 28(4) and 29(3). MiQ Registry

20 MiQ Registry terms ensures GHG attribute can be claimed once only. Controls are publicly documented in the MiQ Program Guide

21 MiQ practices include contractual representations and warranties with MiQ-certified producers to ascertain no prior or parallel document exists for the same volume, site and period. MiQ lists all certified facilities and checks with other potential certification providers against double issuance. MiQ registry is interoperable and has API protocols to facilitate automated checks

22 The MiQ Registry tags a Certificate that is claimed for EUMR import requirement purposes, and records it in the registry as imported, preventing any re-claim.

23 MiQ Foundation is a not-for-profit, non-conflicted organisation. It has no financial interest in any certification outcome, no financial relationship with the verifiers who conduct audits, and sells no emissions monitoring or measurement technology. It is a legally distinct, impartial provider.

and functionally independent from entities engaged in production, supply, distribution, transmission and import or from any other entity with which it may have a conflict of interest, They must operate with impartiality and be organised independently including account separation				
Criteria on third-party audit & verifier accreditation				
11 Certificates should be issued only after an external, third-party audit for conformity with the certification compliance solution has been successfully completed and an audit statement produced.		Ensured by MiQ Program Guide[24]		MECD refers to MiQ M+R Standard and independent verification; certs issued only if positive audit statement
14 For requirements needing independent third-party verification, Providers must not discriminate between verifiers accredited under Article 9.		Transparent non-discriminatory criteria[25]		Confirming statement on MECD
Criteria on public transparency & methodology				
10 Publicly available documentation explaining the functioning and methodology of the compliance solution, the responsibilities of all actors, and references to the relevant EUMR provisions.		MiQ documents publicly available[26]		MECD refers to MiQ website
Criteria on validity & durability of recognition				
12 Once a competent authority recognises a type of compliance solution, such recognition remains valid as long as the terms of that compliance solution are not materially changed and changes shall be notified.				MECD will state that MiQ will notify authorities in case of material changes to its compliance solution
13 A document's validity should not exceed 24 months from the period of production certified until compliance is demonstrated.		MiQ certs imported into EU valid 24 months		MECD refers to MiQ Program Guide

[24] MiQ requires on-site independent third-party verification under its public Verification (Audit) Protocol resulting in a Verification (Audit) Report being submitted to the MIQ Registry. MiQ issues certificates only upon a positive audit result This fully reflects the audit-plus- statement requirement.

[25] MiQ recognises any verifier (auditor) meeting ISO 17029, 14065 and 14064-3 plus specific methane competences, and does not discriminate among qualified expert verifiers.

[26] Refer to the MiQ Website.

12. Error Management

12.1. Context and General Provisions

If the Registry Administrator becomes aware that the provenance of any Certificate is suspect, it may suspend the Certificate from Transfer or Retirement until any required investigation has concluded.

12.2. Process Overview

Errors are unplanned occurrences and the handling of errors is therefore bespoke to the encountered circumstance.

Where an Entity identifies an error it should immediately notify the Registry Administrator by email to the helpdesk email address provided on the Registry Administrator's website at https://miqregistry.org/.

The Registry Administrator will respond promptly to all notified errors seeking to remedy the situation with minimal impact.

In the event of an error being identified after the Issue of a Certificate and before it has been Retired, the Registry Administrator will amend the details of a Certificate, when it has been confirmed that such an error exists. Where it becomes clear that a Certificate has been Issued in error, it will be Withdrawn by the Registry Administrator.

Following withdrawal, replacement Certificates may be issued by the Registry Administrator.

12.3. Record keeping

The Registry Administrator will keep a record of all notified errors, investigations conducted and remedial actions taken.

12.4. Corrective and Preventive Action Process

The Registry Administrator will seek to minimise the recurrence of errors where practicable, identifying and implementing process or system improvements to prevent the recurrence of all notified errors.

13. Complaint Management

13.1. Context and General Provisions

Any Entity may submit a complaint to the Registry Administrator or Standard Holder. Registry Administrator or Standard Holder will review all received complaints and determine, acting reasonably, the most appropriate process for resolution. To be considered, complaints must relate only to the subject matters covered by the MiQ Program Guide, including but not limited to:

- Recognized Entities, their service performance, or their terms;
- Facility Operators, Account Holders and Platform Operators, or their actions; or
- Regulations of the MiQ Program Guide or their interpretation.

On submission of a complaint, the notifying Entity should indicate if it believes the situation to be such that an urgent investigation is required to minimise potential impact. The reason for the urgency of the investigation as well as the identified potential impact(s) must also be clearly stated upon submission of such a complaint.

13.2. Complaint Handling

Following receipt of a complaint, the Program Holder will record the basis of the complaint and details of any associated Entities.

Based on the Program Holder's opinion of the urgency of the complaint, the Program Holder will establish an appropriate process through which the complaint can be further evaluated, informing affected Entities if deemed necessary.

The Program Holder may request that the Entity notifying the complaint and or other Entities respond to questions in relation to the complaint to enable effective resolution of the matter. The Program Holder may at its discretion implement further investigatory procedures, including the relation to any Entity materially affected by the complaint.

The Program Holder may elect to constitute formal or informal discussions with any affected Entity with the goal of resolution.

13.3. Determination

Once the complaint has been evaluated and the Program Holder has determined a resolution or response it will notify affected Entities.

The Program Holder is not required to provide a resolution in relation to the complaint.

14. General Regulations

14.1. Rights to and Suspension of Services

Access to Services and Accounts, the processing of Facility registrations and the approval of Audits and Issue Requests is at the discretion of the Registry Administrator and subject to the terms of the agreements in place with Organisations.

Account Access, Registration and Issuing may be permanently or temporarily withdrawn or withheld in cases where a Facility Operator, Account Holder or Platform Operator is suspected to have acted fraudulently, committed any offence under the laws applicable to their place of domicile or trade or is in breach of the MiQ Standard or the MiQ Program Guide.

The Registry Administrator may at any time and without notice suspend or cease provision of Services through a Recognized Entity suspected of fraudulent activity, breach of the MiQ Program Guide or any requirement enacted by the MiQ Program Guide.

Registry access and registration may be permanently or temporarily withdrawn or withheld in cases where a Facility Operator is suspected to have acted fraudulently or committed any offence under the laws applicable to their place of domicile (or trade) and/or is in breach of its agreement with the Registry Administrator, the requirements of the MiQ Standard and/or the MiQ Program Guide.

14.2. Additional Information

Recognized Entities may require Additional Information beyond that specified in this document before approving submissions. Any Additional Information will be limited to what is considered necessary for the validation of required information or completion of the related request.

14.3. Change Management

Any Recognized Entity, Facility Operator, Account Holder or Platform Operator may raise a change request for the MiQ Program Guide. Proposed changes are considered by the Program Holder. All changes to the MiQ Program Guide will be subject to approval of the MiQ Foundation. Unless urgent, implementation of approved changes will be no more frequent than every six months. Urgent changes may be released with immediate effect once approved.

14.4. Access to Data

The Registry Administrator may publish aggregated and anonymised data relating to Facilities and the Issuance, transfer or Retirement of Certificates, as well as summary information relating to Facilities. The use of such data remains subject to the confidentiality restrictions set out in the legal agreement between the Registry Administrator and the relevant Facility Operator, Account Holder or Platform Operator.

The General Data Protection Regulations established under UK law apply to the Registry Administrator.

Annex A – Facility information requirements

The following information is required for facility creation:

- Facility Name
- Segment (e.g., Onshore Production)
- Facility address
- Facility location (drawn on map)
- Main operator details (name, address, contact), if different to those of the Facility Operator

Annex B – Audit information requirements

The data requirements for MiQ Audits depend on the type of audit and commodities. Some or all the following information is typically required:

- Facility
- Standard version
- Audit type
- Grade
- Start date of Certification Period
- Auditing Body
- Lead auditor
- Total Company Practices points
- Total Monitoring Technology Deployment points
- Total annual estimated methane emissions for Facility
- Annual estimated methane emissions allocated to the gas stream
- Annual natural gas and/or liquids production or throughput
- Energy content of gas exiting the Facility
- Methane content of gas exiting the Facility
- Methane intensity
- Whether a measurement-informed inventory in compliance with an approved measurement and reconciliation protocol was used.

Additionally, if the Facility has been audited against the MiQ Standard for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Performance, then the following are required:

- Annual estimated quantity of carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions of the Facility
- Estimated carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide intensities of the Facility.

The following information is required for EO100 Annual Assessments:

- Facility
- Standard version
- Audit type
- Grade
- Start date of Certification Period
- Auditing Body
- Lead auditor
- Score for each of the five Principles that were scored in the Annual Assessment
- Annual gas production or throughput

Annex C – Reportable Event information requirements

The following information must be reported in the case of a Reportable Event:

- Facility
- Certification Period
- Site (e.g. pad name, compressor station name)
- Emitting equipment type (e.g., drilling equipment, frac equipment)
- Emissions source type (e.g., combustion, vented, fugitive)
- Description and cause of event
- Corrective actions undertaken
- Method of identification (e.g., flyover, continuous monitoring alert, OGI)
- Estimated start time and date of emission event, with justification
- Time and date detected
- Estimated end time and date of emission event, with justification
- Emission rate (kg/hr)
- Emissions rate calculation methodology (e.g., direct measurement, engineering calculation, emission factor)
- Total Emissions (metric tons CH_4)
- Whether the event is additional to the facility's baseline MiQ emissions inventory

Annex D – Certificate Regions

The following Certificate Regions are currently available in the MiQ Registry.

Algeria
Angola
Australia
European Union
Azerbaijan
Cameroon
Canada
China
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Japan
Kuwait
Libya
Mexico
Mozambique
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Peru
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
Trinidad and Tobago
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States

Annex E – EU Member State Competent Authorities that recognise the MiQ Program as a Compliance Solution

Competent Authority	Reference to authority ruling

Annex F – Document status

Document Development

The MiQ Foundation and the Registry Administrator have developed this Program Guide through extensive experience of operating the MiQ Program in combination with stakeholder review.

The MiQ Foundation and the Registry Administrator reserve the right to make updates to the Program Guide on a periodic basis to conform with updates made to the Registry and the MiQ Program.

Version History

The following table captures key changes made to the Program Guide.

Version	Publication date	Summary of changes
1.0	August 2021	First publication
2.0	July 2023	Major update. Changes include: • Inclusion of EO100™ Standards and Certificates • Section 5.2 – Changes to Auditing Body applications and access • Sections 6.1 and 6.3 – Updates to processes for submitting Facilities and Audits • Section 6.4.2 – Inclusion of guidance on Proofs of Quantity • Inclusion of new MiQ Annual Audit process • Sections 6.5 and 6.6 – Inclusion of ongoing reporting requirements for Facilities with Audits under the MiQ Standard, including Quarterly Verification Reports and Non-Compliance Events (previously set out in v0.9 of the MiQ Standard, but now transferred to the Program Guide). • Section 7 – Description of attributes published on Certificates. • Section 7 – Revised Supply Chain process.

2.1	January 2024	Updates and corrections. Changes include: • Removal of references to Initial Audits since all Certificates on the Registry must now be Annual Audits. • Inclusion of crude oil as a commodity under the MiQ Program. • Major revision of Section 7, setting out the CIRIS process. • Section 7.1 – Update to the conversion factor used to convert from percentage Methane Intensities to g/MMBtu Methane Intensities. • Section 10.1 – updates relating to Certificate Regions (previously detailed in a separate 'Certified Supply-Chain' section)
2.2	April 2026	Updates and corrections. Key updates include: • Updates to Section 10, setting out the CIRIS process. • The inclusion of the list of Certificate Regions in Annex D – Certificate Regions. • Updates to reflect the new MiQ Audit Protocol. • Renamed Registry Operator to Registry Administrator.
2.3	August 2026	Updates to CIRIS and addition of new EUMR compliance section: • Updates to Section 10, setting out the CIRIS process • Addition of new Section 11, on the use of the MiQ Program by EU importers for EU Methane Regulation Compliance