

Decree of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature of [DATE] No. [wjz No.] 00000, designating the Renugarant certification scheme as a certification scheme within the meaning of Article 35n(1) of the Fertilisers Act Implementation Regulations

(ChainID 00000)

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature,

Having regard to Article 35n(1) of the Fertilisers Act Implementation Regulations;

HEREBY DECREES:

Article 1

As certification scheme for the Renure certificate, as referred in Article 35n(1) of the Fertiliser Act Implementation Regulations, is designated as Version 1.0 of the General Terms and Conditions of the Renugarant Quality System, together with the accompanying annexes.

Article 2

This decree shall enter into force on the day following the date of publication of the Government Gazette in which it is published.

This decree will be published in the Government Gazette with the explanatory notes.

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature

J. van Essen

Explanation

1. Introduction

By a decision of 19 September 2025, the Nitrates Committee approved an amendment to the Nitrates Directive, thereby making it possible, subject to certain conditions, to apply up to 80 kg of nitrogen per hectare per calendar year of Renure in addition to the application rate for livestock manure of 170 kg of nitrogen per hectare per calendar year set out in the Nitrates Directive. Conditions are attached to this possibility. The terms and conditions are implemented in Chapter 3, Division 4, of the Fertiliser Act Implementation Regulations (hereinafter: the Urm). One of the conditions is that the producer is registered or has the Renure certificate. In implementation of the latter option, version 1.0 of the General Terms and Conditions of the Renugarant Quality System is designated as the certification scheme for the Renure certificate (hereinafter: Renugarant certification scheme) as referred to in Article 1(1) of the Urm. This scheme has been established on 24 April 2026 by the scheme holder (the Manure Disposal Control Foundation). The designation also includes the annexes accompanying version 1.0 of the General Terms and Conditions of the Renugarant Quality System, which form an integral part of the designated document. This means that not only an amendment to the General Terms and Conditions of the Quality System, but also an amendment to one of the annexes will have to lead to a new designation by the Minister.

2. Renugarant designation

Pursuant to Article 35n of the Urm, the Minister shall, by separate decree, designate a certification scheme as the certification scheme for the Renure certificate. The Renugarant certification scheme designated by this decree constitutes the assessment framework that a conformity assessment body (hereinafter: CBI) must apply in the assessment and issue of the Renure certificate. In order to be able to use Renure on the basis of a certificate issued by a CBI in addition to the standard of 170 kg nitrogen per hectare per year, Renure must have been produced by and obtained from a Renure producer that is certified by a CBI on the basis of the Renugarant certification scheme designated by the Minister in this designation decision.

Renugarant provides private assurance of the quality of the Renure. A Renure producer goes through an entrance audit where the CBI checks whether the producer actually produces Renure products and stores them separately. Following certification, the manufacturer may market the products as Renure and the product may also be used as such. Quality will continue to be ensured through periodic audits and sampling. Renugarant receives the sampling results and suspends a producer's certificate if the Renure product does not meet the quality requirements. Findings from a periodic audit may also lead to a suspension of the certificate.

The Renugarant certification scheme includes requirements by which certified producers ensure that the RENURE fertilising products that are produced by them comply with the quality requirements laid down in Annex III to the Nitrates Directive and as also set out in Annex Af to the Urm. The requirements for certified producers differ in some respects from those for registered producers. Examples include a different sampling frequency in relation to the quality requirements and the absence of an obligation to issue declarations at the time of disposal confirming that the product meets the quality requirements. The rules set out in the certification scheme are often better aligned with producers' business practices, which leads to greater acceptance of these rules, allows for a more tailored approach and increases willingness to comply. The different requirements for certified producers offer at least the same level of assurance. As part of the certification process, Renugarant carries out periodic audits at the producer's premises and has access to the laboratory results relating to the quality requirements. No physical site audits are carried out at registered producers, nor does the Minister have access to the laboratory results relating to the quality requirements.

The Renugarant certification scheme designated by this Decree sets objective and verifiable requirements with regard to the quality requirements, characteristics of the product and the production process. In addition, there are requirements for the bodies carrying out conformity assessments, including in the areas of competence, independence, impartiality and consistent business practices. Consideration has also been given to whether the requirements set out in Renugarant are proportionate and contribute sufficiently to ensuring that quality standards are met.

The Minister has data from the certified producers through the exchange of information with the scheme holder, i.e. the Manure Disposal Control Foundation (Stichting Mestafzetcontrole). As a result, the Minister knows which producers for which RENURE fertilising products have been certified, suspended or excluded.

3. Regulatory burden

If a producer participates in certification, this entails costs. These costs shall be borne by the producer of Renure products that is certified. CBIs charge the costs of certification to the applicant for the certificate. These costs are balanced by advantages for the producer. After all, certificate holders are required to test Renure products for compliance with quality requirements less frequently than registered producers: once every four or eight weeks, rather than every two weeks.

The administrative burdens associated with certification have already been taken into account in the scheme of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature of 4 June 2026, No. WJZ/106614907, amending the Fertiliser Act Implementation Regulation in connection with the conditional authorisation of Renure in excess of the application standard for animal manure.

4. Notification

The designation of the Renugarant certification scheme lays down technical requirements for Renure products, including the method and frequency of sampling. The draft decree designating the scheme has therefore been notified. [PM]

5. Entry into force

This designation decree shall enter into force on the day following the date of publication of the Government Gazette in which it is published.

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature

J. van Essen