

Industry Brief #2

PROJECT 3.006
CERTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION
TO ENABLE A SUCCESSFUL LOW-
CARBON TRANSITION FOR HEAVY
INDUSTRY

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Industry Brief

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S GUARANTEE OF ORIGIN (GO) SCHEME

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THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT’S GUARANTEE OF ORIGIN (GO) SCHEME

The Australian Government’s Guarantee of Origin (GO) scheme is designed to be a product-based emissions accounting framework (EEF)¹ that measures, tracks and verifies emissions and other attributes across the value chain. It aims to set the foundation for creation of and participation in new markets by providing a streamlined process for reporting emissions information based on robust internationally aligned emissions accounting methodologies. This voluntary scheme seeks to enable producers to make credible low emissions claims about their products, unlocking opportunities for trade, decarbonisation and investment. The GO will serve as an information source that could link to government or industry-led schemes that provide incentives for low-emissions products or provide branding for ‘green’ or ‘clean’ products.²

Importantly, although the GO scheme can be considered a certification scheme, it does not certify products. That is, the GO does not certify a product as ‘clean’ or ‘green’. Rather, it certifies the quality of the information provided about the product. This information can then, potentially, be passed to a range of users including ‘eco’ certification, government support schemes, or private funders. If the Australian Government can successfully negotiate interoperability – specifically mutual recognition – GO information could also be used to meet the requirements of foreign governments (e.g. for calculation of carbon border adjustments). Figure 1 provides a schematic of the scheme as it is envisaged to apply to hydrogen.

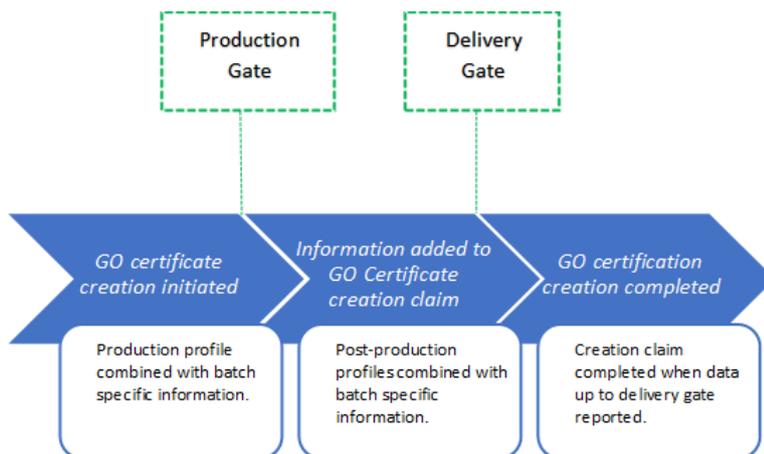


Figure 1: Schematic of GO certificate creation. Source: Australia’s Guarantee of Origin scheme design paper

The Government is currently investigating expanding the GO to cover products relevant to HILT partners. The approach to renewable electricity and ‘clean’ hydrogen is already well advanced. The GO for hydrogen is currently at the detailed design stage and has undergone multiple rounds of consultation as well as trials.³ As part of the Future Made in Australia package, the May 2024 Federal Budget announced additional GO funding to support expansion to “include low carbon liquid fuels like sustainable aviation fuel, green metals like steel and aluminium, and biomethane and biogas.”⁴ According to Assistant Minister Jenny McAllister “The Guarantee of Origin scheme is the most important green industry program you never heard of.”³

Although details of the approach to metals are not yet clear, an indication of the type of information that will be included is provided by the approach to hydrogen. General information proposed to be included on the GO certificates for hydrogen includes:

- Certificate ID
- Name of entity operating or owning the product facility
- Facility details and production pathway/technology
- Functional unit of product
- Status of GO certificate
- Creation date
- Consumption purpose (where applicable)
- Proposed emissions information includes:
 - Well-to-user emissions intensity
 - Well-to-production gate emissions intensity
 - Production period
 - Product purity
 - Production gate-to-delivery gate emissions intensity
 - Percentage of total electricity used that is renewable
 - Associated upstream GO Certificates

Project 3.006 will provide research and engagement to support HILT partners to engage with the development of the GO for metals. Collaboration between industry and researchers will enable HILT to provide valuable input to scheme developers on a wide range of design questions. These questions include approach to boundary definition, methodologies, default factors, treatment of co-products, treatment of circular processes and use of waste products, and categories of information to be included on certificate.

¹ See Industry Brief 3.006.1 “What are Embedded Emissions Accounting Frameworks?”

² For further information see <https://consult.dcceew.gov.au/aus-guarantee-of-origin-scheme-consultations-on-design>.

³ Latest progress can be found at <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/energy/renewable/guarantee-of-origin-scheme>.

⁴ <https://minister.dcceew.gov.au/mcallister/media-releases/guarantee-origin-key-superpower-status#:~:text=%E2%80%9CGuarantee%20of%20Origin%20is%20a,intensity%20of%20key%20green%20products.%E2%80%9D>



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