I-TRACK Product Code for Biogas and Biomethane Public Consultation Explanatory Document

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

This document presents the main elements of the version 1.0 of the I-TRACK Product Code for Biogas and Biomethane (I-TRACK(G) Code) subject to public consultation by stakeholders from all sectors willing to review it before it is launched for widespread adoption globally as an instrument to support organizations' claims for biogas or biomethane usage. Once approved, I-TRACK(G) will be available for use in a variety of (voluntary) requirements including Scope 1 reporting, national energy reporting, and general End-user claims, and that of low or net zero-carbon products.

The I-TRACK(G) Code governs the certification process for Biogas and Biomethane in line with the International Tracking Standard Foundation's ("I-TRACK Foundation") key governing document, the International Attribute Tracking Standard ("Standard"). The I-TRACK(G) Code is the culmination of a Product Code development process that began in May 2023 with the signing of an Memorandum of Understanding between the I-TRACK Foundation and an international consortium consisting of Evident, the Code Manager for I-REC(E), Instituto Totum, the local Issuer of I-REC(E) in Brazil, and M-RETS, an environmental attribute tracking organization for voluntary and compliance claims in all states, provinces and territories in North America ("Consortium").

The consortium will act as the collective Code Manager the I-TRACK(G) Code through a special purpose entity called "Global Gas Tracking". The extensive experience from the three partners includes the Brazilian "GAS-REC" program run by Instituto Totum, the Renewable Thermal Certificates (RTC) markets in the USA run by M-RETS, and the various Energy Attribute Certificate (EAC) services provided by Evident.

1.2 About this public consultation

This consultation will be conducted over 2 months, finalizing on July 28th. To provide feedback on the I-TRACK(G) Code. Interested parties can download it here.

Please send all feedback on the I-TRACK(G) Product Code to the I-TRACK Foundation Secretariat via secretariat@trackingstandard.org.

The I-TRACK Foundation Secretariat will collect all feedback and provide it to the Code Manager for initial review. All accepted feedback by the Code Manager from the consultation will be reviewed by the I-TRACK Foundation Board for evaluation and approval. Approved changes to the I-TRACK(G) Code will be implemented by the Code Manager and a final version of the I-TRACK(G) Code will be made public.

2. The Product Certificate: I-TRACK(G)

The I-TRACK certificate for biogas or biomethane (I-TRACK(G)) is a digital certificate that demonstrates the environmental attributes from each MMBtu of Biogas or Biomethane produced, evidenced, and verified, from production to the point of consumption.

2.1 Chain of Custody for I-TRACK(G)

The I-TRACK(G) follows a chain of custody tracking system that prevents double-counting or double Beneficiary (End user) claims by ensuring that every unit of certified renewable gas has only one certificate from Issuance to redemption, connecting the production point with the final consumer in a Registry. The I-TRACK(G) is agnostic to the form of chain of custody used, whether book-and-claim, an approved mass balance definition, or complete molecular segregation.

2.2 Regulatory Scope and Country-Specific Rules

This Product Code includes generic guidelines valid for all countries. Country-specific rules must not conflict with the general rules of the Product Code and should address interaction with specific local programs (e.g., RFS/LCFS in the US or RenovaBio in Brazil).

2.3 Interoperability of Product Codes

The Biogas and Biomethane supply chain involve several processes for which associated environmental attributes need to be tracked and certified. An I-TRACK(G) allows different I-TRACK Foundation Accredited Product Code certificates to be combined to create a composite certificate to account for all these attributes. This process is known as Stacking.

3. Eligibility

3.1 Eligible Feedstock Types

- A majority of the fuel source is one of the following:
    - agricultural products,
    - wood products,
    - agricultural by-products including waste,
    - mixed municipal solid waste,
    - refuse-derived fuel, or
    - industrial waste.

- Primary woody or herbaceous vegetative matter (plants), including but not limited to wood, grasses, agricultural crops, or residues.

- Processed vegetal materials from industry waste sources, including manufacturing, construction, or demolition.

- Methane or other combustible gases derived from the processing or decay of plants, animals, or municipal solid waste materials.
- Liquid fuels derived from plant or animal sources, including but not limited to ethanol, biodiesel, vegetable oil, or animal fats.

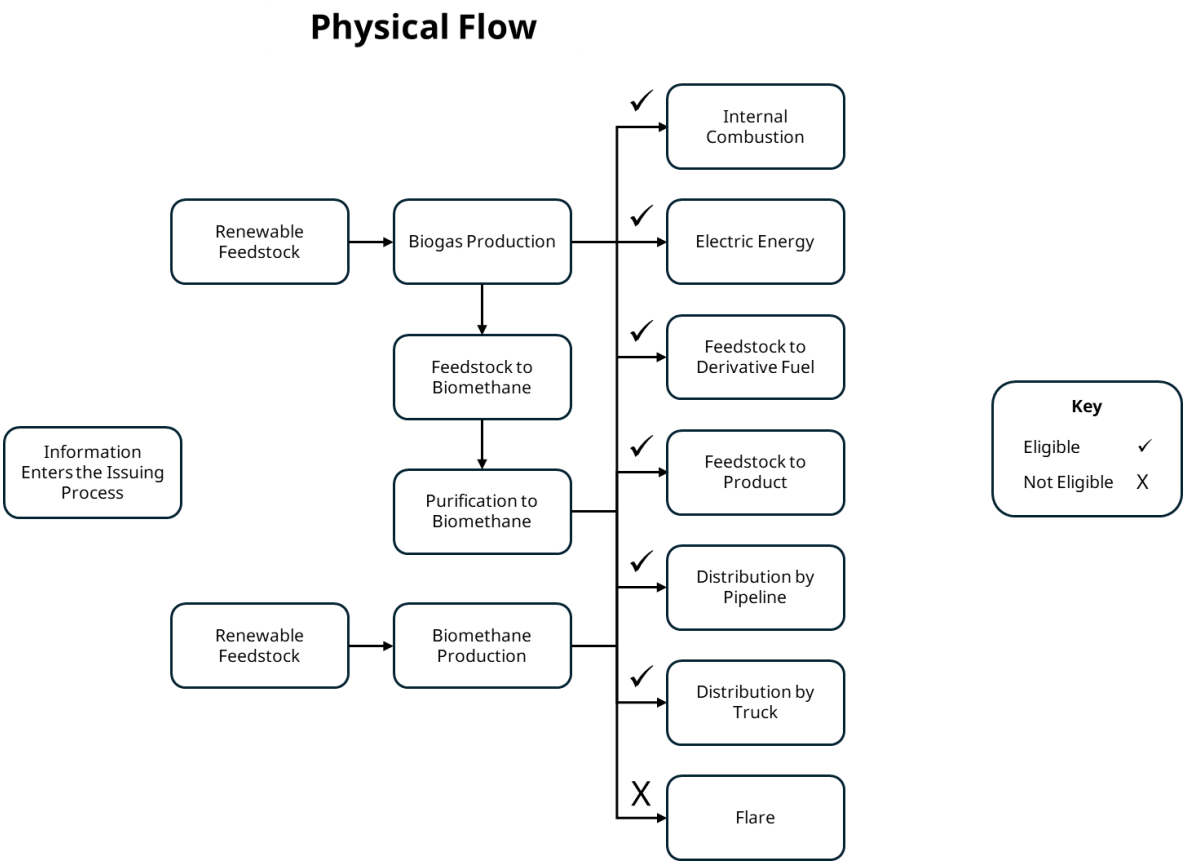
- Mixed municipal solid waste (MSW) and refuse-derived fuel from MSW.

- Landfill gas.

- Animal waste.

3.2 Eligible Processes

The diagram below shows an example of the possible processes for gas production. It is important to note that not all the produced Biogas is eligible for I-TRACK(G), as a portion of it is burned in a flare.



3.3 Multi-feedstock Production Facilities

It is possible to register a Production Facility using multiple feedstock types. A multi-feedstock facility can produce gas using more than one feedstock type, only if each feedstock contributes more than 1% of the total annual production volume. Only gas produced from a renewable feedstock can be eligible for the Issuance of an I-TRACK(G).

3.4 Eligibility for Historic Generation

The Registrant will have a two-year window to issue I-TRACK(G) for eligible gas production. However, it is important to note that this timeframe may vary depending on the country or local legislation. For example, in the year 20XX, a Registrant will be able to request the Issuance of I-TRACK(G) for gas production that occurred in 20XX - 2.

3.5 Further Requirements

I-TRACK(G) will not be issued when another certificate (or similar instrument) currently exists with a claim to the same attributes (e.g., the same unit of Biomethane used to generate two different certificate types).

An I-TRACK(G) may exist sequentially with another attribute tracking methodology recording the same attributes for the same event or activity so that only one certificate has effect at any point in time.

In the case of a Production Facility with an approved carbon credit project, the Registrant will decide whether to retain or assign the rights to emission reductions. Such information shall be contained in the Production Facility registration and the I-TRACK(G).

Registrants of renewable electricity facilities may request Issuance of I-REC(E) if I-TRACK(G) containing all environmental attributes have been redeemed on behalf of the facility in line with the I-TRACK Foundation pending interoperability guidance.

4. Carbon Intensity

Carbon Intensity (CI) refers to the GHG emissions (expressed as CO2 equivalent) per unit of a product, process, or Service. I-TRACK(G) supports tracking one or more Carbon Pathways that provide Carbon Intensity (CI) tracking. While tracking CI is not mandatory, I-TRACK(G) encourages Registrants to submit and track CI whenever practicable.

I-TRACK(G) supports either a Full Lifecycle CI or a Partial Lifecycle CI (the applied methodology must always be cited as a reference). The alternative to using lifecycle accounting is to use source-based accounting like that used in voluntary, national, or jurisdictional-level GHG emission inventories.

The Issuer may consider issuing I-TRACK(G) for Biogas or Biomethane combined with other non-renewable sources of gas if the resulting carbon intensity (CI) is lower than fossil gas. However, this shall be clearly noted on the certificate through a CI value.

5. Overview of Responsibilities