Direction under section 52 of the Climate Change Act 2008 (the Act) in contemplation of paragraph 37(1)(a) of Schedule 2A to the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Order 2020 (the Order)

1. Background

1.1 The UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS) is a cap-and-trade emissions reduction scheme established in 2021 to support the UK's climate goals. It currently applies to stationary installations and the aviation sector and will apply to the maritime sector from 1 July 2026.

2. For context

2.1 This direction is made under section 52 of the Climate Change Act 2008 (the Act) in contemplation of paragraph 37(1)(a) of Schedule 2A to the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Order 2020 (the Order) commencing on 1 July 2026 following the making of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) (Extension to Maritime Activities) Order 2026 on 1 April 2026. Section 52(3) of the Act requires a regulator to comply with any direction given by its national authority.

2.2 The effect of paragraph 37 of Schedule 2A to the Order will be that a maritime operator may include in its annual emissions report to its regulator an emissions reduction claim arising from an eligible fuel that meets the legislative requirements. The reduction will be achieved by attributing an emission factor of zero to any eligible fuel.

3. Substantive reference to EU RED

3.1 Accordingly, the Secretary of State directs that, subject to paragraphs 3.2 to 3.4, a fuel certified under one or more of the Schemes listed in column 1 of the table in Annex A is an eligible fuel for the purposes of paragraph 37(1)(a) (emissions reduction claims) of Schedule 2A to the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Order 2020.

3.2 Where a fuel is specified in column 3 of the table in Annex A, only that fuel is to be treated as having been certified by the corresponding scheme in column 1 of the table.

3.3 Where the feedstock specified in column 2 of the table in Annex A for a fuel is biomass, the corresponding fuel is an eligible fuel if it meets or exceeds the sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria specified in Article 29(2) to (7) and (10) of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (the Directive) as at 1 April 2026.

3.4 Where the fuel is a renewable fuel of non-biological origin or recycled carbon fuel, that fuel is an eligible fuel if it meets or exceeds the greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria in accordance with Article 29a of the Directive as at 1 April 2026.

4. Definitions

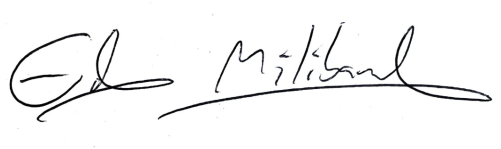
4.1 *'Biomass'* means the biodegradable fraction of products, waste and residues from biological origin from agriculture, including vegetal and animal substances, from forestry and related industries, including fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the biodegradable fraction of waste, including industrial and municipal waste of biological origin.

4.2 *'recycled carbon fuel'* (RCF) means liquid and gaseous fuels that are produced from liquid or solid waste streams of non-renewable origin which are not suitable for material recovery in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 2008/98/EC (as at 1 April 2026), or from waste processing gas and exhaust gas of non-renewable origin which are produced as an unavoidable and unintentional consequence of the production process in industrial installations.

4.3 *'renewable fuels of non-biological origin'* (RFNBO) means liquid and gaseous fuels the energy content of which is derived from renewable sources other than biomass.

4.4 *'renewable sources'* means renewable non-fossil sources, namely wind, solar (solar thermal and solar photovoltaic) and geothermal energy, osmotic energy, ambient energy, tide, wave and other ocean energy, hydropower, biomass, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas, and biogas.

Signed by:



Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

23rd April 2026

Annex A: Voluntary Certification Schemes recognised as demonstrating compliance with EU RED

Column 1 Scheme	Column 2 Feedstock(s)	Column 3 Fuel(s)	Column 4 Geographic Coverage	Column 5 Chain of Custody Coverage
Austrian Agricultural Certification Scheme (AACS)	Agricultural feedstocks, vegetable oils (incl. residues)	Biofuels, gaseous fuels	Global	Farm and initial processing (e.g. oil seed crushing) only
Better Biomass	Agricultural biomass (incl. wastes & residues)		Global	Full chain (biomethane up to production unit)
Biomass Biofuels voluntary scheme (2BSvs)	Agricultural biomass (incl. wastes & residues)		Global	Full chain (biomethane up to production unit)
Bonsucro EU	Sugar cane & residues	First-generation Bioethanol and Advanced Bioethanol, biomass fuels.	Global	Full chain
CertifHy	RFNBOs	RFNBOs	Global	Full chain
International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC EU)	Agricultural biomass, forest biomass, wastes & residues		Global	Full chain (for biomethane from the production unit up to the point of consumption)
KZR INiG	Agricultural & forest biomass, wastes & residues		Global (primarily Poland)	Full chain (biomethane up to production unit)
Programme for the Endorsement of Forest	Forest biomass,	Biomass fuels only (excludes	Global	Full chain

Certification (PEFC)	wastes & residues	biofuels, biogas, RFNBOs, RCFs)		
REDcert	Agricultural biomass (excl. high indirect land-use change risk feedstock), wastes & residues		Global (selected countries)	Full chain (for biomethane from the production unit up to the point of consumption)
Red Tractor Farm Assurance Combinable Crops & Sugar Beet Scheme (Red Tractor)	Agricultural biomass (combinable crops, sugar beet). Wastes, residues and forest biomass and Certification of Greenhouse gas emissions savings excluded	Biofuels derived from combinable crops and sugar beet	UK (mainly England & Wales)	Farm to first intake point
Round Table on Responsible Soy EU RED (RTRS EU RED)	Soy	Biofuels	Global	Full chain
Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB)	Agricultural biomass, wastes & residues (excl. forest biomass)		Global	Full chain (for biomethane up to the production unit)
Scottish Quality Farm Assured Combinable Crops (SQC)	Agricultural biomass (combinable crops). Wastes, residues and forest biomass and Certification of Greenhouse	Biofuels derived from combinable crops	United Kingdom (primarily in Scotland but also in the North of Great Britain)	Farm to first intake point

	gas emissions savings are excluded			
Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP)	Lignocellulosic material from forest and non-forest land; processing residues from forest and agricultural industries; woody agricultural residues	Biomass fuels (pellets and wood chips) produced from forest and non-forest ligno-cellulosic material and forest and agriculture related industry processing residues for heat and electricity production	Global	Full chain
Sustainable Resources (SURE) voluntary scheme	Agricultural and forest biomass (incl. wastes & residues)	Biomass fuels	Global	Full chain (for biomethane from the production unit up to point of consumption)
Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops (TASCC)	Agricultural biomass (combinable crops and sugar beet). Wastes, residues and forest biomass and Certification of Greenhouse gas emissions savings are excluded	Biofuels derived from combinable crops and sugar beet	UK	The trading, transport and storage stages from farm gate to first processor with specific modules covering merchanting, haulage, storage and testing
Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS)	Agricultural biomass (combinable crops and sugar beet). Wastes, residues and	Biofuels derived from combinable crops and sugar beet	UK & Ireland	The trading, transport and storage stages from farm gate to first processor with specific modules covering

	forest biomass and Certification of Greenhouse gas emissions savings are excluded			merchanting and compound feed manufacturers
U.S. Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol – Renewable Energy Directive (SSAP-RED)	Soybean for the production of biodiesel. Wastes and residues are not included in the scope of the scheme	Biofuels from soybeans	Soybeans originating from the United States (U.S.) only	From farm to export of soybeans (excludes soybean crushing, shipping and biodiesel production and distribution)