

ENSURING THE ACCURACY OF YOUR EMISSION INFORMATION

Verification of GHG emissions from your installation for mandatory reporting purposes

Overview

The adverse impact of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on climate change is universally acknowledged as one of the most pressing global challenges. In the US, thus far, regional and voluntary initiatives at the state level have been the champions in moving forward with actions to inventory, report, manage, and reduce GHG emissions. Leading the pack was the formation of California Climate Action Registry in early 2000 and the subsequent promulgation of the climate change legislation (Assembly Bill 32), which requires the state to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and then to reach 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

At the federal level, the 111th Congress opened with the prospects for climate change legislation dramatically improved. In his address to a joint session of Congress on February 24, 2009, President Obama asked lawmakers to send him "legislation that places a market-based cap on carbon pollution," setting targets for reducing US GHG emissions to 14% below 2005 levels by 2020, and approximately 83% below 2005 levels by 2050. On March 31 2009, Chairmen E. Markey (D-MA) and H. Waxman (D-CA) released a discussion draft of energy and climate legislation. President Obama has included revenues from a cap-and-trade system in his 2010 budget projections and beyond.

On March 10, 2009, the US EPA proposed the first comprehensive national system for mandatory reporting emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases produced by major sources in the United States. The EPA estimates 13,000 facilities in the US – including suppliers of fossil fuel and industrial chemicals, manufacturers of motor vehicles and engines, and large direct emitters of GHG equal to or greater than 25,000 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent per year – would be covered under this proposed rule. This is the first regulatory step toward a national, if not a regional, GHG emission cap-and-trade system across North America.

Under a cap-and-trade system, facilities that operate below their allocated level of emissions may realize profit from selling their surplus allowances to facilities that exceed their GHG quota. Conversely, those installations that exceed their allocated level of emissions are obliged to buy allowances in order to balance their deficit.

Who needs GHG emission verification?

For your organization and for thousands of others throughout the US, managing GHG emissions may no longer be another voluntary initiative from the head office. Rather, it may now be an environmental and regulatory obligation. Under various GHG emission reporting schemes or reduction programs, measuring, monitoring and developing GHG emission

inventory is not enough. Accredited, independent verification may now be required not only to fulfill voluntary or mandatory reporting obligations, but also to provide necessary independent assurance that a GHG inventory assertion is complete, accurate, consistent, transparent and materially sound.

While federal legislation governing GHG emission inventory is still under development, it is widely held that large GHG emitters will be covered under the initial phase of mandatory reporting; industries such as utilities and electricity generation, aluminum, cement, lime, soda ash, titanium dioxide and other metal and mineral productions, ammonia production, electronics fabrication, HCFC production, petrochemical and petroleum refineries, silicon carbide manufacturing, and landfills and manure management facilities.

Whether or not your organization is currently covered under proposed legislation, it demonstrates sound business judgment and risk management to gain insight into your GHG emission inventory at this pivotal juncture. Accredited, independent GHG emission inventory verification will further strengthen the integrity of your GHG emission management, quantification, and reporting processes, which will lead to higher data quality and increase senior management confidence as well as support sound investment and strategic decision-making.

BENEFITS

- Competitive advantage
- Improves business performance and manages business risk
- Attracts investment, enhances brand reputation and removes barriers to trade
- Saves you money

How can we help?

Emission verification

BSI has the global resources and expertise to undertake impartial, third party GHGEV - accurately, effectively and efficiently. Emission verification can be conducted in accordance with the principles of international management system standards ISO 14065 and the ISO 14064 series. GHGEV can also be used to confirm compliance with the type of legislation already enacted in the EU, California and beyond. Within the verification process, we'll review your current systems for managing, measuring and monitoring GHG emissions. We'll check that you have processes in place to ensure the correct calibration of your equipment, that your calculations are based on the right data and with the correct conversion factors.

We'll check that you have internal audit procedures in place and help you identify potential opportunities for improvement. Errors in measurement, or gaps in procedures, which are discovered in the course of the verification, must be resolved before emission data submission.

Once the verification has been satisfactorily completed and the results cross-checked by an independent review, we'll issue you with a verification report and a final opinion statement in the required format.

Why BSI?

BSI is a world leader in standards, auditing, certification and verification. We have a worldwide network of

GHGEV specialists, drawn from a broad spectrum of industry, at your disposal. So our ability to undertake complex, multi-national, multi-site, process-based verification work is second to none. All of which is your assurance that BSI has the capability, strengths and specialist knowledge to verify your GHG emissions, with certainty and with care.

Next steps

If your organization is already subject to a mandatory scheme or if GHG legislation is on the way, BSI's emission verification services could help you identify areas for further procedural improvement. For more information about our GHGEV service, please visit:

www.bsiamerica.com

BSI SERVICES SUMMARY

- Carbon footprint verification for voluntary GHG assertions
- GHG offset project validation, and verification for various voluntary schemes
- Sustainability and environmental report assurance
- Independent auditing, monitoring, certification and continual assessment of management systems (including ISO 14001)
- Software for risk, compliance and performance management
- Business improvement tools
- Information, guidance and advice
- Public and private standards, specifications and publications
- Training

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