

Compliance - Northmore Gordon

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Compliance

Compliance work checks whether a project meets the relevant scheme's activity, timing, evidence and registration conditions. An early estimate is useful for planning but is distinct from verified savings or issued certificates.

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What must be established before relying on any certificates?

Activity eligibility must be established as a first step before relying on certificates. This requires confirming that a specific activity—such as an energy-saving measure, renewable installation, or efficiency improvement—meets the criteria for the relevant scheme. The applicable instrument depends on the activity, jurisdiction, timing, and intended claim. A project's technology alone does not establish eligibility. Before making an investment decision contingent on certificate proceeds, verify the governing activity, document version, main eligibility assumptions, calculation basis, evidence responsibilities, and commercial treatment of certificates separately from energy savings or other benefits.

How do Energy Savings Certificates (ESCs) and Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates (VEECs) differ in their creation and eligibility?

Energy Savings Certificates (ESCs) are created by Accredited Certificate Providers under the NSW Energy Savings Scheme for eligible energy-saving activities in New South Wales. Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates (VEECs) are created by accredited providers for eligible activities under the Victorian Energy Upgrades scheme in Victoria. Each scheme has its own specific methods, requirements, and evidence standards. Eligibility depends on the activity, premises, equipment, and scheme conditions. A technically sensible upgrade is not automatically eligible under either scheme, and the correct choice requires a technical and procedural assessment, not simply selecting the route showing the largest estimated certificate quantity.

What is the difference between a preliminary estimate and a verified certificate result?

A preliminary estimate is an initial projection of energy savings and certificate creation that should be labelled as such and verified before being used for final project assessment. It represents a forecast dependent on stated assumptions. A verified result is an outcome supported by the specified assessment and review process under the applicable scheme. Certificate issuance is a separate stage

requiring independent evidence. An estimate, registration forecast, or sales projection should never be labelled as issued units. Keep engineering savings, scheme-recognised savings, created certificates, and customer proceeds as separate quantities when presenting project findings.

What does the Capture Value stage require for certificate eligibility?

The Capture Value stage identifies funding or certificate value to support projects through grants, environmental certificates, and financing pathways. It requires checking applicable scheme requirements to ensure certificate eligibility before committing to a particular mechanism. Different schemes have different conditions and timelines, and one program's rules cannot be assumed to apply to another. During this stage, we assist by assessing the eligibility and commercial terms of energy or environmental certificates for project funding. Environmental certificates are identified as a source of value only after scheme requirements and evidence responsibilities have been confirmed.

Can an installed project still qualify for environmental certificates?

Whether an installed project can qualify depends on the method, dates, evidence, and prior arrangements specific to each scheme. Before assuming retrospective eligibility, a timing review should be requested to clarify the project's actual stage and the scheme's requirements. For ACCU projects, the Clean Energy Regulator's newness guidance identifies certain investment and asset commitments as potentially significant before registration, with method-specific exceptions. An adviser may identify an available pathway, or determine that the intended pathway is no longer available. The conclusion should be tied to the specific rule and facts of the project.

What information should be prepared before requesting an environmental certificate assessment?

Prepare the location, equipment and capacity, existing and proposed operating conditions, project timeline, and ownership arrangements. Identify any prior installation, nomination, certificate claim, grant, or assignment of environmental attributes. Provide records that distinguish estimates from measured data. A proposed evidence schedule should identify what must be recorded before works, during installation, and after commissioning. Establish who gathers the evidence, who checks it, and who can make the relevant application or claim. Submit a short project brief identifying the state or country, project stage, and intended outcome. The exact requirements come from the governing scheme, not a generic brochure.

Why should certificate quantity, eligibility, verification cost, and sale price be treated as separate variables?

Eligible certificates can contribute revenue, but these factors are distinct and each carries its own uncertainty. Combining them obscures which assumptions could change the investment outcome. A base case without unconfirmed proceeds should be compared with an incentive scenario. Do not promise a certificate price or payback based on a historical case, as certificate value and approved methodology are tied to that specific project and period. Show certificate price and quantity assumptions separately in investment case calculations. Treat forecast quantity and market price as different uncertainties; an optimistic price does not resolve uncertainty about method eligibility or measured outcomes.

What is the relationship between measurement and verification and certificate issuance?

Measurement and verification and certificate issuance are separate stages requiring independent evidence. A feasibility forecast or M&V; result should not be assumed equivalent to an issued certificate. In NSW, PIAM&V; is a specific Energy Savings Scheme pathway; in Victoria, project-based activities have their own rules and specifications. An analysis prepared for one purpose should not be assumed to satisfy another scheme's requirements. We deliver M&V; services including project-boundary selection, baseline modelling, savings calculation, and reporting. The appropriate entity, professional, and activity scope should be confirmed for a specific scheme engagement.

How should different renewable electricity certificate pathways be compared?

Small-scale technology certificates (STCs), large-scale generation certificates (LGCs), and Renewable Electricity Guarantee of Origin (REGOs) certificates should not be treated as interchangeable incentives. Each has different eligibility, creation, and use rules. The Clean Energy Regulator's eligibility guidance distinguishes technology, capacity, output, and changes to existing systems. A facility may participate in REGO and LRET but cannot create REGOs and LGCs for the same electricity generation. Compare the complete cash-flow timing, evidence costs, and attribute consequences. A headline comparison such as one scheme paying more is incomplete without project assumptions, a price date, and applicable rules. Model alternatives with their conditions clearly visible.

What commercial treatment should be applied to environmental certificates in an investment case?

Before relying on a certificate contribution in an investment case, establish the governing activity, document version, main eligibility assumptions, calculation basis, evidence responsibilities, and commercial treatment. Show certificate price and quantity assumptions separately from energy savings, maintenance benefits, and grant support. Confirm whether an amount is an indicative gross value or what the customer would actually receive after agreed charges. Keep certificate proceeds, issued certificates, and transferred attributes as distinct stages. An issued certificate still requires its own commercial treatment before it becomes cash received by the project owner. Do not label a potential contribution as secured funding without confirming approval conditions and timing.