

Practice for wind power without bat protection stop control software

Version 2023:4

This practice applies until further notice. When revising the practice, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) sends an updated document to all Licence holders within ecolabel area Electricity and publishes it on bramiljoval.se



Background criteria 5.2 on stop control software

Revised criteria for Good Environmental Choice Electricity were published 2021-10-01. One of the strengthened environmental requirements is that wind turbines must be equipped with activated software enabling stop control to protect bats. The criteria read,

"Wind turbines must have and report whether installed software for stop control to protect bats (so-called "batmode") is present in the facility. If the software is missing, Licence holder must justify why. In special cases, power plants can be approved after individual assessment by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, for example if software for stop control is not relevant in the geographical area."

Practice when there is no stop control – mandatory requirements or control programs

List of geographical areas with requirements for stop control

For wind turbines within the counties and inland areas below, there must always be activated software for bat protection installed. See map of Sweden, appendix 1.

- Halland County
- Skåne County
- Blekinge County
- Gotland County
- Kalmar County and the east coast* north including Trosa municipality
- The coasts* around Lake Vänern and Lake Vättern *) Applies 5 kilometers from the shore

Two-year control program for other geographical areas within Sweden

If wind turbines/wind farms in other areas do not have installed and activated software for bat protection, the Licence holder must carry out a two-year control program to investigate the presence of bats.

Note: While the control program is ongoing, the wind turbine/wind farm remains approved and included in the Good Environmental Choice system.

During the two-year duration of the control program, Licence holders are required to submit an annual outcome report to Good Environmental Choice, see report template below, at the latest November 1st current year.

Good Environmental Choice reviews the submitted report during November and December, and evaluates in each individual case the following points, so the Licence holder can be notified before the end of the year.

1. If Good Environmental Choice, following the implementation of the control program, determines that stop control is not relevant for specific wind turbines/wind farms, the Licence holder is notified, and this information is registered at Good Environmental Choice. The turbines remain part of the system for ecolabelled electricity.
2. If Good Environmental Choice determines that stop control is required, Licence holders must ensure that the software is installed immediately for the wind turbine/wind farm at the latest in June nextcoming year, to remain part of the Good Environmental Choice system.
A documented confirmation of the installation and activation of the software must be available to Good Environmental Choice, which may conduct random checks or request this confirmation during the regular annual inspection.
3. If the Licence holder informs Good Environmental Choice, in connection with reporting the control program, that the software *will not* be installed, Good Environmental Choice will deregister the wind turbines effective from the upcoming year-end, rendering them unapproved as of 1 January of the following year.

Practice when stop control is to be activated – apply for an exemption from Good Environmental Choice

For wind turbines/wind farms that are to install and activate software for stop control, Good Environmental Choice can grant a general exemption for criteria point 5.2 for a maximum of 2 years from the date of application.

Licence holders apply for an exemption as follows:

E-mail the exemption request to elenergi.bramiljoval@naturskyddsforeningen.se and state:

1. The name of the wind power plants the exemption will apply to.
2. Time period for the exemption.

Good Environmental Choice registers the application and sends an e-mail confirming the decision for approved facilities, along with the exemption period.

Note: For the exemption to be valid, Licence holder must confirm by e-mail that the installation of stop control software will take place.

If the installation of bat protection software *does not* occur within two years, a penalty will be applied in accordance with section 15 of the General Licence Terms, at a minimum of SEK 50,000 per wind farm.

During the time that the exemption is in force, the wind turbine/wind farm remain approved and included in the Good Environmental Choice system.

Once wind turbines/wind farms have installed the bat protection software, the Licence holder must notify Good Environmental Choice, which registers it in the system. Follow-up will also occur during the annual inspection.

Comments and/or list of attachments

Add any relevant appendices for the activity, such as a map with marked recording locations and/or findings of bat carcasses.

Monitoring software and analysis performed by, specify organisation and name:

On behalf of company (the Licence holder of Good Environmental Choice):

Date and signature of the performer:

Appendix 1

Map of Sweden with areas highlighted in yellow for mandatory software installation for stop control.

For other areas, the control program must be implemented.

