

Validation and Verification Body (VVB) Requirements and Approval Process

Purpose: This document provides an overview of the VVB Approval Process and the criteria to be considered for affiliation with the GCS.

Background:

Verification of Emissions Reductions:

The GCS program has established standards, requirements, and procedures in place for the verification of emissions reductions. These include detailed methodologies for measuring and calculating reductions, as well as protocols for conducting independent assessments to ensure accuracy and reliability.

Requirements:

- **Accreditation of Validators:**

Validators must meet specific qualifications and competencies necessary to assess and validate the emissions reduction methodologies employed by project developers.

- **Accreditation of Verifiers:**

Similarly, our program includes qualifications for verifiers. These qualifications ensure that verifiers possess the requisite expertise and independence to evaluate the outcomes of validation processes effectively.

- **Validation and Verification Procedures:**

GCS framework requires validation to occur prior to or in tandem with verification. This ensures that all projects are thoroughly assessed for compliance with our standards before verification is conducted, providing a clear pathway for credible emissions reduction claims.

- **Measurement and Verification by Accredited Entities:**

GCS requires mitigation to be measured and verified by a qualified and independent third-party verification entity. This guarantees that all assessments are impartial and adhere to the highest standards of accuracy and integrity.

- **Ex-Post Verification Requirement:**

The GCS program mandates that ex-post verification of mitigation is required in advance of the issuance of Carbon Debits. This ensures that all carbon debits issued are backed by verified and documented emissions reductions, thereby enhancing the credibility of our carbon accounting.

- **Managing and Preventing Conflicts of Interest:**

Established provisions are in place to manage and/or prevent conflicts of interest between accredited third parties performing the validation and/or verification procedures, and the program and the activities it supports. This includes requiring accredited entities to sign a conflict of interest form and adhere to our conflict of interest policy, ensuring impartiality in their assessments.



- Disclosure Requirements for Third Parties:**
 VVBs and third parties are required to disclose whether they or any of their family members are dealing in, promoting, or otherwise have a fiduciary relationship with anyone promoting or dealing in the offset debits being evaluated. This transparency helps identify and mitigate potential conflicts before they can affect the integrity of the verification process.
- Addressing and Isolating Conflicts:**
 Our program includes procedures to address and isolate conflicts should they arise during the validation or verification processes. These procedures involve immediate reporting, assessment by an independent oversight body, and appropriate actions to mitigate any identified conflicts to maintain the integrity of the validation and verification processes.
- Renewal Procedures for Activities:**
 The renewal of any activity at the end of its crediting period requires a re-evaluation of its baselines, along with procedures and assumptions for quantifying, monitoring, and verifying mitigation, including the baseline scenario. This ensures that all activities remain compliant with current standards and reflect any changes in conditions or methodologies.
- Verification Procedures for Activities:**
 Our program ensures that the same procedures apply to activities that wish to undergo verification but have not done so within the program's allowable number of years between verification events. For example, verification is required at least every **three (3) years**. If an activity has exceeded this period, it must undergo the full verification process again to ensure compliance with current standards.
- Identification of Ex-Post Units:**
 Our program does not calculate or certify offsets issued ex-ante, and these are not eligible under the carbon crediting program (CCP). However, if our organization supports both ex-ante and ex-post issuance, we have established procedures to transparently identify units that are issued ex-post and thus are eligible under the International Carbon Voluntary Carbon Market (ICVCM). This transparency ensures stakeholders can easily differentiate between the types of carbon debits issued.

Application Process

Below is an overview of the application process. Please see Fee Schedule for additional information regarding Approved Validation and Verification Bodies.

- Submission of Request**
 - The designated representative from the VVB can initiate the approval process by sending an email to info@globalcarbonstandard.org with the subject line "GCS VVB Approval Request." The completed application form should be attached.
- Application Review**



- Upon receiving a completed application, various internal teams will review the criteria specified in the application form.
- 3. Meeting Scheduling and Assessment**
 - A meeting will be scheduled between the VVB and Global Carbon Standard to evaluate the VVB's technical and operational capabilities
 - Any additional questions or clarity from either side may be addressed
- 4. Eligibility Recommendation**
 - Following the meeting, an internal assessment will determine whether the application should be:
 - Rejected
 - Conditionally accepted
 - Require additional information
- 5. Notification of Application Evaluation**
 - The VVB will be promptly informed of the outcome of Global Carbon Standard's internal evaluation.
- 6. Collaboration Agreement Signing**
 - Formalize the relationship between the VVB and Global Carbon Standard by signing the collaboration agreement.
- 7. Final Approval Notification**
 - The VVB will receive official notification upon successful approval.

Note: The VVB approval process typically spans 30-60 days, dependent on the VVB's responsiveness and engagement with Global Carbon Standard.

