Requirements & Guidelines for the transition of Projects from previous versions of the standard to Gold Standard for the Global Goals

Gold Standard® for the **Global Goals**

Version 1 – Published July 2017

Table of Contents

Template Documents:	Version
Transition Template	1.0
GS4GG Transition Flowchart	1.0

PREFACE

This Guideline document, hereafter "the Guideline", is intended to function as part of process within the Gold Standard for the Global Goals Framework with the specific intention of enabling projects from previous versions of the Standard to transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals.

The Guideline is designed to be read in conjunction with the Gold Standard for the Global Goals Requirements. Through conformity to these Guidelines and Gold Standard for the Global Goals Principles & Requirements a Project may transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals and certify multiple products or only activity design as allowed under the Standard.

The Guidelines provide requirements as to how projects under GSV2.2 (or previous versions),

WBS or A/R and Agriculture 0.9 shall transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals and sets the timelines to do so.

INTRODUCTION

This document provides the requirements to transition projects from existing versions of Gold Standard to Gold Standard for the Global Goals. With the exception of projects with little time remaining on their existing cycle, all the existing Gold Standard Projects are required to transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals within specified timeframe and shall fulfil the requirements as set out in this document and those referenced or associated.

1.0 TIMELINES

1.1 All Gold Standard Registered or Issued projects, irrespective of the version of the Standard with which they were registered, shall transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals. This shall take place from the 01st March 2018, with next verification/Performance Certification or next renewal of crediting period (whichever is earlier) that will start[1] after this date. Projects can choose to transition earlier by application to Gold Standard.

1.2 Projects that are submitted to Gold Standard for renewal of crediting period up to the 01st March 2018 shall not be required to follow the guidelines for renewal of crediting period as defined under Gold Standard for the Global Goals till next renewal. However, such activities shall transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals at time of first verification/Performance Certification under renewed crediting period.

1.3 Projects with fixed 10 year crediting period shall also transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals at next verification, per 1 above, if they have more than 24 months left in the crediting period at time of launch of Gold Standard for the Global Goals. Projects with a 7 year renewable cycle with less than 24 months remaining on current cycle shall transition at next Renewal.

1.4 Existing A/R Projects shall transition at the next available Verification as per item 1, above.

1.5 Any new project submitted to Gold Standard by 01st November 2017 can still use GSV2.2, A/R 0.9 or Agriculture 0.9 to register the project with Gold Standard but shall transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals with first verification/Performance Certification. Projects that are under listing or validation process at time of launch of Gold Standard for the Global Goals can therefore progress to registration with applied version of the standard but shall transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals at time of first verification.

2.0 REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Any additional monitoring requirements identified as part of review of transition documents will be applicable to projects from subsequent monitoring period.

2.2 All projects after transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals shall comply with annual reporting requirements defined in section 2.4.4 of Gold Standard for the Global Goals Principles & Requirements.

2.3 Projects renewing the crediting period under Gold Standard for the Global Goals shall follow the crediting period renewal guidelines as defined under GS4GG notably the requirements to demonstrate Ongoing Financial Needs (OFN) and review baseline, if applicable.

2.4 Once the crediting period of a project is renewed following the guidelines for renewal of certifcation period as defined under Gold Standard for the Global Goals, the project shall follow the 5-year renewal cycle as defined under Gold Standard for the Global Goals and be also limited by the maximum duration of crediting period allowed for by the respective activity

guidelines. Otherwise projects that transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals during the ongoing crediting period can complete the remaining part of crediting period without following the 5-year renewal cycle as defined under Gold Standard for the Global Goals (i.e. the remainder of crediting period shall apply after transition, prior to switching to the 5 year cycle thereafter).

2.5 Transition of a project to Gold Standard for the Global Goals during the ongoing crediting period will not affect its eligibility under the standard, applicability of applied methodology and additionality already demonstrated.

2.6 Projects that transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals can benefit from flexibility of using same auditor for validation and verification under specified conditions.

2.7 Projects that transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals can benefit by stacking new Gold Standard Certified Impact Statements or Products (where available) over GSVER, where allowed by relevant product specification by following the applicable methodology, monitoring requirements, additionality requirements and claims guidelines. Stacking of new assets will not affect the duration of crediting period already approved for the project. New Statements or Products may be issued for the remainder of the certification period but cannot be retrospectively issued unless otherwise stated in specific Product Requirements.

2.8 Projects submitting for Retroactive Registration under previous versions of Gold Standard may do so up until 01st November 2017. After 01st November 2017 retroactive submissions shall be considered against the GS4GG Requirements.

2.9 No GS-VVB review and opinion is required on documents submitted for transition process at the Verification (i.e. the first that takes place after 01st March 2018). The GS-VVB shall prepare the Verification Report as per the version of Gold Standard applicable to the Project pre-transition. The Project shall submit the documentation to Gold Standard alongside Verification (it is recommended to do this as early as possible in the Verification process to maximise time available to resolve any queries or clarifications). Gold Standard will review the submitted documents and raise clarification or corrective actions to be resolved before transition is approved.The approval decision shall be taken by Gold Standard, overseen by the Gold Standard's independent Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).   The decision will be included in the Issuance Review documentation provided to the Gold Standard TAC and NGO Supporters.

2.10 Subsequent Verifications that occur after transition shall take into account the GS4GG Requirements.

2.11 Issues that will not affect the decision to transition the project can be converted to Forward Action Requests (FARs) and checked during next verification.

2.12 The following aspects need to be focused on while preparing documentation for transition:

(a) Compliance to updated safeguarding principles as defined in section 3.2 of Gold Standard for the Global Goals Requirements and the Gold Standard Safeguarding Principles & Requirements. The project shall carry out a gap analysis between the 'Do No Harm' assessment criteria defined in earlier versions of the standard and safeguarding principles defined under Gold Standard for the Global Goals. Any additional assessment criteria in line with guidelines defined in point #2 under section 3.2 of Gold Standard for the Global Goals Requirements shall be assessed. GSV1.0 projects shall carry out the assessment against all the safeguarding principles as there was no 'Do No Harm' assessment carried at time of registration with Gold Standard.

(b) Contribution to Climate Security and Sustainable Development Goals as defined in section 2.1.3 of Gold Standard for the Global Goals Requirements – The project shall justify how the two sustainable development indicators from the SD matrix justified having positive score can be linked to two separate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The monitoring plan shall be updated, as required, to monitor contribution to atleast two other SDGs apart from SDG 13.

3.0 DOCUMENTS

3.1 Projects transitioning to Gold Standard for the Global Goals during the ongoing crediting period shall submit an Annex to registered documents to the Gold Standard Secretariat any time during the next verification that will happen six months or later after the release of Gold Standard for the Global Goals. The Annex shall contain information on updated safeguarding principles assessment, updated SDG contribution assessment and any updates to monitoring plan. If project is looking to stack new assets over GSVERs the required information to demonstrate compliance to the relevant methodology, product specification and additionality shall also be presented in the Annex.

3.2 Projects looking to transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals during the renewal of crediting period shall submit entire project information in new templates issued by Gold Standard to the Validation and Verification body (VVB) for review. The documents shall essentially contain information on updated safeguarding principles assessment, updated SDG contribution assessment, any updates to monitoring plan, updated baseline information, demonstration of OFN (if applicable), compliance to latest version of applied methodology etc. If project is looking to stack new assets over GSVERs the required information to demonstrate compliance to the relevant methodology, product specification and additionality shall also be presented.

3.3 The Transition Documentaiton shall be included in the Issuance Review and made available for Gold Standard TAC and NGO supporter comment. Upon successeful review the Project shall transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals.

4.0 MICRO SCALE PROJECTS

4.1 Micro scale projects shall also transition to new micro scale scheme under Gold Standard for the Global Goals as per the Timelines and Requirements defined above.

4.2 Micro scale projects looking to transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals during the ongoing crediting period shall submit updated information in Annex to the Gold Standard Secretariat any time during the next verification that will happen six months or later after the release of Gold Standard for the Global Goals. The Annex shall essentially contain information on updated safeguarding principles assessment, updated SDG contribution assessment and any updates to monitoring plan. The micro scale projects shall justify how they contribute positively to atleast two SDGs apart from SDG 13. If project is looking to stack new assets over GSVERs the required information to demonstrate compliance to the relevant methodology, product specification and additionality shall also be presented in the Annex.

4.3 Micro scale projects looking to transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals during the renewal of crediting period shall submit entire project information in new templates to the Gold Standard Secretariat for review. The documents shall essentially contain information on updated safeguarding principles assessment, SDG contribution assessment, any updates to monitoring plan, updated baseline information, demonstration of OFN (if applicable) etc. If project is looking to stack new assets over GSVERs the required information to demonstrate compliance to the relevant methodology, product specification and additionality shall also be presented.

5.0 PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES (including micro scale PoAs)

5.1 Gold Standard registered programmes and the activities within them shall transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals at the same time. It is not possible to transition one or group of few activities within the programme without transitioning the entire programme itself.

5.2 All Gold Standard registered programme of activities, irrespective of the version of the

Standard with which they were registered, shall transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals with next verification/Performance Certification of activities OR next renewal of crediting period of the programme that will start six months or later after the release of Gold Standard for the Global Goals OR with submission of new activities for inclusion in the programme after two months of launch of Gold Standard for the Global Goals. Programmes can indeed choose to transition earlier.

5.3 Programme of activities that are submitted to Gold Standard for renewal of crediting period until March 2018 will not be required to follow the guidelines for renewal of crediting period as defined under GS4GG till next renewal. However, such programmes shall transition to GS4GG with next verification/Performance Certification of activities.

5.4 Any programme submitted to Gold Standard up until 01st November 2017 can still use GSV2.2 to register the programme with Gold Standard but shall transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals with first verification/Performance Ceritification of activities.

5.5 PoAs that are under listing or validation process at time of launch of GS4GG can progress to registration with applied version of the standard but shall transition to GS4GG at time of first verification or submission of new activities for inclusion in the programme, which ever is earlier.

5.6 The REQUIREMENTS and DOCUMENTS outlined above for stand-alone projects will also apply to the programme of activities. For micro scale programme of activities, the DOCUMENTS as outlined for stand-alone micro scale activities shall be submitted.
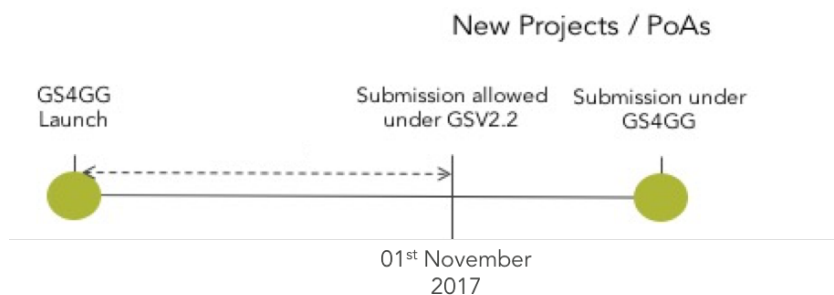
6.0 CDM LABEL PROJECTS

6.1 CDM Label projects shall follow the same principle timescales for transition at next Verification as noted throughout this document.

6.2 CDM Label transition projects with a 7 year renewal cycle shall follow the CDM renewal cycle instead of the GS4GG 5 year renewal cycle up to the maximum number of years crediting allowed for that project type. For example if GS4GG Activity Requirements limit a particular activity type to 15 years this is the maximum number of years of issuance that can be attained. The renewals however would take place at years 7 and 14 with GS labelling ending at year 15. Further information is including in the Gold Standard GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration Product Requirements.

Illustrated Timelines:

New Projects / PoAs

GS4GG Launch — Submission allowed under GSV2.2 — Submission under GS4GG

01st November 2017

Existing Registered / Issued Projects with renewable crediting period
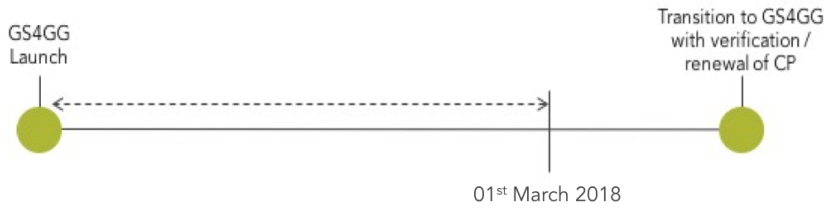
GS4GG
Launch

Transition to GS4GG
with verification /
renewal of CP

01st March 2018

Existing Registered / Issued Projects with fixed 10 year crediting period

GS4GG
Launch

01st March 2018

Transition to GS4GG
with verification

Remaining
CP > 24
months

End of CP

Existing Registered / Issued PoAs

GS4GG
Launch

01st November
2017

PoA transition to
GS4GG with
verification of activities
/ renewal of CP

Submission of new
activities allowed
under GSV2.2
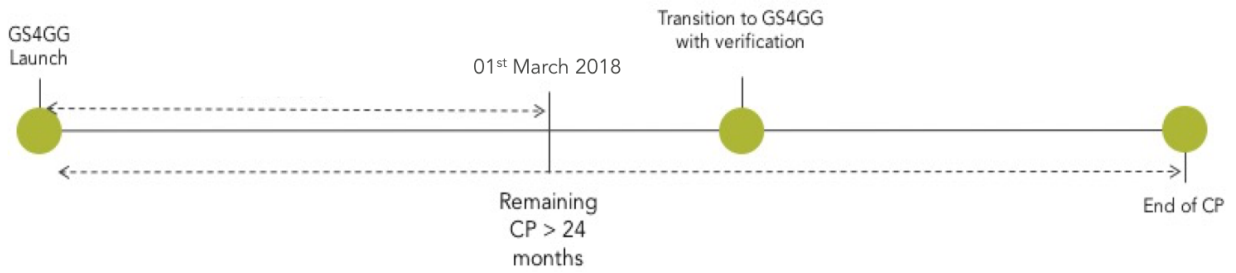
PoA transition to
GS4GG with submission
of new activities
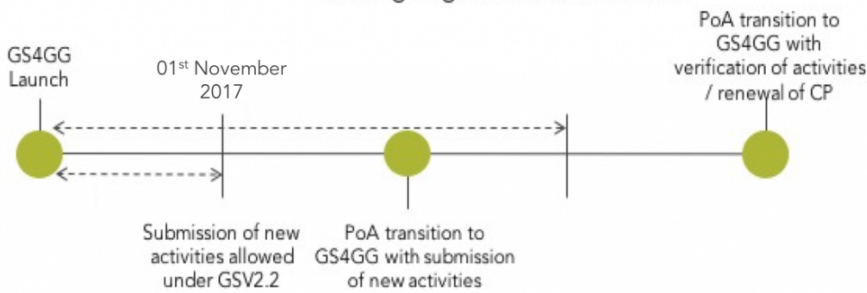
Endnotes

[1] Defined as the date of legal execution of contract between Project Developer and GS-VVB for the Verification.

Gold Standard® Transition Guidelines

GS4GG Launch
14th Aug 2017

Last Submissions of old Versions
1st Nov 2017

GS4GG Entry into Force
1st Mar 2018

Performance Certification Transition
Applies to:
1) Projects with a fixed 10 - year crediting period with more than 24 months left in their crediting period as of 14th August 2017
2) Projects with a 7-year renewable crediting period with more than 24 months left in their crediting period as of 14th August 2017
3) All A/R projects

Can still register with old standard

Submission of new inclusions in POAs registered with old standard P

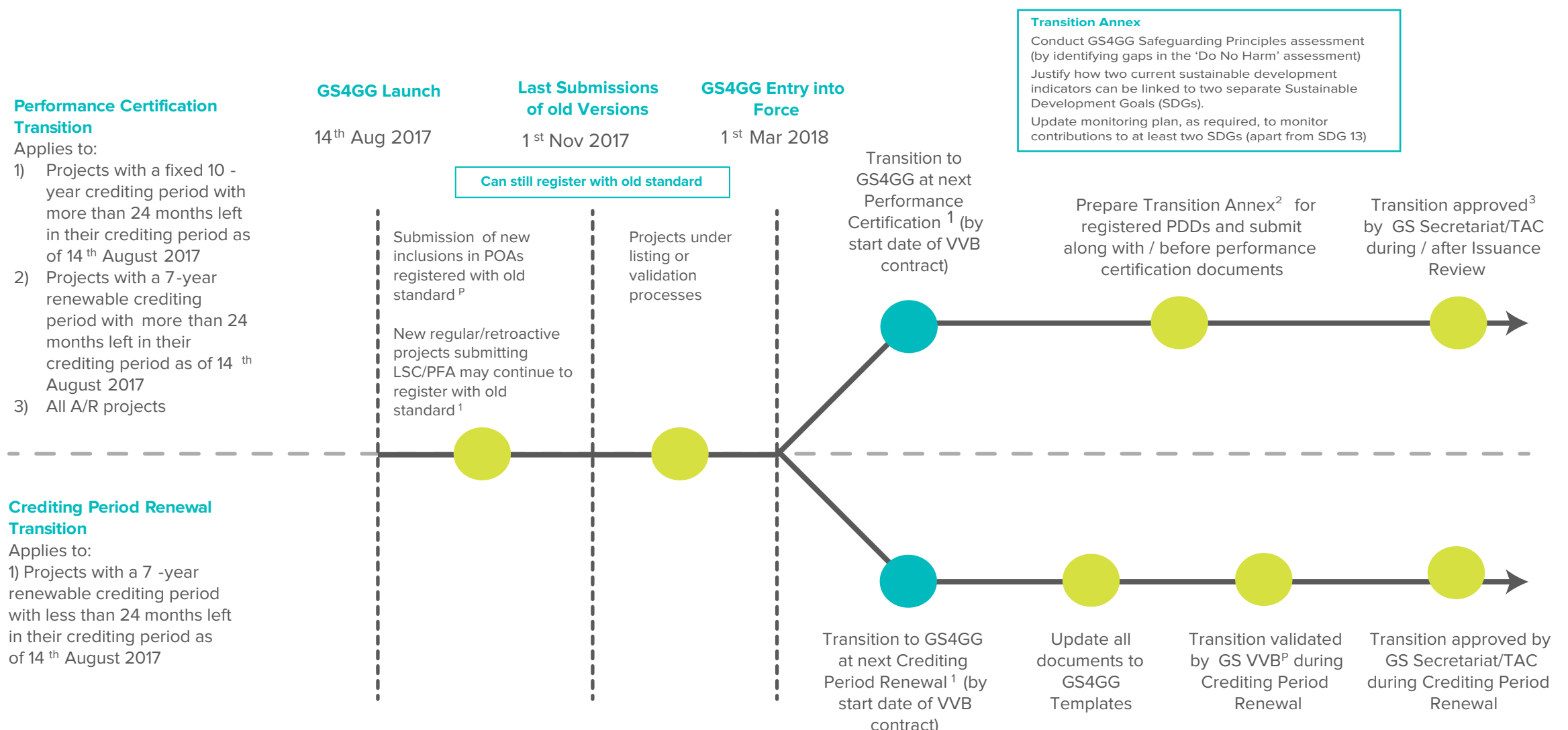New regular/retroactive projects submitting LSC/PFA may continue to register with old standard [1]

Projects under listing or validation processes

Transition to GS4GG at next Performance Certification [1] (by start date of VVB contract)

Prepare Transition Annex[2] for registered PDDs and submit along with / before performance certification documents

Transition approved[3] by GS Secretariat/TAC during / after Issuance Review

Crediting Period Renewal Transition
Applies to:
1) Projects with a 7-year renewable crediting period with less than 24 months left in their crediting period as of 14th August 2017

Transition to GS4GG at next Crediting Period Renewal [1] (by start date of VVB contract)

Update all documents to GS4GG Templates

Transition validated by GS VVB P during Crediting Period Renewal

Transition approved by GS Secretariat/TAC during Crediting Period Renewal

Guidance Notes
The process flow is applicable to all projects, noting that for projects transitioning at Performance Certification any additional monitoring requirements identified as part of GS review of the Transition Annex will be applicable to the next monitoring period.

The following additional clarifications apply:

N number indicates additional guidance is applicable, please see notes overleaf.
P indicates more detailed guidance is applicable for specific project types, please see notes overleaf.

Additional Guidance

1. From 1st Mar 2018, all projects and POAs must transition to GS4GG at the next Performance Certification or Crediting Period Renewal – whichever occurs sooner, with the exception of:
- Projects with a fixed 10 year crediting period and less than 24 months on GS4GG launch date do not need to transition.
- New regular/retroactive projects submitting LSC/PFA before 1st Nov 2017 must transition to GS4GG at the next Performance Certification or Crediting Period Renewal after this date.
- POA with inclusions after 1st Nov 2017, see below

The process of transition at Performance Certification or Crediting Period Renewal is different in each case, as explained by the flow chart. Projects may voluntarily transition before 1st Mar 2018 by contacting GS.

2. Transition Annex for Gold Standard Version 1.0 projects shall carry out the assessment against all the safeguarding principles as there was no 'Do No Harm' assessment carried at time of registration with GSV1.0.

3. GS-VVB opinion is only required on Crediting Period renewal transitions

Project Specific Guidelines

LUF
- A/R projects submitted before 1st November 2017 that use older standards to register must transition at first Performance Certification

POAs
- Gold Standard registered programmes and the activities within them shall transition to GS4GG at the same time. It is not possible to transition one or some activities within the programme without transitioning the entire programme itself
- POAs and VPA inclusions submitted before 1st Nov 2017 can register with old standard, but the entire POA must transition to GS4GG with next inclusion, performance certification or crediting period renewal after this date.

Microscale
– the role of a GS-VVB is undertaken by the GS Secretariat – unless a VVB is target selected by GS under the validation/verification fund for a particular project.
– Microscale POAs shall follow the guidelines for POAs above.

CDM Label
– GS Labelled CDM projects with a 7 year renewal cycle shall still follow the CDM crediting period renewal cycle, but GS labelling will follow the GS4GG 5 year renewal cycle up to the maximum number of years crediting allowed for that project type.