



Gold Standard[®]
for the Global Goals

GUIDELINE

ELIGIBILITY OF GOLD STANDARD VERS FOR USE UNDER CORSIA'S FIRST PHASE (2024-2026)

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SUMMARY

This document provides guidance on the eligibility criteria for Gold Standard VERs (GS VERs) to be supplied for use under the First Phase of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), as well as the process that must be followed for GS VERs to be labelled as eligible on the Gold Standard Impact Registry.

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1| SCOPE AND ELIGIBILITY

1.1 | Scope

- 1.1.1 | Gold Standard has been approved to supply Eligible Emissions Units for the First Phase of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), which runs from 2024-26.
- 1.1.2 | This document provides guidance for project developers on the eligibility criteria for Gold Standard VERs (GS VERs) to be supplied for use under the First Phase of CORSIA and the process that must be followed for GS VERs to be labelled accordingly on the Gold Standard Impact Registry.

1.2 | ELIGIBILITY

- 1.2.1 | The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which administers CORSIA, has decided the eligibility of GS VERs for the First Phase of CORSIA. This is included in ICAO's [Eligible Emissions Units](#) document.
- 1.2.2 | In accordance with this document, only GS VERs that meet the below criteria are eligible for use under the First Phase:
- a. GS VERs that:
 - i. Are issued to activities that started their first crediting period from 1 January 2016 and were issued in respect of emission reductions that occurred from 1 January 2021 through to 31 December 2026, and
 - ii. Have been authorised by the host country for use in CORSIA by way of an attestation to the avoidance of double claiming, and
 - iii. For which the programme has verified, in accordance with its procedures, that either:
 - a. The host country has already applied a corresponding adjustment, and/or
 - b. The GS VERs are the subject of a guarantee approved by the programme that covers all units to which the host country Letter of Authorisation applies and have Eligible Unit Dates within the relevant CORSIA compliance period.
- 1.2.3 | Under its scope of eligibility, ICAO has excluded the following activity and/or unit types, methodologies, programme elements, and/or procedural classes as ineligible for use under the First Phase of CORSIA:
- a. Planned Emission Reductions (PERs).
 - b. Units issued to microscale activities where an accredited entity has not carried out validation and verification.
 - c. VERs issued to all activities that are developed in REDD+ (Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries) countries and utilise methodologies in the programme's Land Use and Forestry & Agriculture categories and are estimated to

generate greater than 7,000 Verified Emissions Reductions (VERs) / annum individually or grouped, with the allowable exception of activities that utilise methodologies in Gold Standard's Soil Organic Carbon, Agriculture, and Livestock categories.

- d. VERs issued to activities involving grid-connected renewable electricity generation/supply that are estimated to have a maximum output capacity greater than 15 megawatts of electricity, individually or grouped.
- e. VERs issued to all activities that utilise methodologies in Gold Standard's Engineered Removals category.

2| PROCESS FOR LABELLING

2.1.1 | Project developers seeking labelling of GS VERs as eligible for use under the First Phase of CORSIA must follow the steps outlined below.

Step 1 – Understand exclusions

2.1.2 | The project developer should ensure that GS VERs are not covered by ICAO's list of exclusions for Gold Standard, as listed in paragraphs 1.2.2 and 1.2.3 and in ICAO's Eligible Emissions Unit document. This includes exclusions based on the start date of the project, the vintage of GS-VERs, the activity and the unit type.

Step 2 – Article 6 Authorisation

2.1.3 | The project developer must have an Article 6 Letter of Authorisation from the host country of its project or Programme of Activities that:

- a. **Authorises the use of GS VERs towards CORSIA.** This may be reflected in the Letter of Authorisation as 'international mitigation purposes' or 'other international mitigation purposes'.
- b. **Complies with all relevant requirements in relevant Decisions related to Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement,** as adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA).
- c. **Includes all information required by Gold Standard.** Gold Standard's minimum requirements for Letters of Authorisation are outlined in paragraph 1.3.2 of *Annex A - Requirements for Credits Authorised for Use under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement*, within its [GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements](#).

2.1.4 | The project developer must also complete an [Article 6 Authorisation Checklist](#).

Step 3 – Avoidance of Double Claiming

- 2.1.5 | The project developer must follow one of two options to ensure the avoidance of double claiming between the use of GS VERs towards CORSIA and their accounting towards the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of the relevant host country.
- 2.1.6 | **Option 1 – Corresponding Adjustment:** Provide evidence that the relevant host country has applied a corresponding adjustment for the GS-VERs, through its Biennial Transparency Report to the UNFCCC. This evidence could be:
- a. A copy of the Biennial Transparency Report, where the country's application of a corresponding adjustment can be traced to the GS-VERs.
 - b. A link to information in the Article 6 Database implemented by the UNFCCC (when available) where the country's application of a corresponding adjustment can be traced to the GS-VERs.
- 2.1.7 | **Option 2 – Guarantee:** Provide a guarantee that, in the event GS VERs are retired for use under the First Phase of CORSIA but the relevant host country does not apply a corresponding adjustment ('double-claimed units'), any GS-VERs labelled as eligible for use under the First Phase of CORSIA shall be replaced with an equivalent volume of CORSIA-eligible units.
- 2.1.8 | Project developers choosing to use Option 2 must take the following two steps:
- a. **Deed of Undertaking.** The project developer must sign a [Deed of Undertaking](#), undertaking that the project developer will replace any double-claimed units in the event that this is demanded by Gold Standard (or a beneficiary) in accordance with the terms and procedures under its [GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements](#). This Deed of Undertaking must be signed for each issuance of GS-VERs for which the project developer is seeking eligibility for the First Phase of CORSIA, and;
 - b. **Hold an Approved Insurance Policy.** The project developer or its affiliate must hold and provide evidence of the holding of an insurance policy approved by Gold Standard to support its undertaking to replace any double-claimed units as described above.
- 2.1.9 | **Approved Insurance Policies:** Gold Standard is developing and intends to establish a process to recognise insurance policies from third-party private insurance companies as Approved Insurance Policies to support guarantees for the avoidance of double-claiming under CORSIA. At this time, Gold Standard recognises the following as an Approved Insurance Policy:
- a. **Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA):** A guarantee provided by the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) to the project developer or an affiliate, which provides [Breach of Contract](#) coverage in the event that a host country that has provided a Letter of Authorisation does not apply a corresponding adjustment for relevant GS-VERs, in breach of its commitment to do so. The Breach of Contract

coverage must apply to legally-binding commitments of the host country that relate to all GS-VERs intended to be labelled as eligible for the First Phase of CORSIA.

Step 4 - Submission to Gold Standard

2.1.10 | In accordance with the guidance above, project developers must provide the following information to Gold Standard in order for GS-VERs to be labelled as eligible for use under the First Phase of CORSIA:

- a. Article 6 Letter of Authorisation from the relevant host country, and
- b. Article 6 Authorisation Checklist

And either:

- c. Evidence of application of corresponding adjustment, or
- d. Deed of Undertaking, including a copy of the Approved Insurance Policy (excluding any confidential information).

2.1.11 | Documents may be submitted either at the time of issuance or following issuance of GS-VERs. Documents must be submitted to standards@goldstandard.org.

3| LABELLING

3.1.1 | Once Gold Standard is satisfied that a project developer has fulfilled all requirements for GS-VERs to be eligible for use under the First Phase of CORSIA, Gold Standard will label GS-VERs accordingly in the Gold Standard Impact Registry.

3.1.2 | The eligibility of GS-VERs for the First Phase of CORSIA will be reflected in the Impact Registry as illustrated below:

Public Issuances Page



Credit Block Details Page



3.1.3 | Further guidance on the labelling of GS VERs and projects in the Gold Standard Impact Registry, including for CORSIA, is available in Gold Standard's guide to the [Labelling of Credits and Projects in the Gold Standard Impact Registry](#).

3.1.4 | Further guidance on the management of GS VERs in the Gold Standard Impact Registry, including their retirement for use towards CORSIA

compliance obligations, is available in the [Gold Standard Impact Registry User Guide](#).

3.1.5 | Project developers should take note that once GS VERs have been labelled as eligible for use under the First Phase of CORSIA, this label will not be removed, even in the event that a host country withdraws its Letter of Authorisation or otherwise does not apply a corresponding adjustment. In such an event, the project developer would be required to replace any double-claimed units in cases where the GS VERs are retired for use under the First Phase of CORSIA and such replacement is demanded by Gold Standard (or a beneficiary) as outlined in paragraph 2.1.8.

4| MANAGEMENT OF DOUBLE CLAIMING

4.1.1 | Before seeking eligibility of GS-VERs for use under the First Phase of CORSIA, project developers are advised to review and understand the obligations of a project developer with respect to the management of double claiming between CORSIA and the NDC of the project's host country.

4.1.2 | These obligations are reflected in:

a. Gold Standard's procedures for managing the non-application of a corresponding adjustment by host countries, included in Section 1.5 of *Annex A - Requirements for Credits Authorised for Use under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement* within its [GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements](#).

b. The terms of Gold Standard's a [Deed of Undertaking](#).

4.1.3 | Project developers are encouraged to take independent legal advice before signing the Deed of Undertaking and sign only if they agree to be legally bound.

4.1.4 | If you have any questions, please contact us at help@goldstandard.org

Document History

Version	Date	Description
1.0	9 Dec 2024	1 st Version of the document