Optional Requirement

REQUIREMENTS: CORE CARBON PRINCIPLES LABELLING OF GOLD STANDARD VERIFIED EMISSION REDUCTIONS

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SUMMARY

This document outlines the requirements and procedure for design-certified projects to seek Core Carbon Principles (CCP) labelling of Gold Standard Verified Emission Reductions (GSVERs). It applies to design-certified projects, Programmes of Activities (PoAs), and Voluntary Project Activities (VPAs) seeking CCP labelling of issued GSVERs. This also includes cases wherein which methodology updates involve changes to either the methodology version or the methodology itself.

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1| SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

1.1 | Scope

1.1.1 | This document outlines the requirements and procedures to enable CCP labelling of GSVERs.

1.1.2 | It applies to all Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG) design-certified projects, PoAs, or VPAs—referred to as "projects" hereafter—seeking CCP labelling of:

a. GSVERs issued to a project that has applied a methodology version approved by the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (ICVCM), or

b. GSVERs to be issued to a project retroactively (up to a maximum of two years) when updating methodology version to an ICVCM-approved methodology version or new approved methodology, i.e., methodology update.

1.2 | Applicability Requirement

1.2.1 | The requirements and procedures outlined in this document shall apply when:

a. An applied methodology version is approved as is by ICVCM and requires no updates to the project design (e.g., projects applying ICVCM-approved version 9 of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) AMS III.G and complying with the conditions associated with ICVCM approval).

b. A project needs revisions or updates to comply with an ICVCM-approved methodology version (e.g., projects applying ICVCM-approved version 4 of the methodology Reduced Emissions From Cooking And Heating – Technologies And Practices To Displace Decentralised Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC), in which an update to fraction of non-renewable biomass (fNRB) values is required to demonstrate compliance with the conditions associated with ICVCM approval).

c. A change in the applied methodology is requested, either updating to a newer version or switching to a different methodology altogether (e.g., projects applying CDM methodology AMS-II.G and requesting a change to the ICVCM-approved version 4 of the methodology Reduced Emissions From Cooking And Heating – Technologies And Practices To Displace Decentralised Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC).

1.2.2 | The requirements and procedures outlined in this document do not apply to projects seeking crediting period (CP) renewal. Such projects shall follow the CP renewal requirements and procedures. The project developer shall submit separate requests for a project that introduces changes to update its design for CCP labelling of a retroactive period (if not already issued), i.e., design change and to renew its CP.

1.2.3 | A project requesting CCP labelling shall demonstrate compliance with:

a. All methodology requirements of applied methodology version covering all key aspects (applicability criteria, project boundary, greenhouse gas (GHG) sources, additionality, baseline, project and leakage emissions, emission reductions quantification, monitoring requirements, etc.).

b. Any additional/new requirements published by Gold Standard following the conditions set by ICVCM for the applied methodology version.

c. Necessary information to demonstrate compliance, including Validation & Verification Body (VVB) design change validation report when applicable.

1.2.4 | The requirements and procedures outlined in this document limit changes to project aspects that are:

a. Permitted under design change requirements and other applicable standards. For example, changing the CP length selected at design certification is not allowed.

b. Directly related to applying the latest version of the applicable methodology. For any additional changes, the project developer shall seek clarification by writing to help@goldstandard.org before including them in a scope of design change request (e.g., expansion of project installed capacity).

1.2.5 | Only project developers that are listed in the cover letter as project owner or representative can submit requests for CCP labelling of GSVERs. Buyers of GSVERs or other entities holding GSVERs issued to a project are not permitted to submit such requests.

1.3 | Procedure

1.3.1 | A project can apply for GSVER labelling per the procedure outlined in this section.

1.3.2 | **No design change required:** When an ICVCM-approved methodology version is applied and no changes are required to the project design, the project developer can submit the request for CCP labelling to Gold Standard (no design change required). The request shall be prepared using the "Form: Request submission for CCP labelling" and shall be submitted via the Gold Standard assurance platform using the review request type "Manage Information".

Example: Project GS001 design certified with Methodology X (version 1.0). In 2024, ICVCM approves version 1.0 of Methodology X. Project can request CCP labelling of GSVERs issued from 2020 to 2024 and to be issued in future, as project applied an ICVCM-approved methodology version for the entire period, which doesn't require any change to project design.

1.3.3 | **Design change required with applied methodology:** When Gold Standard publishes additional/updated requirements for an ICVCM-approved methodology version to ensure compliance with conditions set by ICVCM, the

project developer shall submit a request for a design change prior to requesting CCP labelling. For such cases, CCP labelling is allowed only for:

i. GSVERs to be issued for a maximum of up to two years retroactive monitoring period that have not already been issued.

ii. GSVERs for future monitoring period.

Example: Project GS001 applied Methodology X (version 1.0), which was approved by ICVCM in 2025. Following ICVCM decision, Gold Standard publishes updates requirements for Methodology X (version 1.0) to ensure compliance with ICVCM decision for CCP eligibility. For example, these new requirements involve an update to fNRB values. Project GS001 shall undergo a design change review to demonstrate compliance with the new requirements and may seek CCP labelling for:

a. a retroactive period of up to two years, but only if GSVERs have not already been issued for this period, and

b. future issuances.

1.3.4 | **Design change required for methodology switch**: When the project switches to a different eligible methodology (e.g., from AMS II.G to Reduced Emissions From Cooking And Heating – Technologies And Practices To Displace Decentralised Thermal Energy Consumption [TPDDTEC] V4.0), as long as the project demonstrates full compliance with all requirements of the new methodology's latest version, the project developer shall submit a request for a design change prior to requesting CCP labelling. For such cases, CCP labelling is allowed only for:

i. GSVERs to be issued for a maximum of up to two years retroactive monitoring period that have not already been issued.

ii. GSVERs for future monitoring period.

1.4 | Entry into Force

1.4.1 | This standard document comes into force on its publication date.

2| REQUIREMENTS

2.1 | Scope of Revised Documentation

2.1.1 | Following the applicable version of the methodology, including additional requirements as published by Gold Standard for CCP labelling, the eligible project using the design change process shall:

a. Update the project design document (PDD) by:

i. including all necessary changes to relevant sections, and

ii. providing both marked-up and clean versions, applicable to all projects, PoAs, and VPAs.

b. For POA: Update applicability and inclusion criteria and justifications for future VPA inclusion.

c. Update the additionality demonstration, if required.

d. Reassess the baseline scenario, where applicable.
e. Recalculate ex-ante GHG emissions for the remaining CP only.
f. Update to monitoring plan with:
    i. Revision of monitoring methods and approaches.
    ii. Update of quality control measures, including uncertainty quantification and adjustment approach.
    iii. Adjustment of sampling approach, if applicable.
g. Review and update monitoring approaches for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) impacts other than SDG 13, if project outputs have changed.
h. Provide ex-ante re-estimation for eligible period (remaining).

2.1.2 | The project developer shall clearly mention the overall CP separately as issued and to be issued in the future that may be requested for labelling of CCPs.

2.2 | Changes to the Project Design

2.2.1 | Refer to the requirements and procedures outlined in the DESIGN CHANGE REQUEST REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES. The requirements in this document are limited to changes that apply to the following updates outlined in the design change request requirements and procedures:

a. 3.5.1.j (for projects) and 3.6.1.i (for PoAs): "Voluntary update of the applied methodologies or other standard documents to a later valid version, or voluntary change to other methodologies."

2.3 | Applicability of Methodology

2.3.1 | The project developer shall do the following:

a. Reassess the applicability of the methodology applied for design certification against the applied methodology version where additional requirements as published by Gold Standard for CCP labelling or applied new ICVCM-approved methodology.
    i. Demonstrate compliance with all applicability criteria in the revised PDD.
    ii. Provide clear justification and evidence as necessary.

2.4 | Additionality Demonstration

2.4.1 | The project developer shall update the additionality demonstration if required by additional requirements published by Gold Standard for CCP labelling or by a newly applied ICVCM-approved methodology. The project developer shall do the following:

a. Ensure compliance with all additionality requirements applicable to the methodology.

b. Provide supporting evidence to validate the demonstration.

2.4.2 | When updating the additionality assessment, the project developer shall update the additionality demonstration considering the following requirements:

a. Reassess carbon credit revenue consideration and its impact on project financial viability.
b. Maintain the original additionality demonstration approach (e.g., investment analysis or barrier analysis) used at design certification.
c. Keep unchanged the key input parameters related to project cost, financing structure, and similar factors.
d. Retain the benchmark or indicator selected for investment analysis at the time of decision-making.
e. If using a positive list or deemed additionality approach that is still valid at the time of update submission, no further additionality demonstration update is required for CCP labelling.

2.5 | Design-Certified Monitoring Plan Updates

2.5.1 | The project developer shall do the following:

a. Provide information to specify the overall monitoring period included for CCP labelling.
b. When updating the assessment:
    i. Use conservative assumptions or discount factors for alternative monitoring calculations where data gaps exist. This is to avoid overestimating GHG emission reductions, net anthropogenic GHG removals, and SDG impact resulting from the change.
    ii. Ensure that proposed changes comply with the requirements of the applied methodology.
c. When updating the monitoring plan for future (ex-ante) periods, the project developer shall do the following:
    i. Demonstrate that updates are feasible and can be implemented within the project design, including data management and quality assurance/control procedures.
    ii. Ensure that these procedures are sufficient to allow for accurate reporting and verification of GHG emission reductions achieved by or resulting from the project activity, per the applied methodology requirements.

2.6 | Sustainable Development and Safeguarding Assessment

2.6.1 | The project developer shall assess and incorporate any necessary revisions to the SDG impact and safeguarding principles assessment following the design changes. When updating the SDG impact, the project developer is not

permitted to include new indicators. However, an update to align with the SDG Impact Tool may be allowed.

2.7 | Legislation

2.7.1 | The project developer shall also confirm that the project complies with all applicable statutory requirements related to the project.

3| REQUIREMENTS FOR VALIDATION & VERIFICATION BODY

3.1.1 | The VVB shall assess the proposed revisions by referring to the Validation and Verification Standard Section 8 for standalone project activities and Section 15 for PoAs and VPAs.

4| APPROVAL PROCEDURE

4.1.1 | Refer to Section 6, "Design change approval procedure," outlined in the DESIGN CHANGE REQUEST REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES. The developer may follow any of the options outlined there.

4.1.2 | Project activities involving design change required with applied methodology (Section 1.3.3 |) may be submitted under issuance track.

5| APPLICABLE FEE

5.1.1 | The project developer shall pay the fee as applicable for the design review when design change is involved. For cases in which no design change is required, there is no review fee.

5.1.2 | The project developer shall pay the design review fee in addition to performance review fee, if applicable, when the design change review request is submitted with issuance track.

6| CORE CARBON PRINCIPLES LABELLING REQUIREMENTS FOR METHODOLOGIES

This section outlines the requirements for the methodologies following ICVCM's decision/conditions for CCP labelling.

6.1 | Clean Cooking

A. Reduced Emissions from Cooking and Heating Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralised Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC)

6.1.1 | The ICVCM decision for this methodology is summarised in Table 1.a.

Table 1.a	Reduced Emissions from Cooking and Heating – Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralised Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC)
Version number	4.0
CCP approval status	Approved
Decision date (latest)	27/02/2025 (V4.0)

Date	**CCP conditions**
27/02/2025	The methodology meets the relevant criteria where: i. the default fNRB value from the latest version of CDM Tool 33 is applied for emission reductions achieved on or before 31 December 2025, or ii. the source of data for fNRB in mitigation activities is from the modelling fuelwood savings scenarios (MoFuSS) model per CCP eligible programme–approved project documentation, and where: i. fuel consumption is determined either by using a kitchen performance test (KPT) or controlled cooking test (CCT) or methodology default values with cross-checks on fuel savings, and ii. for charcoal projects, a direct charcoal emission factor (which may include production emissions) or a wood-to-charcoal conversion factor of four to one is used. **Reference:** V4.0 https://icvcm.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/GS_TPDDTEC_v4_2025.pdf *In case of any discrepancy in the text reproduced here, ICVCM's decision as published on its website supersedes the requirements outlined here. Please refer to the ICVCM website for the final text to ensure accuracy and completeness: https://icvcm.org/assessment-status/.

6.1.2 | **GS4GG – Requirements:** Projects applying V4.0 of this methodology and requesting CCP labelling of GSVERs shall:

i. Demonstrate compliance with the CCP conditions for GSVERs as specified in the "CCP conditions" section.

ii. Demonstrate compliance with the requirements for CCP labelling outlined in Sections 1.1 | and 2| of this document.

iii. Not be eligible for CCP labelling of GSVERs for a retroactive monitoring period for more than two years.

6.1.3 | **GS4GG – Procedure:** To request CCP labelling for GSVERs, the project developer shall follow the applicable procedure outlined in Section 1.3 | above.

B. Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralised Thermal Energy Consumption

6.1.4 | The ICVCM decision on Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralised Thermal Energy Consumption versions 2.0, 3.0, and 3.1 is pending for final approval and Table 1.b is included as Placeholder.

Table 2.b	Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralised Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC)
Version number(s)	2.0, 3.0, 3.1
CCP approval status	[TBC soon see 6.1.4]
Decision date (latest)	dd/mm/yyyy

Date	**CCP conditions**
dd/mm/yyyy	

6.1.5 | **GS4GG – Requirements:** Projects applying Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralised Thermal Energy Consumption versions 2.0, 3.0, or 3.1 and requesting CCP labelling of GSVERs shall:

i. [TBC soon see 6.1.4].

Table 1.b.1	Additional applicability requirements for CCP labelling
Additional requirements applicable to:	Methodology: Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralised Thermal Energy Consumption versions 2.0, 3.0, or 3.1
1.	TBC soon see 6.1.4

6.1.6 | **GS4GG – Procedure:** To request CCP labelling for GSVERs, the project developer shall follow the applicable procedure outlined in Section 1.3 | above.

C. METHODOLOGY FOR METERED & MEASURED ENERGY COOKING DEVICES

6.1.7 | The ICVCM decision for this methodology is summarised in Table 2.

Table 2	METHODOLOGY FOR METERED & MEASURED ENERGY COOKING DEVICES	
Version number(s)		1, 1.1, 1.2
CCP approval status		Approved
Decision date (latest)		27/02/2025 (V 1, 1.1, 1.2)
Date	**CCP conditions**	
27/02/2025	The methodology meets the relevant criteria where: i. the default fNRB value from the latest version of CDM Tool 33 is applied for emission reductions achieved on or before 31 December 2025, or ii. the source of data for fNRB in mitigation activities is from the MoFuSS model per CCP eligible programme-approved project documentation, and where: • fuel consumption is determined either by using a KPT or CCT or methodology default values with cross-checks on fuel savings, and • for charcoal projects, a direct charcoal emission factor (which may include production emissions) or a wood-to-charcoal conversion factor of four to one is used. **Reference:** V 1-2 https://icvcm.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/GS_MM_v1-2_2025.pdff * In case of any discrepancy in the text reproduced here, ICVCM's decision as published on its website supersedes the requirements outlined here. Please refer to the ICVCM website for the final text to ensure accuracy and completeness: https://icvcm.org/assessment-status/.	

6.1.8 | **GS4GG – Requirements:** Projects applying this methodology and requesting CCP labelling of GSVERs shall:

i. Demonstrate compliance with the CCP conditions for GSVERs as specified in the "CCP conditions" section.

ii. Demonstrate compliance with the requirements for CCP labelling as outlined in Sections 1.1 | and 2| of this document.

iii. Not be eligible for CCP labelling of GSVERs for a retroactive monitoring period for more than two years.

6.1.9 | **GS4GG – Procedure:** To request CCP labelling for GSVERs, the project developer shall follow the applicable procedure outlined in Section 1.3 | above.

6.2 | Biodigesters (Household)

D. METHODOLOGY FOR ANIMAL MANURE MANAGEMENT AND BIOGAS USE FOR THERMAL ENERGY GENERATION

6.2.1 | The ICVCM decision for this methodology is summarised in Table 3.

Table 3 Methodology for Animal Manure Management and Biogas Use for Thermal Energy Generation

Version number(s)	1.0, 1.1
CCP approval status	Approved
Decision date (latest)	27/02/2025

Date	CCP conditions
27/02/2025	The methodology meets the relevant criteria where: i. the default fNRB value from the latest version of CDM Tool 33 is applied for emission reductions achieved on or before 31 December 2025, or ii. the source of data for fNRB in mitigation activities is from the MoFuSS model per CCP eligible programme–approved project documentation, and where: • fuel consumption is determined either by using a KPT or CCT or methodology default values with cross-checks on fuel savings, and • for charcoal projects, a direct charcoal emission factor (which may include production emissions) or a wood-to-charcoal conversion factor of four to one is used. **Reference:** https://icvcm.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/GS_M.Man_v1-1.1_2025-version-2.pdf * In case of any discrepancy in the text reproduced here, ICVCM's decision as published on its website supersedes the requirements outlined here. Please refer to the ICVCM website for the final text to ensure accuracy and completeness: https://icvcm.org/assessment-status/.

6.2.2 | **GS4GG – Requirements:** Projects applying this methodology and requesting CCP labelling of GSVERs shall:

i. Demonstrate compliance with the CCP conditions for GSVERs as specified in the "CCP conditions" section.

ii. Demonstrate compliance with the requirements outlined in this document.

iii. Not be eligible for CCP labelling of GSVERs for a retroactive monitoring period for more than two years.

6.2.3 | **GS4GG – Procedure:** To request CCP labelling for GSVERs, the project developer shall follow the applicable procedure outlined in Section 1.3 | above.

6.3 | Landfill Gas and Utilisation

E. CDM ACM0001 – Flaring or use of landfill gas

6.3.1 | The ICVCM decision on CDM ACM0001 – Flaring or use of landfill gas is summarised in Table 4.

Table 4 CDM ACM0001 – Flaring or use of landfill gas

Version number(s)	15, 16, 17, 18, 18.1, 19
CCP approval status	Approved
Decision date (latest)	30/05/2025

Date	**CCP conditions**
30/05/2025	The methodology meets the relevant criteria where: i. all landfill gas (LFG) project types do not generate electricity, and ii. LFG-to-electricity projects have a capacity of equal to or below 10 MWe. **Reference:** https://icvcm.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/GS_ACM0001_v15-19_2024-1.pdf * In case of any discrepancy in the text reproduced here, ICVCM's decision as published on its website supersedes the requirements outlined here. Please refer to the ICVCM website for the final text to ensure accuracy and completeness: https://icvcm.org/assessment-status/.

6.3.2 | **GS4GG – Requirements:** Projects applying ICVCM approved version of this methodology and requesting CCP labelling of GSVERs shall:

i. Demonstrate compliance with the CCP conditions for GSVERs as specified in the "CCP conditions" section.

ii. Apply one of the ICVCM-approved methodologies, including version number, for renewable energy generation component, where applicable.

iii. Demonstrate compliance with the requirements outlined in this document.

6.3.3 | **GS4GG – Procedure:** To request CCP labelling for GSVERs, the project developer shall follow the applicable procedure outlined in Section 1.3 | above.

F. CDM AMS-III.G. – Landfill methane recovery

6.3.4 | The ICVCM decision for this methodology is summarised in Table 5.

Table 5 CDM AMS-III.G. – Landfill methane recovery

Version number(s)	9, 10
CCP approval status	Approved
Decision date (latest)	30/05/2025 (V10), 20/07/2024 (V9)

Date	CCP conditions
30/05/2025 (V10), 20/07/2024 (V9)	The methodology meets the relevant criteria where: i. all LFG project types do not generate electricity, and ii. LFG-to-electricity projects have a capacity of equal to or below 10 MWe. **Reference:** https://icvcm.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/GS_ACM0001_v15-19_2024-1.pdf * In case of any discrepancy in the text reproduced here, ICVCM's decision as published on its website supersedes the requirements outlined here. Please refer to the ICVCM website for the final text to ensure accuracy and completeness: https://icvcm.org/assessment-status/.

6.3.5 | **GS4GG – Requirements:** Projects applying CMS AMS-III.G. – Landfill methane recovery and requesting CCP labelling of GSVERs shall:

i. Demonstrate compliance with the CCP conditions for GSVERs as specified in the "CCP conditions" section.

ii. Apply one of the ICVCM-approved methodology, including version number, for renewable energy generation component, where applicable.

iii. Demonstrate compliance with the requirements outlined in this document.

6.3.6 | **GS4GG – Procedure:** To request CCP labelling for GSVERs, the project developer shall follow the applicable procedure outlined in Section 1.3 | above.

Document Information

Version	Date	Description
1.0	24.04.2025	Initial adoption