



Gold Standard
for the Global Goals

GOLD STANDARD AUDITORS STUDY GUIDE

Version 1.1

PUBLISHED 19 April 2023

As a Gold Standard applicant or approved Validation/Verification Body (VVB), you are responsible for ensuring your staff members have the capacity and competence to conduct Gold Standard audits and provide VVB services related to Gold Standard (section 7.5 of the [VVB Requirements](#))

Please use the following resources to ensure your staff are up to date on the key Gold Standard requirements, especially those that differentiate Gold Standard for the Global Goals from other GHG standards.

MAIN DOCUMENTS

All auditors that need to demonstrate GS4GG competence, as a minimum, need to review the list of main documents below. Depending on the type of projects in your portfolio and approval scope, there may be other specific requirements that you need to be familiar with.

Type of document	Energy and Waste	Land Use and Forests	Applicability	Webinars available as of April 2023
		Principles and Requirements	All projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is Gold Standard for the Global Goals - GS4GG Fundamentals - Simplified Certification Approaches
Principles and Requirements		Safeguarding Principles and Requirements	All projects	
		Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements	All projects	Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement
		Programme of Activity Requirements	For programmes of activities only	
		Gender Equality Requirements and Guidelines	All projects	
Activity Requirements	Community Services Activity Requirements		Cookstove, safe water, household biogas, etc. projects	
	Renewable Energy Activity Requirements		Grid-connected renewable energy projects	
		Land Use and Forests Activity Requirements	Forestry and agriculture projects, soil organic carbon	

Type of document	Energy and Waste	Land Use and Forests	Applicability	Webinars available as of November 2022
Impact Quantification Methodologies	SDG Impact Tool		All projects	SDG Impact Tools
	The list of Gold Standard-specific impact methodologies		Including tools and templates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soil Organic Carbon Framework - Tutorial on methodology to estimate and verify ADALYs from cleaner household air
Product Requirements	The list of eligible CDM methodologies		Including associated tools (on the CDM website)	
	GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration Product Requirements		All projects	
Templates	Project Design Document		All projects, to be used by PDs. Correct use validated by the VVB.	
	Stakeholder Consultation Report			
	Monitoring Report			
	Transition Request Forms		For projects transitioning from CDM or other standards to Gold Standard	
	PoA Design Document, VPA Design Document		For Programmes of Activities, to be used by CMEs. Correct use validated by the VVB.	
Other	COVID-19 interim measures		For projects that deviated from the certification process due to COVID restrictions	
VVB Documents	Validation and Verification Standard		Auditing and reporting requirements for all projects	
	Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements		For stand-alone projects	
	Audit Techniques Template		For stand-alone projects	

MANDATORY EXAMINATION

It is the responsibility of the VVB to ensure that all relevant staff members pass the [Gold Standard for the Global Goals exam](#), administered by SustainCERT.

INFORMATIVE NEWSLETTERS

Please sign up for the [Gold Standard](#) and [SustainCERT](#) newsletters.

This is the best way to keep up to date with the latest news, including dates for live training sessions, rule updates and clarifications.

FURTHER RESOURCES

The Gold Standard for the Global Goals landing page provides the [latest technical updates](#) in anti-chronological order.

Please regularly check the [Rule Updates](#) and [Rule Clarification](#) sections.