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The Gold Standard
A/R Guidelines
Validated CO₂-Certificates

Applicable for	A/R Requirements
Valid since	August 2013
Version	Road-test (v0.9)
Author	The Gold Standard Foundation



Background

Land Use & Forest projects that seek finance often consider selling their expected CO₂-certification upfront.

The requirements below describe under which conditions validated CO₂-certificates from Gold Standard A/R projects can be issued and allocated to buyers.

Requirements

Gold Standard projects seeking to issue validated CO₂-certificates for their project are subject to the following requirements:

1. Validated CO₂-certificates shall be issued only from project areas that have scientifically robust carbon modeling as required by the methodology of the 'A/R Requirements'.
2. Validated CO₂-certificates shall be issued only from project areas where the auditor confirms, by certification, that trees have been planted, as outlined in the chapter '5.1 Applicability'.
3. Validated CO₂-certificates shall be issued only after a successful third-party certification of the project information.
4. Validated CO₂-certificates from the entire crediting period shall be issued.
5. 80% of the validated CO₂-certificates shall be issued into the projects registry account according to their expected vintage years (years of delivery). The remaining 20% shall be issued into *The Gold Standard Compliance Buffer*.
6. All transfers and assignments of validated CO₂-certificates shall be recorded in The Gold Standard Registry.
7. After third-party certification, where the effective emission reductions are verified, the validated CO₂-certificates are converted into verified CO₂-certificates, which are issued into The Gold Standard Registry.
8. Project owners shall transparently communicate the differences between validated and verified CO₂-certificates as described by the definitions of the 'A/R Requirements'.

History of this document

Version	Date	Nature of revision
0.9	August 2013	Initial publication