

RULE CLARIFICATION

DESIGN CERTIFICATION RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS: CDM PROJECTS TRANSITIONING TO GS4GG

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Related Documents

- [GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements](#)
- [Transition Request Form](#)

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SUMMARY

GS4GG follows crediting cycles that are different from CDM. For design certification renewal, GS4GG follows a 5-year cycle renewable twice, while CDM follows a 7-year cycle renewable twice or fixed 10 years. The project activities, PoAs/CPAs ("Projects" henceforth) transitioning from CDM or GSCER to GS4GG (GS VER) are required to follow the rules and requirements contained in the Annex B under the [GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements](#). This document provides further clarification regarding the application of GS4GG crediting period rules to CDM projects that are transitioning to GS4GG (GS VER) including the transitioning GSCER projects.

PROJECT CATEGORY: CDM and GSCER projects seeking transition to GS4GG (GS VER)

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The crediting period renewal requirements depend on the project's certification status in certification cycle at the time of submission of the preliminary review. The following table summarises four potential scenarios and their corresponding requirements for design certification renewal for CDM projects transitioning to GS4GG.

The scenarios include:

Scenario	Description	
RENEWABLE CREDITING PERIOD (7 YEARS RENEWAL TWICE)		
Scenario 1 - The project has been submitted for preliminary review in the 1st crediting period (CP) of renewable crediting cycle under CDM.	Sub-scenario 1.a - Project is in the first 5 years of CDM crediting period at the time of first submission to GS4GG (Preliminary review)	Sub-scenario 1.b - Project is in the last 2 years of CDM crediting period at the time of first submission to GS4GG (Preliminary review)
Scenario 2 - Project has been submitted for preliminary review in the 2nd crediting period of renewable crediting cycle under CDM	Sub-scenario 2.a - Project is in the first 3 years of CDM crediting period at the time of first submission to GS4GG (Preliminary review)	Sub-scenario 2.b - Project is in the last 4 years of CDM crediting period
Scenario 3 - Project is submitted for preliminary review in the 3rd Crediting period of renewable crediting cycle under CDM		
FIXED CREDITING PERIOD (10 YEARS)		
Scenario 4 - Project with fixed crediting period (10 years) is submitted for preliminary	Sub-scenario 4.a - Project is in the first 5 year of CDM crediting period at the time of first submission to GS4GG (Preliminary review)	Sub-scenario 4.b - Project is in the last 5 year of CDM crediting period at the time of first submission to GS4GG (Preliminary review)

Note:

1. The reference point for calculating the 5-year crediting cycle under GS4GG shall always remain the start date of crediting period under CDM.
2. In all cases, the Project Developer may choose early design certification renewal.
3. The total duration of the crediting period shall not exceed the maximum crediting period allowed under relevant GS4GG [activity requirements](#). It also includes the period that project or CPA has been issued emission reductions for under other standard. For details please refer to section 6.3 of Annex B under [GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements](#)

SCENARIO 1

The project has been submitted for preliminary review in the 1st crediting period (CP) of renewable crediting cycle under CDM.

Sub scenario	Design certification renewal requirements under GS4GG
1.a Project is in the first 5 years of CDM crediting period at the time of first submission to GS4GG (Preliminary review)	<p>Timing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submit the design certification renewal request to the Gold Standard's certification body before the end of the year 5 of the CDM crediting period
	<p>Methodology version</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The latest methodology version available at the time of design certification renewal submission under GS4GG shall be applied. - Emission reductions (GSVERs) up to end of year 5 (in 1st CP under CDM) may be issued with registered CDM methodology version. - The latest methodology version may be applied on voluntary basis for 1st CP under CDM (updated at the time of design review or performance review as needed).
	<p>Combining requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design certification renewal request may be submitted before end of the year 5 of CP1 with design review and/or performance review. - The outcome of the design certification renewal shall be confirmed only after successful completion of design review and/or performance review, as applicable.

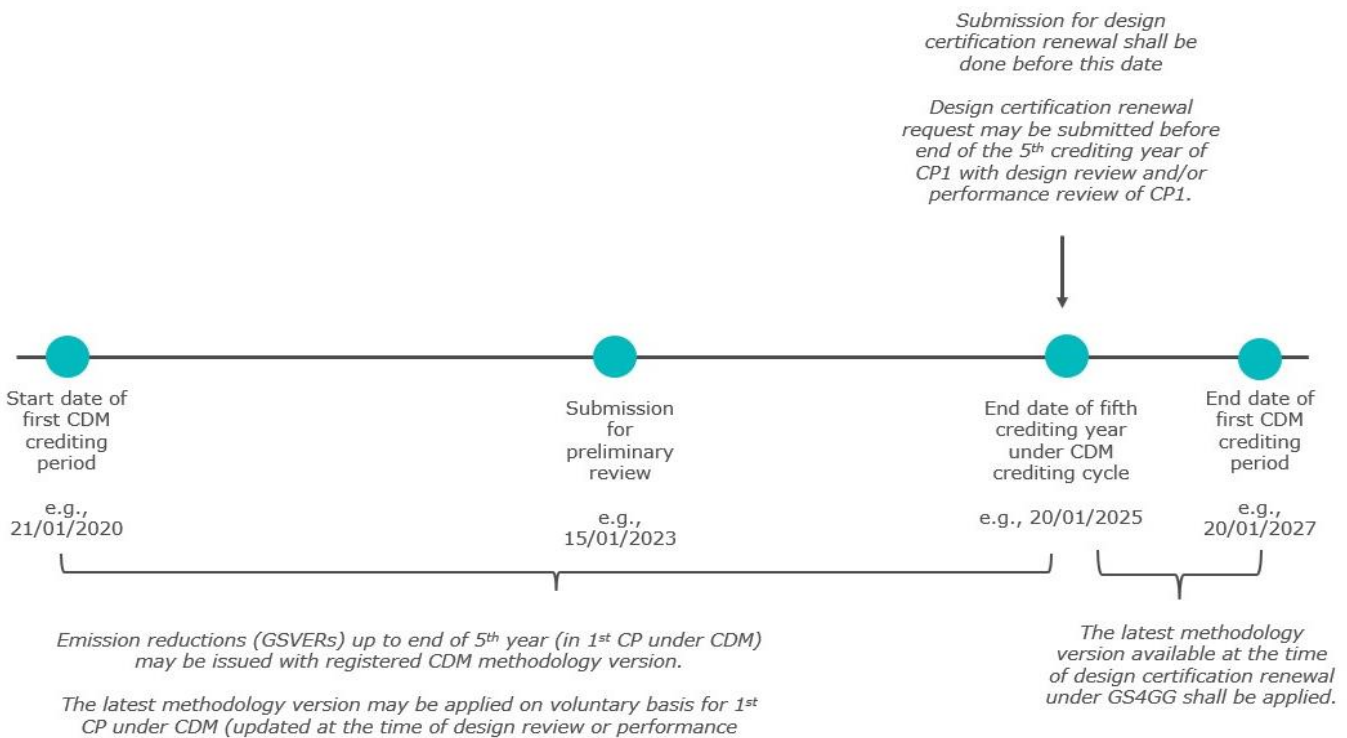


Figure 1 - A diagrammatic example of the sub-scenario 1.a. and sub-scenario 4.a (click on the [picture to download](#) a larger one)

Sub scenario	Design certification renewal requirements under GS4GG	
<p>1.b Project is in the last 2 years of CDM crediting period at the time of first submission to GS4GG (Preliminary review)</p>	Timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The design certification renewal request shall be submitted within 6 months from the date of transition review completion or before the end date of year 7 under CDM crediting cycle, whichever is earlier. Transition review completion refers to the date of closure of all review findings raised by certification body as part of design review. - The renewed crediting period under GS4GG will end at the year 10 (i.e., CDM crediting year) to align with the 5-year crediting cycle.
	Methodology version	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The latest methodology version available at the time of design certification renewal submission under GS4GG shall be applied. - Shall claim credits with new version of methodology after the date of renewal confirmation. For period before the date of renewal confirmation, may claim VERs with the version registered with CDM. - If the transition design review is not completed until the end of the 7th year of the CDM crediting cycle, the project may issue GSVERs using the version of the methodology registered with CDM until the end date of the CDM crediting cycle (CDM CP1). However, the project shall, at minimum, demonstrate that VVB has been engaged for renewal of crediting period. - The clause for delay in submission of renewal request beyond the end of year 7 of crediting period as mandated by the Principles and Requirements shall apply to any delay. - Voluntary use of latest methodology version is always allowed.
	Combining requests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - may submit a combined request for design certification renewal with design review and/or performance review for period before end of the year 7 crediting year. - outcome of the design certification renewal shall depend on successful completion of design review and/or performance review.

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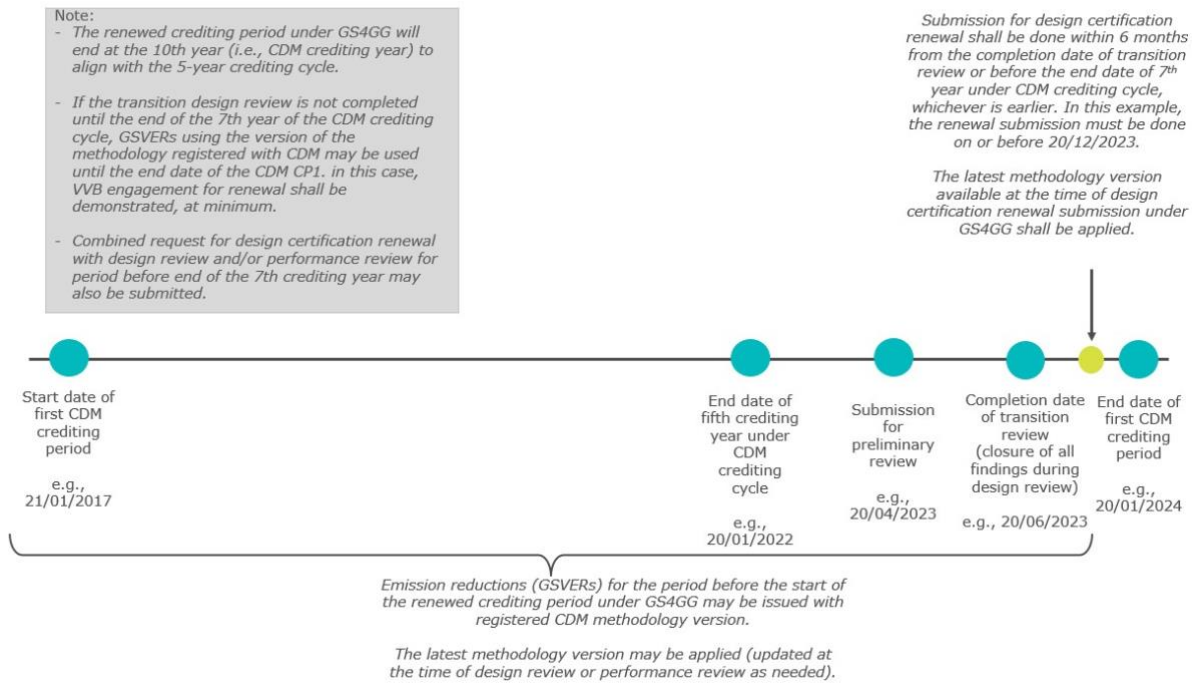


Figure 2: A diagrammatic example of the scenario 1.b.

(click on the [picture to download](#) a larger one)

SCENARIO 2

Project has been submitted for preliminary review in the 2nd crediting period of renewable crediting cycle under CDM

Sub scenario		Design certification renewal request submission under GS4GG
<p>2.a</p> <p>Project is in the first 3 years of CDM crediting period at the time of first submission to GS4GG (Preliminary review)</p>	Timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The design certification renewal request must be submitted to the certification body before the end of year 10 of CDM crediting period
	Methodology version	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The latest methodology version available at the time of design certification renewal submission under GS4GG shall be applied. - The emission reductions (GSVERs) up to end of year 10 in the CDM crediting cycle may be issued with registered CDM methodology version. - The latest methodology version may be applied on voluntary basis (updated at the time of design review or performance review as needed)
	Combining request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design certification renewal request may be submitted with design review and/or performance review before end of the year 10 crediting year under CDM crediting cycle. - outcome of the design certification renewal shall be confirmed only after successful completion of design review and/or performance review, as applicable.

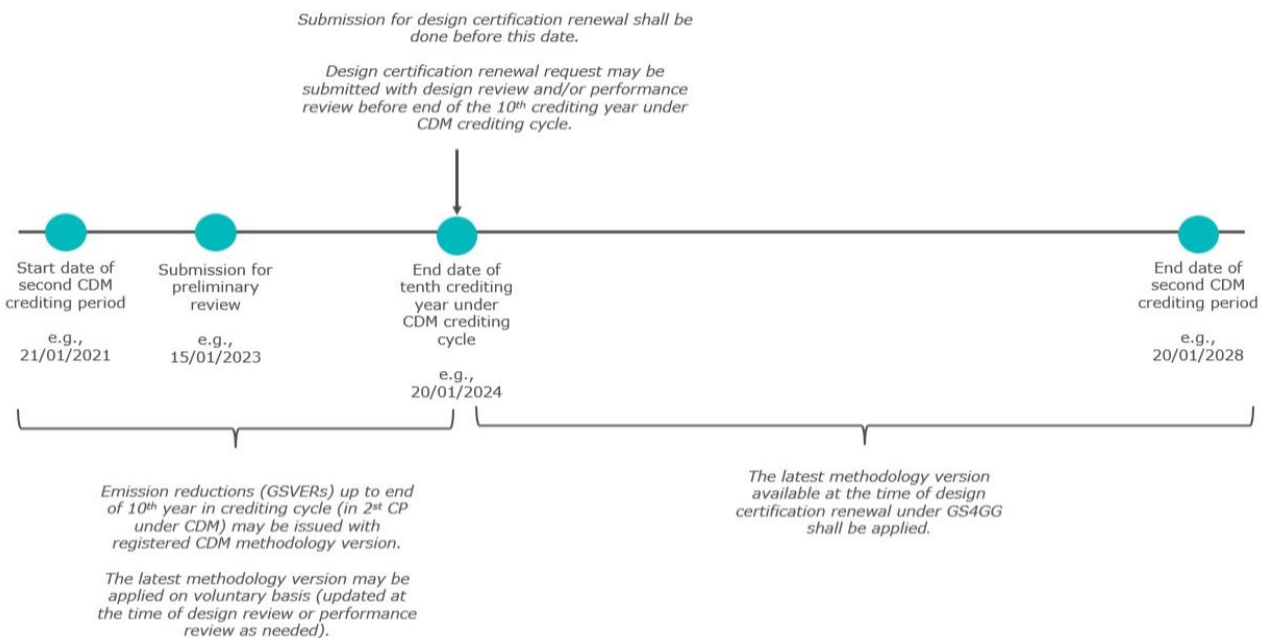


Figure 3: A diagrammatic example of sub-scenario 2.a

(click on the [picture to download](#) a larger one)

Sub scenario - Design certification renewal request submission under GS4GG		
<p>2.b</p> <p>Project is in the last 4 years of CDM crediting period</p>	<p>Timing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The design certification renewal request must be submitted within 6 months from the date of transition review completion or before the end date of year 14 year under CDM crediting cycle, whichever is earlier. Transition review completion refers to the date of closure of all review findings raised by certification body as part of design review. - The renewed crediting period under GS4GG shall end at the year 15 of CDM crediting period to align with 5 year crediting cycle.
	<p>Methodology version</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - should the design review be not completed until the end of year 14 of CDM crediting cycle, the project may issue GSVERs with version of methodology registered with CDM until the end date of year 14 of CDM crediting cycle. However, the project shall, at minimum, demonstrate that VVB has been engaged for renewal of crediting period. - the methodology version shall be updated as applicable for design certification renewal under GS4GG as soon as possible. The clause for delay in renewal as mandated by the Principles and Requirements shall apply to any delay. <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if the PD submits a combined request for design review and design certification renewal (may also add performance review for period before the current year in the certification cycle) then they may claim VERs for a period of 2 years before the date of first submission (transition request) using the methodology version registered with CDM. - Shall claim credits with new version of methodology after the date of renewal confirmation. For period before the date of renewal confirmation, may claim VERs with the version registered with CDM. - Voluntary use of latest methodology version is always allowed
	<p>Combining request</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - may submit a combined request for design certification renewal with design review and/or performance review for period before end of the current year in the crediting period. - outcome of the design certification renewal shall depend on successful completion of design review and/or performance review.

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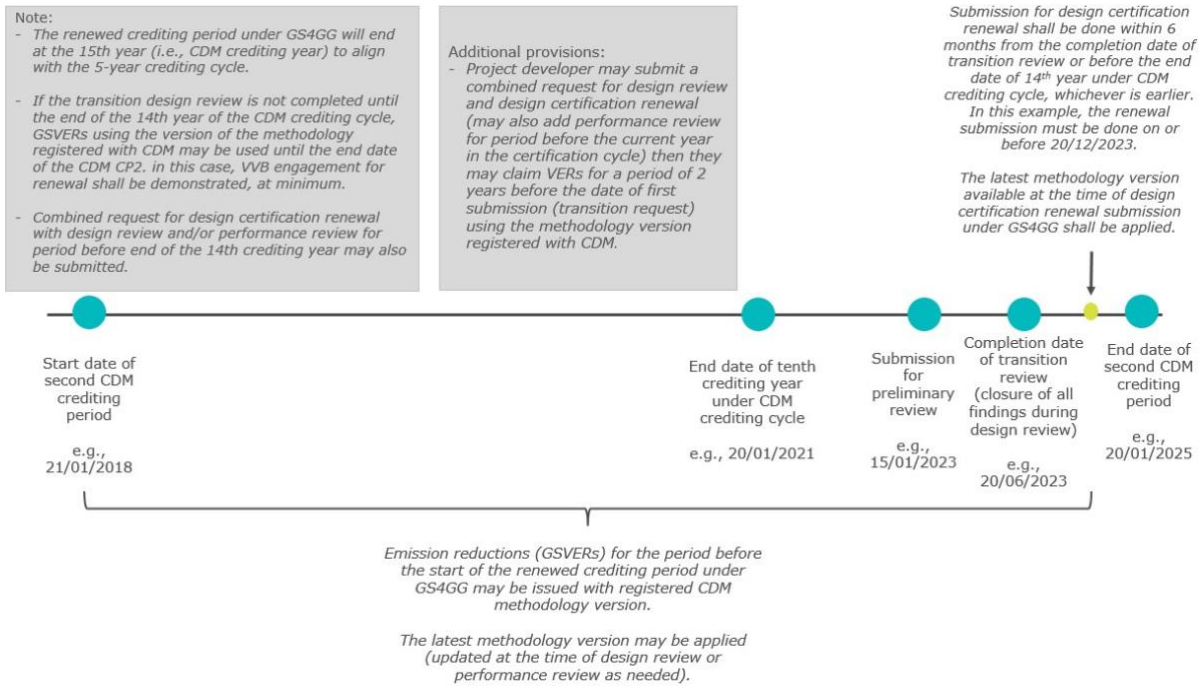


Figure 4: A diagrammatic example of the scenario 2.b
(click on the [picture to download](#) a larger one)

SCENARIO 3

Project is submitted for preliminary review in the 3rd Crediting period of renewable crediting cycle under CDM

Such projects are expected to be eligible for issuance of GSVERs for 1st year of crediting under CP3, thus are recommended not to pursue transition considering the eligibility for limited period.

SCENARIO 4

Project with fixed crediting period (10 years) is submitted for preliminary review

Sub scenario	Design Certification Renewal Requirements under GS4GG		
4.a Project is in the first 5 year of CDM crediting period at the time of first submission to GS4GG (Preliminary review)	Timing	-	Same as above for Project in the first 5 years of CDM (1 st crediting period)
	Methodology	-	Same as above for Project in the first 5 years of CDM (1 st crediting period)
	Combining requests	-	Same as above for Project is in the first 5 years of CDM (1 st crediting period)

Sub scenario	Design Certification Renewal Requirements under GS4GG		
4.b Project is in the last 5 year of CDM crediting period at the time of first submission to GS4GG (Preliminary review)	Timing	-	Design certification renewal is not required
	Methodology	-	may complete transition and may claim GSVERs till the end of year 10 with version of methodology registered with CDM
	Combining requests	-	Not applicable

DOCUMENT VERSION

Version	Date	Description
1.0	02/06/2023	Initial version