

The Gold Standard for Global Goals [Principles & Requirements>>](#) and [Programme of Activity Requirements>>](#) require to report to Gold Standard upon identification on erroneous inclusion and follow up action. The following update provides further clarification on definition of Erroneous Inclusion and requirements for follow up actions.

Definition

Erroneous Inclusion: An Erroneous Inclusion occurs where a non-conformity is identified against an activity that is part of a wider group certification, for example a Programme of Activities (PoA). The implication of the non-conformity is that the activity should not have been successfully included within the Certification due to the non-conformity and that there may be systemic issues with other activities included. An Erroneous Inclusion may be identified by Gold Standard or the Gold Standard VVB, typically during Verification or Performance Review where a Sample-based approach is employed.

Systemic Non-conformity: A non-conformity that has been identified as part of the Verification of activities under a PoA that may be reasonably assumed to arise in other included activities that have not been verified (for example due to a Sample-based approach).

Non-systemic Non-conformity: A non-systemic non-conformity is one that can be demonstrated to have occurred due to the particular circumstances of the activity that does not apply to other activities in the Sample.

Scope: Applicable to Group or Sample-based Verifications and Certifications.

Requirements:

- When an Erroneous Inclusion is identified:
 - Activities that have been verified, including a site visit, can proceed to Performance Certification and Issuance as appropriate.
 - Activities of the same type that have not been verified, including a site visit (for example, due to the application of a Sample-based approach) shall remain on hold subject to the closure of the non-conformity by Gold Standard, as per Non-conformity Requirements, section 6.0 of the Gold Standard for Global Goals Principles & Requirements.
- Where the Erroneous Inclusion does not represent a systemic failure across the whole group of activities, then all other activities that have not actually been verified due to the choice of a Sample-based approach Verification shall also proceed to Performance Certification and Issuance as appropriate.
- Where the Erroneous Inclusion represents a systemic non-conformity, indicating risks with other activities that have not actually been verified due to the choice of a sampling Verification, then all such activities shall also be put on hold until the issue is resolved to the satisfaction of Gold Standard. The assessment by Gold Standard shall be as per the Non-conformity Requirements, section 6.0 of the Gold Standard for Global Goals Principles & Requirements.

Specific Requirements for Funds applying the Sustainable Urban Development Context Requirements:

In the case of fund certification, the outcomes/ impacts at fund level can be certified excluding contribution from Erroneous Inclusions.

Related Documents:

Principles & Requirements	23.10.2019	1.2
Programme of Activity Requirements	23.10.2019	1.2