



Gold Standard[®]
for the Global Goals

RULE CLARIFICATION

TRANSITION-REQUIREMENTS-APPLICABILITY

Publication Date 05.05.2022

Related Documents

- [Transition Requirements](#) v.2.0
- [Principles and Requirements](#) v.1.2

Contact Details

The Gold Standard Foundation
International Environment House 2

Chemin de Balexert 7-9

1219 Châtelaine Geneva, Switzerland

Tel +41 22 788 70 80

Email help@goldstandard.org

SUMMARY

In August 2021, Gold Standard released a rule update of the GS4GG [Transition Requirements](#) for projects that were under the listing or validation process at the time of the launch of Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG) (01/07/2017). As per the rule update, such projects could request registration/design review with version of the standard applied during preliminary review before 23/11/2021. Further clarifications and/or deviations from the rule update were requested for projects listed under previous versions of the Gold Standard before or after the publication of GS4GG (01/07/2017). It appears that the previous rule update (section 2.1.4 of the [Transition Requirements](#)) does not capture all project instances, as summarised in this document, and further clarification is needed for project developers and VVBs.

This rule update provides further clarity, a new timeline and associated requirements for projects that were listed under GSV2.2 (or previous versions) before or after the publication of GS4GG and were not addressed via the recent [Transition Requirements](#) rule update.

RULE CLARIFICATION

1| GS4GG REQUIREMENT AND APPLICABILITY TO PROJECTS LISTED UNDER PREVIOUS VERSION OF STANDARDS

1.1 | Background

1.1.1 | The GS4GG [Transition Requirements](#) require projects, irrespective of the version of the Standard with which they were registered, to transition to GS4GG. Several projects that were listed with previous versions of the standards before or after GS4GG publication have therefore proactively opted for validation/design review under GS4GG. However, unlike GS4GG, under Gold Standard Version 2.2 and previous versions of the Gold Standard, there was no time limitation for completion of validation (defined as the date of submission of the Validation Report by the VVB).

1.1.2 | Clarification is requested on whether:

1.1.2.1 | projects that had “Listed status” under a previous version of the Standard and proactively opted to undergo validation/design certification under GS4GG are required to comply with the GS4GG validation completion timeline.

1.1.2.2 | recent Transition Requirements released in August 2021 that introduced a requirement to complete the validation by 23/11/2021 is applicable to such projects.

1.2 | Clarification

1.2.1 | A project seeking validation/design review under GS4GG must follow para 5.1.1. b & 5.1.16 of [Principles and Requirements](#). However, if the project achieved listed status with a previous version of the standard and opted for voluntary validation/design review against GS4GG, an exemption may be granted to complete the validation with GS4GG.

1.2.2 | The projects that achieved “listed status” with Gold Standard Version 2.2 and previous versions of the standard and started the validation with GS4GG may submit the project for design review no later than 23/11/2022. Such projects shall:

1.2.2.1 | provide evidence to VVB to confirm that the validation contract with VVB was signed before 23/11/2021 to undergo validation as GS4GG projects.

1.2.2.2 | demonstrate compliance with the requirements mentioned in section 3.1.12. b of version 2.0 of the [Transition Requirements](#).

1.2.3 | After 23/11/2022, such projects are not eligible to request design review with GS4GG or any previous version of Gold Standard.

2| THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF LISTING FOR PROJECTS THAT VOLUNTARILY TRANSITION TO GS4GG DURING VALIDATION

2.1 | Background

2.1.1 | Under Gold Standard, the listing date of the project is the date of successful closure of preliminary review. However, on occasions, after the preliminary review closure, a confirmation on the SustainCERT app to display the project as listed was needed from the project developer, and the listing dates did not get captured correctly on the GS registry. In such cases, the preliminary review of the projects was successfully closed, however, the listed status could not be confirmed on the GS registry. Therefore, the applicability of sections 5.1.1. b and 5.1.16 of the [Principles and Requirements](#) was not certain to project developers.

2.1.2 | Clarification is requested on whether:

2.1.2.1 | listing date is the preliminary review closure date or date as appearing on the GS registry.

2.1.2.2 | the 2-year validation timeline as per sections 5.1.1.b and 5.1.16 of the [Principles and Requirements](#) applies from the date of review closure date or from the date as appearing on the GS registry.

2.2 | Clarification

2.2.1 | The listing date of the project is the date of successful closure of preliminary review. A project seeking validation/design review under GS4GG must follow sections 5.1.1. b and 5.1.16 of the [Principles and Requirements](#). However, the projects facing the situation mentioned in section 2.1.1 | above could have miscalculated the validation timeline as the correct listing date did not appear on the Gold Standard Impact Registry.

2.2.2 | An exemption is granted to such projects to complete the validation with GS4GG and submit a design review request no later than 23/11/2022. Such project shall:

2.2.2.1 | provide evidence to VVB to confirm that there is an inconsistency in the listing date and preliminary review closure date. The evidence could include any communication with SustainCERT/The Gold Standard Foundation in this regard.

2.2.2.2 | demonstrate compliance with the requirements mentioned in section 3.1.12. b of the [Transition Requirements](#).

2.2.3 | After 23/11/2022, for such projects the listing date i.e., preliminary review closure date will be treated as the effective listing date and thus such projects shall not be eligible to request design review.

3| APPLICABILITY OF TRANSITION DEADLINE OF 23/11/2021 TO PROJECTS LISTED UNDER A PREVIOUS VERSION OF THE GOLD STANDARD AFTER 01/07/2017

3.1 | Background

- 3.1.1 | Version 2.0 of the [Transition Requirements](#), section 2.1.4, states that projects that were under the listing or validation process under a previous version of the Gold Standard at the time of launch of GS4GG (01/07/2017) can request registration/design review with the applied previous version of the Gold Standard before 23/11/2021.
- 3.1.2 | After the publication of GS4GG (01/07/2017), new project/ PoA submission with GS V2.2 was allowed, and such projects were expected to complete the validation and registration with the version of the standard applied at the time of listing. Therefore, some projects were submitted after 01/07/2017 under GSV2.2 of the Gold Standard.
- 3.1.3 | Clarification is requested on whether the transition deadline of 23/11/2021 applies for projects submitted for preliminary review after 01/07/2017 with previous versions of the Gold Standard.

3.2 | Clarification:

- 3.2.1 | The projects applying the previous version of the standard and submitted for preliminary review after 01/07/2017 were not covered under section 2.1.4 of the version 2.0 of [Transition Requirements](#) updates released on 16/08/2021.
- 3.2.2 | An exemption is granted to such projects facing the situation outlined in section 3.1.2 | above to complete the validation with GS4GG and submit the design review request (including combined validation/ verification) no later than 23/11/2022. Such projects shall:
- 3.2.2.1 | be submitted for preliminary review after 01/07/2017 and listed with a previous version of the Gold Standard
- 3.2.2.2 | provide evidence to VVB to confirm that they have communicated or submitted a clarification/deviation to Gold Standard/SustainCERT regarding the applicability of section 2.1.4 of the [Transition Requirements](#) timeline **between 16/08/2021 and 01/12/2021** or signed a validation contract with a VVB **before 01/12/2021**.
- 3.2.2.3 | demonstrate compliance with the requirements mentioned in section 3.1.12. b of version 2.0 of the [Transition Requirements](#).

4| REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGN REVIEW SUBMISSION

4.1.1 | Projects willing to apply for the exemption under Sections 1, 2, and/or 3 above shall be submitted for design review under GS4GG no later than 23/11/2022. The submission can only be considered complete when a positive final Validation Report has been submitted for Gold Standard Review (or in the case of Internal Validation, a project is successfully validated), AND the [required fee](#) is paid by the Project Developer no later than 23/11/2022.

5| FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

5.1.1 | Please note that the exemption is meant as an opportunity for projects that experienced regulatory ambiguity to demonstrate compliance with the standard requirements. Approval of the exemption does not guarantee success in the validation, design review, or any further certification process.

5.1.2 | Projects applying these exemptions shall adhere to and demonstrate compliance during validation and design review with all other GS4GG requirements, including [Transition Requirements](#).

5.1.3 | For the projects applying the exemptions mentioned above, the validating VVB shall ensure that the Project:

5.1.3.1 | demonstrates compliance by providing evidence as stated above in sections 1, 2, and/or 3, as applicable.

5.1.3.2 | demonstrates compliance with the requirements mentioned in para 3.1.12. b of version 2.0 of the [Transition Requirements](#) on continuing and real actions to secure design certification. VVBs shall only consider as appropriate documentary evidence significant milestones that demonstrate:

- material progress towards Gold Standard validation and/or
- financial commitment and/or
- resource allocation

5.1.3.3 | Follows section 5.1.37 of version 1.2 of the [Principles and Requirements](#) on retroactive crediting period.

5.1.4 | For any further questions, please contact help@goldstandard.org.