



**Gold Standard**<sup>®</sup>  
for the Global Goals

## RULE CLARIFICATION

### PUBLIC DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR PROJECT DOCUMENTATION

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**PUBLICATION DATE** 11/10/2023 (V1.1), 16/08/2021 (V1.0)

### RELATED DOCUMENTS

– [GS PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS v.1.2](#)

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## BACKGROUND

This document provides clarification on GS4GG [Principles and Requirements](#), Section 6. Project Documentation and Technical Requirements - specifying the project information and documents (for each certification stage) that shall be made publicly and transparently available through the Gold Standard Registry. The document further prescribes the approach for treating confidential information in project documents required to be made public and outlines the procedure to submit request for missing project document/information.

## RULE CLARIFICATION

### CLARIFICATION ON PUBLIC DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

The GS4GG [Principles and Requirements](#) document in paragraph 6.1.2(b) states that all Project Documentation, **except confidential information**, shall be made publicly available through the [Impact Registry](#). This includes project documents for each certification stage that shall be made publicly and transparently available through the GS Registry.

Through this Rule Clarification, Gold Standard provides further guidance to SustainCERT, Validation/Verification Bodies (VVBs), project developers and coordinating/managing entities (CMEs) on specific project information and documents (for each certification stage) that shall be made publicly and transparently available and prescribes the approach for treating confidential information in project documents required to be made public.

#### 1.1 | Project documents/information to be made public

1.1.1 | Final versions of the following project-related information and documents shall be made publicly available on the Gold Standard Impact Registry:

- i. Stakeholder Consultation Report
- ii. Safeguarding assessment
- iii. PDD/PoA-DD and VPA-DDs, Ex-ante emission reduction and other impacts spreadsheets
- iv. Monitoring Reports, ex-post emission reduction and other impacts spreadsheets
- v. IRR/financial analysis spreadsheet, where additionality is justified applying financial additionality
- vi. Validation and Verification Reports, including for microscale projects/PoAs/VPAs that are audited by SustainCERT
- vii. Any other relevant project documents deemed necessary by SustainCERT/VVB to ensure transparency.

1.1.2 | Gold Standard acknowledges that commercially or personal security sensitive and proprietary information including end users' details shall be considered confidential and may be present in some project documents (e.g., Project Design Documents (PDD), Monitoring Report, Emission Reductions spreadsheets, IRR spreadsheets, investment/finance-related supporting documents). **Such information shall be deemed confidential and not be publicly disclosed following the process outlined in 1.2 below.**

1.1.3 | Notwithstanding the paragraph 1.1.2 above, information used to carry out the following actions **shall not be deemed confidential and be publicly disclosed**:

- i. Demonstrate project additionality
- ii. Describe the application of the selected methodologies, standardised baselines, and other methodological regulations
- iii. Support Sustainable Development Impacts and Safeguarding Principles assessment

In addition, data, values and formulae included in electronic spreadsheets provided shall be made publicly accessible and verifiable.

## **1.2 | Treatment of confidential information**

1.2.1 | Gold Standard requires safeguarding of project developers interests without compromising the standard's principles, rigour and assurance. Accordingly, the following approach shall be used for treating confidential information in project documents required to be made public. If any project document contains confidential information, the project developer/CME shall submit the document to Gold Standard/SustainCERT in two versions:

- i. A version in which all parts containing confidential information are redacted (e.g., by covering confidential information with black ink and converting to pdf or protecting the excel file). This version is publicly available on the Impact Registry without displaying confidential information.
- ii. A version containing all information that is to be treated confidentially by all relevant parties who operate under a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) – for example, VVBs; SustainCERT; Gold Standard Secretariat; Gold Standard Technical Advisory Committee (TAC); Gold Standard Board; external experts requested to consider such documents in support of the work of the Gold Standard Secretariat.

1.2.2 | Gold Standard shall respect any host country legislation regarding data sharing policy and shall not make a document public if the project developer/CME can clearly provide references to the host country regulation(s).

## **1.3 | Request for missing information/document**

1.3.1 | To request missing project information/document from the website and/or registry, the information may be requested by sending a request to [help@goldstandard.org](mailto:help@goldstandard.org).

1.3.2 | The Secretariat shall review the request and assess if the information can be provided without violating confidentiality, proprietary, privacy, or data protection restrictions.

**RULE CLARIFICATION-Public disclosure requirements for Projects documentation**

- a. If the information can be provided, the Secretariat shall make it public and inform the requester.
- b. If the information cannot be provided due to confidentiality, proprietary, privacy, or data protection restrictions, the Secretariat shall inform the requester.

1.3.3 | The Secretariat shall periodically review the requests for missing information to identify trends or patterns and take appropriate action to address any systemic issue.

**DOCUMENT HISTORY**

Release date	Summary of changes
11/10/2023	- Procedure to request missing project information/document
16/08/2021	- Clarification on public disclosure requirements for project documentation