

Rule Update:

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY POAS (RU 2020 AR - RE V1.2)

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1. Background:

In October 2019, Gold Standard for Global Goals introduced new eligibility requirements for grid-connected renewable energy projects. According to [RENEWABLE ENERGY ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS, Version 1.2, paragraph 2.1.3](#);

Grid-connected¹ Renewable Energy projects - unless located in a Least Developed Country (LDC), Small Island Developing State (SIDS) or a Land Locked Developing Country (LLDC) - shall be deemed ineligible² for the issuance of Gold Standard Verified Emission Reductions (GS-VERs) or Gold Standard labels for Certified Emission Reductions (GS-CERs);

- (a) If a Renewable Energy project is connected to national or a regional grid and located in an Upper Middle- and High-Income Country³, OR*
- (b) If a project is located in a country where the penetration level of the proposed Renewable Energy Technology type is greater than 5%⁴ of the total grid installed capacity, at the time of the first submissions (preliminary review) to Gold Standard*

*This eligibility clause will come into effect from **24 Jan 2020**. Projects submitted for preliminary review after this date shall demonstrate compliance with this eligibility requirement.*

¹ Renewable Energy project supplying electricity to mini-grid are exempted from this eligibility requirements and shall follow Gold Standard Community Services Activity Requirements to issue GS-VER or GS-CERs.

² This outcome only affects the eligibility of projects issuing GS-VERs or GS-CERs, projects applying other pathways (for example Gold Standard Renewable Energy Labels) are not affected.

³ Refer to the latest country classification by income available at <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519>

⁴ The penetration rate is the ratio of installed capacity of proposed renewable technology in the grid to total installed capacity of the grid in the host country or region. The 5% threshold will be periodically reviewed and updated, potentially with specific tools and approaches for different technologies/regions in future. The default position, in the absence of such approaches, shall be 5%.

This rule update is to define the new eligibility requirements specifically for Programme of Activities (PoAs) with Voluntary Project Activities (VPAs)/Component Project Activities (CPAs) involving renewable energy technologies.

2. Rule clarification:

The new eligibility requirements, as defined in [Renewable Energy Activity Requirements, paragraph 2.1.3](#), sets the following requirements for PoAs;

a. Registered PoAs:

- A registered PoA can continue including new VPAs/CPAs as per the approved inclusion criteria in the registered PoA-Design Document (i.e. against the previous RE eligibility rules) until the next renewal of the PoA. At that time, the inclusion criteria for new VPAs/CPAs must be updated in line with the new eligibility rules as defined in [RE activity requirements, paragraph 2.1.3](#)
- Any new VPAs/CPAs included as per the previous rules can continue till the end of their respective maximum allowed crediting period.
- Registered PoAs are not allowed to extend the boundary of the registered PoA to include new countries or expand the scope to include new renewable technology types until next PoA renewal. The PoAs that are in line with the new eligibility rules can extend the boundary of the registered PoA to include new countries or expand the scope to include new renewable technology types.

b. Validated and/or listed PoAs:

- Already validated and/or listed PoAs need to complete validation and submit the request for registration by 24 October 2020, if they do not wish to apply the new RE eligibility rules. The PoA boundary defined and technology types included at the time of listing must remain unchanged during validation. At the time of the next renewal of the PoA, the criteria for inclusion of new VPAs/CPAs shall be updated in line with the new eligibility rules as defined in [RE activity requirements, paragraph 2.1.3](#).
- New VPAs/CPAs included as per the previous rules can continue till the end of their respective maximum allowed crediting period.
- PoAs submitted for registration after 24 October 2020 shall define the VPAs/CPAs inclusion criteria in line with the new [RE activity requirements, paragraph 2.1.3](#)

c. New PoAs:

- PoAs submitted for listing after the announcement was released, on 24 October 2019, shall define the VPAs/CPAs inclusion criteria in line with the new [RE activity requirements, paragraph 2.1.3](#)

3. Related documents:

Renewable Energy Activity Requirements	23.10.2019	Version 1.2
Programme of Activity Requirements	23.10.2019	1.2