

**RULE UPDATE**

# MONITORING AND VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

PUBLICATION DATE **03.07.2020**

ENTRY INTO FORCE **03.10.2020**

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [Programme of Activities \(PoAs\) Requirements](#) V 1.2 and previous versions
- [GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration Product Requirements](#) V1.2 and previous versions

## BACKGROUND

This rule update introduces changes to Gold Standard for the Global Goals [Programme of Activities \(PoAs\) Requirements](#) with regards to following;

- *Requirements for micro-PoA verification, i.e., a microscale VPA must be subjected to an Objective Observer appraisal and site visit at least once within three years of date of VPA inclusion or start of crediting period, whichever is later. ([Annex A Microscale Programme of Activity Requirements V1.2, paragraph 9.1.2](#))*
- *Sampling verification approach is allowed for Gold Standard PoAs. When sampling verification is approved at time of Design Certification, VVBs can select activities for verification as per the statistically sound sampling plan defined in the PoA Design Document, conduct site visits for all selected activities and deliver a verification report to Gold Standard. ([Programme of Activity Requirements V1.2, paragraph 12.1.22 & 12.1.23](#))*

This rule update will affect the following for existing and future PoAs, VPAs/CPAs, microscale PoA and its VPAs as explained in detail in next section –

- Verification requirements for PoA including microscale PoA (mPOAs) and its VPAs
- Cross-VPA monitoring requirements of PoAs

This rule update is also applicable to all previous versions of the PoA Requirements.

## 1 | RULE UPDATE

### 1.1 | Verification Requirements - Programme of Activities

1.1.1 | This rule updates introduce the following changes for PoAs and its VPAs/CPAs verification requirements:

- i. **Sampling Verification:** Gold Standard PoAs (including micro-PoAs) shall not be allowed to apply Sampling verification.
- ii. **Cross – VPAs Verification:** All Gold Standard PoAs will be required to either follow systematic verification of their VPAs or apply cross VPA/CPA verification in line with the latest version of CDM guideline – [Guidelines for sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programme of activities](#).

### 1.2 | Verification Requirements - Micro Programme of activities

1.2.1 | This rule updates introduces following options and requirements for micro – PoA and its VPAs verification:

- i. **Systematic Verification:** Each mVPA of a microscale POA shall be subject to OO/VVB appraisal and site-visit at least once in each crediting cycle of the mVPA (5 or 7 year crediting cycle, as applicable). The first site visit shall be conducted within two years of date of VPA inclusion or the start of crediting period of VPA, whichever is later.
- ii. **Cross-VPAs verification:**
  - a. **mPoAs with more than 10 registered mVPAs** – mVPAs shall be subject to OO/VVB appraisal and site-visit at each verification event. The first site visit shall be conducted within two years of date of PoA Design Certification or the start of crediting period of PoA, whichever is later.
  - b. **mPoAs with less than 10 registered mVPAs** – mVPAs shall be subject to OO/VVB appraisal and site visit at each verification event until all mVPAs are visited at least once in each crediting cycle of the VPA (5 or 7 year crediting cycle, as applicable). The first site visit shall be conducted within two years of date of mPoA Design Certification or the start of the crediting period of PoA, whichever is later. If the number of registered mVPAs exceeds more than 10 at any given point of time in mPoA crediting cycle, mVPAs shall be

subject to OO/VVB appraisal and site visit at each subsequent verification event.

1.2.2 | The approach followed for verification shall be consistent with the monitoring approach. If the VPAs are systematically monitored, the verification shall also be carried out systematically for each VPA. When VPAs choose cross-VPA monitoring, they shall undergo cross-VPA verification.

### **1.3 | Cross-VPAs Monitoring of Programme of Activities and microscale PoA**

1.3.1 | PoAs including microscale PoAs shall ensure that the following requirements are met to be eligible for cross-VPA monitoring -

- i. All VPAs that are applying cross-VPA monitoring shall have the same monitoring period, i.e., same end date of the monitoring period.
- ii. VPAs that are part of the monitoring group shall demonstrate that VPAs are homogeneous relative to the parameters of interest.
- iii. If VPAs are not homogeneous, the heterogeneity concerning the monitoring parameters of interest across all VPAs of the group shall be duly considered and accounted for by applying an appropriate sampling approach, e.g., stratified sampling or multi-stage sampling.

For further guidance on how to demonstrate homogeneity to apply single sampling plan for cross VPAs monitoring and accounting heterogeneity, refer to *Appendix 2. Best practice examples for a single sampling plan for a homogeneous PoA* & *Appendix 3 Best practice examples for a single sampling plan for a heterogeneous PoA using a stratified sampling approach* of CDM guideline – [Guidelines for sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programme of activities](#).

## **2 | Entry into force**

1.3.2 | This rule update enters into force on 3/10/2020 and will apply to all PoAs and microscale PoAs including those already registered under Gold Standard for the Global Goals or previous versions of the Gold Standard. PoAs that shall be required to change their monitoring approach in line with this Rule update, shall do so by submitting a revised PoA-DD prior to or with the next issuance request for the PoA.

1.1.1 | PoAs that have carried out verification using a sampling based approach (that has been withdrawn in these guidelines) or using cross-VPAs approach for monitoring/verification without addressing homogeneity requirements as mentioned above in clause 1.3.1, shall start the verification process as per [paragraph 5.1.25 of Principles and Requirements](#) by the date mentioned in clause 2.1.1 above, otherwise they would be required to follow updated requirements for monitoring/verification as mentioned in this document. If they can start verification within the specified date, corresponding flexibilities in verification approach will be allowed.