

## **RULE UPDATE:**

### **VPA/CPA INCLUSION REQUIREMENTS (RU 2020 P&R - PAR V1.2)**

**Publication date:** 13/05/2020

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

This rule update introduces flexibility to Gold Standard for the Global Goals [Programme of Activities \(PoAs\) requirements](#) with regards to Validation/Verification Body (VVB) compliance check requirements for inclusion of Voluntary Project Activities (VPAs)/ Component Project Activities (CPAs), documentation required for PoA design change request and time of submission of design change request for VPAs/CPAs.

This rule update is relevant to all small and large scale PoAs, regardless of the version of [Programme of Activities requirements](#) under which the PoA was registered.

As per [PoAs requirements V1.2, paragraph 12.1.9](#), (requirements for VPA/CPA inclusion in previous versions), the VVB shall conduct a compliance check prior to the inclusion of any new VPA/CPA. This rule update brings changes to VVB compliance check requirements as defined below.

#### **2. RULE UPDATE**

##### **2.1 Inclusion of VPAs/CPAs**

2.1.1 The Coordinating/Managing Entity (CME) may directly include VPAs/CPAs in the registered PoA per the "**PoA Certification Cycle**" specified in [PoA requirements](#), without VVB compliance check;

- a. If at least one VPA/CPA of the registered PoA has completed successful performance certification, and
- b. The VPA/CPA that has completed performance certification and the VPAs/CPAs that are included by CME without VVB compliance check shall,
  - involve same technology/measure and apply same methodology in case of single technology POA
  - involve same technologies/measures and apply same methodology(ies) combination in case of multi technology PoA

- 2.1.2 The VVB compliance check is mandatory for VPAs/CPAs inclusion in the registered PoA under following circumstances;
- a. If VPAs/CPAs are not deemed automatically additional and require additionality demonstration as per the CDM [Tool for demonstration and assessment of additionality](#) or the [Combined tool to identify baseline scenario and additionality](#).
  - b. If VPAs/CPAs for which material issues are identified at the preliminary review stage, which require a VVB assessment at the time of validation.
- 2.1.3 For the VPAs/CPAs directly included by the CME following paragraph 2.1.1 above, the VVB that performs the first verification for such VPAs/CPAs shall confirm that they comply with the requirements defined for the inclusion of VPAs/CPAs in the registered PoA. If the VVB finds that they do not comply with any of the requirements, then;
- a. Such VPAs/CPAs shall be deemed to be erroneously included and will be further assessed in line with the requirements defined for treatment of erroneously included VPAs/CPAs in paragraph 14, PoAs and Liability, [PoA requirements](#). The requirements mentioned in paragraph 14 of PoA requirements will also apply to resolve the established non-conformity. And,
  - b. No new VPAs/CPA shall be allowed to be included without the positive conclusion of VVB compliance check for the next two VPAs/CPAs.

## **2.2 PoA design change**

As per [PoA requirements V1.2, paragraph 16.1.2](#), (requirements for design change submission), the documents to be submitted during PoA or CPA/VPA design change shall be in line with the list of documentation mentioned in [Annex A of the Principles & Requirements](#) but with relevant documents to be submitted at both PoA and CPA/VPA levels. This rule update brings changes as defined below.

- 2.2.1 PoA level Design Change request does not require the VPA/CPA level documents to be submitted for design change review upfront. For the PoA level design change request, the CME can only submit PoA related documents such as the PoA-DD.
- 2.2.2 The VPA/CPA level design change request can be submitted following the applicable tracks as specified below depending on the nature of the design change;

- a. Prior notification track – When material and permanent changes to the VPA/CPA are made (e.g. changes like installed capacity that will have an impact on all upcoming issuances etc.), the CME shall submit the request for the design change in advance of the CPA/VPA’s verification/performance certification following [Annex A - Design Change Approval Procedure, Principle and Requirements](#).
- b. Issuance track – When the scope of the CPA/VPA design change is limited to minor changes (defined below), the verifying VVB shall review and provide an opinion on the design change as part of the verification. Such design change request shall be submitted in tandem with the request for performance certification of the VPA/CPA.
- c. Minor changes are defined as follows -
  - Any corrections to project information of a registered VPA/CPA that do not affect the design of the VPA/CPA
  - Temporary deviations from the registered monitoring plan for which alternative monitoring arrangements are proposed, if the proposed alternative monitoring arrangements produce a conservative estimate of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals
  - Changes to the monitoring of a registered VPA/CPA that have no material impact on the applicability of the applied methodologies or the other applied methodological regulatory documents, or the accuracy and completeness of the monitoring
  - Changes to the design of a registered VPA/CPA that do not adversely impact any of the following:
    - The applicability and application of the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines and the other applied methodological regulatory documents, under which the PoA has been registered;
    - The additionality of the VPA/CPA;
    - The scale of VPA/CPA
  - Changes to the VPA/CPA design to use the positive list for demonstrating additionality

The list of minor changes is adapted from Appendix 2 of the [CDM project standard for Programme of Activities](#).

### **3. ENTRY INTO FORCE**

3.1.1 This rule update enters into force on 13/08/2020.

#### 4. RELATED DOCUMENT:

<a href="#">Programme of Activity Requirements</a>	23.10.2019	1.2
<a href="#">Principles &amp; Requirements</a>	23.10.2019	1.2