

RULE UPDATE:

VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION BY SAME VVB (RU 2020 PR – PR V1.2)

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1. BACKGROUND

Gold Standard for the Global Goals [Principles & Requirements](#) allow that the same VVB may undertake Validation and Verification of a given Project ([Principles & Requirements V1.2](#), paragraph 5.1.28, page 25).

In the context of Programmes of Activities (PoAs), Gold Standard follows the requirements listed in the CDM Project Standard for Programmes of Activities. ([Programme of Activity Requirements](#), V1.2 paragraph 1.1.4, page 3). It requires that if the VVB has performed a validation activity (including for renewal of the PoA period and inclusion of a proposed VPA/CPA in the PoA) for the registered PoA and wishes to perform verification for the same PoA, they shall obtain prior authorization to do so from the Secretariat.

This rule update expands the applicability of [Principles and Requirements V1.2](#), paragraph 5.1.28 to PoAs without prior authorization from Gold Standard Secretariat. It also introduces new requirements for VVB to comply in case they perform validation and verification for the same project /PoAs, as described below.

2. RULE UPDATE

This rule update expands the applicability of [Principles and Requirements V1.2](#), paragraph 5.1.28 to PoAs and introduces new requirements for VVBs that wish to perform verification for the project/PoAs for which they have performed the validation activity in the past.

2.1 APPLICABILITY:

The same VVB may undertake the validation/inclusion, verification, crediting period renewal, design change review for a given project seeking Gold Standard for Global Goals certification, irrespective of;

- Project, programmes or interventions
- Certification types and pathway, e.g. Gold Standard Certified Impact Statements or Products
- Project scale, e.g. micro, other scales (large and small scale)

The Gold Standard projects registered with previous versions of the Standard may also apply this rule update.

Please refer to the relevant section of Principles and Requirements, Activity Requirement or Product requirement as applicable for definition/details of each of these terms.

2.2 REQUIREMENTS:

If the same VVB wishes to perform verification of a given project/PoA for which they have performed validation activity (including the inclusion of VPA/CPA, renewal of crediting period, design change review), the VVB shall ensure that the integrity and impartiality of the verification audit are maintained. In such cases, the VVB shall meet the following requirements:

1. The VVB shall ensure that the entire verification audit team, including the lead auditors, auditors and sectoral experts, are different from the team that performed the validation activity (including the inclusion of VPA/CPA, renewal of crediting period, design change review).

And

1. The VVB shall transparently disclose in the verification report that the same VVB has performed validation activity (including the inclusion of VPA/CPA, renewal of crediting period, design change review) for the given project/PoA. The VVB shall disclose the details of the audit team, including names of all the team members and their roles in the previous audit performed by the same VVB.

If it is found at any stage of the project/PoA that a VVB and/or project developer has engaged in malfeasance or fraud; Gold Standard retains the right to take action against such entities. The actions may include but are not limited to suspension of the project with immediate effect, retraction of certified products & statements, blacklisting entities and their registry accounts, or cancellation of VVB approval status.

The requirement to have different audit teams does not apply to combined Design Certification with first verification and performance review for a given project ([paragraph 5.1.53, Principles and Requirements V1.2](#), p 28). The same audit team may perform both validation and verification for combined Design Certification and first performance certification for a given project.

The requirement to have different audit teams to perform verification activity by the same VVB that performed validation activity for a given project will come into force from 02/10/2020. After this date, if VVB signs an agreement to perform verification for project/PoA for which the same VVB performed validation activity, the VVB shall meet different audit team requirement as mentioned above. In case of PoAs, the VVB may apply the rule update effective immediately by appointing a different audit team for verification activities.

3. RELATED DOCUMENT

Principles & Requirements	23.10.2019	1.2
Programme of Activity Requirements	23.10.2019	1.2
GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration Product Requirements	23.10.2019	1.2

Related Documents:

Principles & Requirements	23.10.2019	1.2
Programme of Activity Requirements	23.10.2019	1.2
GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration Product Requirements	23.10.2019	1.2