



Gold Standard
for the Global Goals

RULE UPDATE

REVISIONS TO MICROSCALE SCHEME REQUIREMENTS

PUBLICATION DATE **28.08.2023**

VERSION **1.0**

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- v. 1.2 [Microscale Project Requirements](#)
- v. 2.0 [Programme of Activity Requirements and Procedures](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

The Gold Standard Foundation
International Environment House 2
Chemin de Ballexert 7-9
1219 Châtelaine Geneva, Switzerland
Tel +41 22 788 70 80
Email help@goldstandard.org

SUMMARY

The Gold Standard Microscale Scheme offers a simplified certification option i.e., internal validation and verification for Microscale standalone projects (henceforth projects), and Programme of Activities and Voluntary Project Activities (PoAs/VPAs). This certification option and associated requirements for Microscale projects and PoAs/VPAs have historically been contained in the [Microscale Project Requirements](#) (for stand-alone projects) and in the [Programme of Activity Requirements](#) (for VPAs). This rule update introduces changes to the current certification requirements for Microscale projects and PoAs/VPAs and describes how the internal validation and verification option will be phased out and discontinued. Microscale projects and PoA/VPAs certification via Gold Standard approved Validation/Verification Bodies will continue to be allowed and certification of such activities will remain available as per the GS4GG procedures referenced in this document.

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1| SCOPE, APPLICABILITY AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

1.1 | Scope and applicability

- 1.1.1 | The rule update is applicable to Microscale projects, PoAs and VPAs, from the date of entry into force of the latest version of this Rule Update. It shall supersede the requirements of [Microscale Project Requirements V1.2](#) and [Annex -2 Microscale Programme of Activities Requirements](#), unless otherwise stated in this document. It shall supersede the requirements of [Microscale project requirements V1.2](#) and [ANNEX -2 Microscale Programme of Activities Requirements](#), unless otherwise stated in this document.
- 1.1.2 | The exceptions to request and opt for internal validation and verification may be applied by projects/PoAs/VPAs that are already listed on the day of publication of these requirements and are undergoing an internal validation/verification process that starts before or on 30/11/2023, except where otherwise specified in this Rule Update.
- 1.1.3 | The exception is valid for the specific validation/verification request for a project and/or monitoring period, and not for any subsequent validations/verifications of the project/PoA.
- 1.1.4 | The start date of internal validation/verification is defined as the date on which:
 - a. All documents are submitted and are complete, and
 - b. The internal validation/verification fee is paid.

1.2 | Entry into force

- 1.2.1 | This Rule Update enters into force 90 days after publication, on 28/11/2023.

2| RULE UPDATE - MICROSCALE PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1.1 | The table below summarises the rule update applicable to Microscale project requirements. Unless otherwise stated in the table below, the requirements described in the Microscale Project Requirements are applicable.

Table 1 – Rule update – [Microscale project requirements](#)

Section as per Microscale project requirements V1.2	Subsection/ paragraph	Summary of Rule update
1. Scope and Applicability	-	No changes in the requirements
2. General Eligibility Criteria	-	No changes in the requirements
3. Project Certification Period	-	No changes in the requirements

4. Stakeholder consultation	-	No changes in the requirements
5. Additionality	-	No changes in the requirements
6. Baseline, Project Scenario & Monitoring	-	<p>No changes in the requirements stated in 6.1.1 to 6.1.5.</p> <p>6.1.6 If a new simplified methodology is submitted as part of the Project Design Document(PDD) for validation, the project developer and Validation/Verification Body(VVB) shall inform the Gold Standard Secretariat by sending a notification to methodology@goldstandard.org</p> <p>6.1.7 The VVB may discuss the validation approach for methodological aspect with the Gold Standard Secretariat by submitting a request to methodology@goldstandard.org</p>
7. De-bundling Rules	7.1.1	De-bundling requirements do not apply to microscale projects, unless otherwise stated in the applied methodology.
8. Bundling and PoA	-	No changes in the requirements
9. Validation	9.1.1 a	All microscale projects shall undergo validation by a Gold Standard-approved Validation/Verification Body. The project shall make use of an existing methodology or submit a new methodology as part of project documentation, with opinion of VVB, to Gold Standard for approval at time of requesting design certification.
	9.1.1 b & 9.1.2	Internal validation option is NOT valid anymore. Refer to section Validation and Verification 3 below.
10. Verification	10.1.1 a	All microscale projects shall undergo verification by a Gold Standard-approved VVB.

	10.1.1 b & 10.1.2	Internal verification option is NOT valid anymore. Refer to section Validation and Verification 3 below.
	10.1.3	No changes in the requirements
11. Sustainable Development Assessment Process	11.1.1	Sustainable development assessment for microscale project shall be conducted by the VVB as part of validation and verification following the procedure in place for other project scales i.e., small and large.
	11.1.2	Gold Standard VVB shall conduct the site visit as per applicable GS4GG requirements. Refer to section Site visit requirements for microscale projects, PoAs and VPAs 4 below.
	11.1.3	Not valid anymore
11. a Validation stage	11.1.4 - 11.1.6	Not valid anymore
11.b. Verification stage	11.1.7 - 11.1.10	Not valid anymore
12. Design change rules	-	No changes in the requirements

2.1.2 | The table below summaries the rule update applicable to Microscale Programmes of Activities and their VPAs. Unless otherwise stated in the table below, the requirements described in the [Annex -2 Microscale Programme of Activities Requirements](#) are applicable.

Table 2 - Rule update – [Annex -2 Microscale Programme of Activity Requirements](#)

Section as per Annex -2 Microscale Programme of Activity Requirements	Subsection/ paragraph	Summary of Rule update
1. Scope and Applicability	1.1.2	All microscale PoAs shall be validated and verified by a Gold Standard-approved VVB .

		No changes in the requirements stated in 2.1.1.
2. Application of Baseline and Monitoring Methodology	-	2.1.2 If a new simplified methodology is submitted as part of the PDD for validation, the CME and VVB shall inform the Gold Standard Secretariat by sending a notification to methodology@goldstandard.org
		2.1.3 The VVB may discuss the validation approach for methodological aspect with the Gold Standard Secretariat by submitting a request to methodology@goldstandard.org
3. Certification Cycle and Procedure	-	As summarised below for subsections.
3.2 Validation and Design Review		
3.2. a. Validation and Verification Body	3.2.a 3.2.2 - 3.2.3	No changes in the requirements.
3.2. b. Certification Body	3.2.b 3.2.4 - 3.2.7	Validation by Certification Body is NOT valid anymore. Refer to section Validation and Verification 3 below .
	3.3.1	No changes in the requirements.
3.3 VPA inclusion	3.3.2	Inclusion by Certification Body via validation/verification fund option is NOT valid anymore. Refer to section Validation and Verification 3 below .
	3.3.3 - 3.3.7	NOT valid anymore.
3.4 Verification and Performance Review		
3.4.a Validation and Verification Body	3.4.2	No changes in the requirements.
3.4.c. Certification Body	3.4.3 - 3.4.6	This option is NOT valid anymore. Refer to section Validation and Verification 3 below .

3.5 Selection, role and responsibilities of objective observers/CB	3.5.1 - 3.5.11	This NOT applicable anymore.
3.6 Publicly available information		No changes in the requirements.

3| VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION

3.1 | Microscale project activities

- 3.1.1 | All microscale projects shall undergo validation and verification by a [Gold Standard-approved Validation/Verification Body](#), as per [Principles and Requirements](#) section 2.1.1.
- 3.1.2 | As of 30/11/2023, no microscale project can request internal validation/verification as per paragraph 9.1.1 b and 9.1.2, 10.1.1.b and 10.1.2, of the [Microscale project requirements V1.2](#) independent of where project is in the certification cycle or certification status.
- 3.1.3 | An internal validation or verification that starts before 30/11/2023 may be completed according to the [Microscale Project Requirements Version 1.2](#). Note that Microscale projects that are not validated and verified by a Gold Standard approved VVB are not [eligible](#) to generate and supply credits to the CORSIA scheme.

3.2 | Microscale PoAs and VPAs

- 3.2.1 | All microscale PoAs and VPAs shall undergo validation, inclusion and verification by a [Gold Standard-approved Validation/Verification Body](#), as per the procedure and requirements described in [Programme of Activity Requirements](#).
- 3.2.2 | As of 30/11/2023, no PoA or VPAs can request internal validation, inclusion, or verification as per 3.2 b and 3.3 (Certification body option) and 3.4 c, and 3.5 of the [Annex -2 Microscale Programme of Activities Requirements](#), of the [Programme of Activity Requirements](#), independent of where PoA/VPAs are in the certification cycle, or certification status.
- 3.2.3 | Internal validation, inclusion or verification that starts before 30/11/2023 may be completed according to the [Annex -2 Microscale Programme of Activities Requirements](#), of the [Programme of Activity Requirements](#). Note that Microscale PoAs and their VPAs that are not validated and verified by a Gold Standard-approved VVB are not [eligible](#) to generate and supply credits to the CORSIA scheme.

4| SITE VISIT REQUIREMENTS FOR MICROSCALE PROJECTS, POAS AND VPAS

4.1 | Site visit frequency

4.1.1 | Site visits for Microscale projects, PoAs and VPAs shall follow latest version of all applicable GS4GG requirements, including:

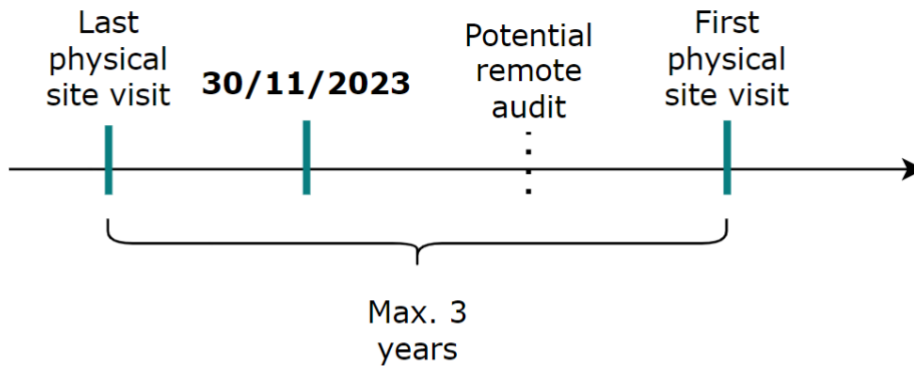
- a. [Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements](#),
- b. [GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration Product Requirements](#)
- c. [Validation and Verification Standard](#)
- d. Rule Update: [Applicability of Site Visit Requirements by VVB](#)
- e. if applicable, [Programme of Activity Requirements](#)

4.2 | First site visit after entry into force of this rule update

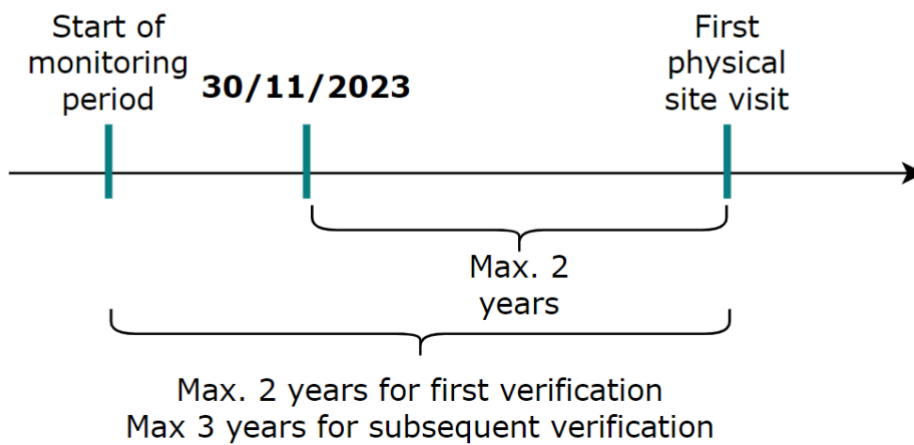
4.2.1 | The first physical site visit required for microscale projects/VPAs after the entry into force of these requirements (subject to sampling requirements for PoAs) shall be conducted as follows:

- a. Within 3 years of the last Objective Observer(OO) or VVB physical site visit
- b. If no OO or VVB physical site visit was conducted in the past 3 years, then the next verification shall include a physical site visit, no later than 2 years of entry into force of these requirements, i.e., 30/11/2025. Note the length of the monitoring period that may be verified through a site visit as per Rule Update: [Applicability of Site Visit Requirements by VVB](#).

With (OO or VVB) physical site visit in the past 3 years:



Without physical site visit in the past 3 years:



4.2.2 | The requirements on VVB rotation outlined in Principles and Requirements 5.1.28 and in the rule update "[Validation and Verification by the Same VVB](#)" apply to microscale projects, PoAs and VPAs.

DOCUMENT REVISION HISTORY

Version Number	Release date	Summary of changes
1.0	28/08/2023	Initial adoption