



**Gold Standard**<sup>®</sup>  
for the Global Goals

## RULE UPDATE

# APPLICATION OF DIGITAL VERSION OF SDG IMPACT TOOL

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PUBLICATION DATE **24/07/2024**

VERSION **1.0**

### RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [Rule update – The SDG Impact Tool](#)

### CONTACT DETAILS

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## SUMMARY

This Rule Update introduces the mandatory use of [digital SDG Impact Tool](#) for the quantification and reporting of SDG impacts and assessment against Safeguarding Principles and Requirements by Project Developers (PD) and Coordinating and Managing Entities (CME); validation/verification by Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs) and design and performance review by Gold Standard/Certification Body (CB). This tool applies to listed, certified, and design certified projects, Program of Activities (POAs), and Voluntary Project Activities (VPAs) under Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG) certification.

In the year 2021, the Gold Standard developed the excel-based [SDG Impact Tool](#) to streamline the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) impact assessment. It enabled project developers to quantify, report, and track the SDG contributions of their projects efficiently and consistently.

Now, Gold Standard has launched a digital version of the SDG Impact Tool. This advancement also allows countries hosting projects to identify priority SDGs.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

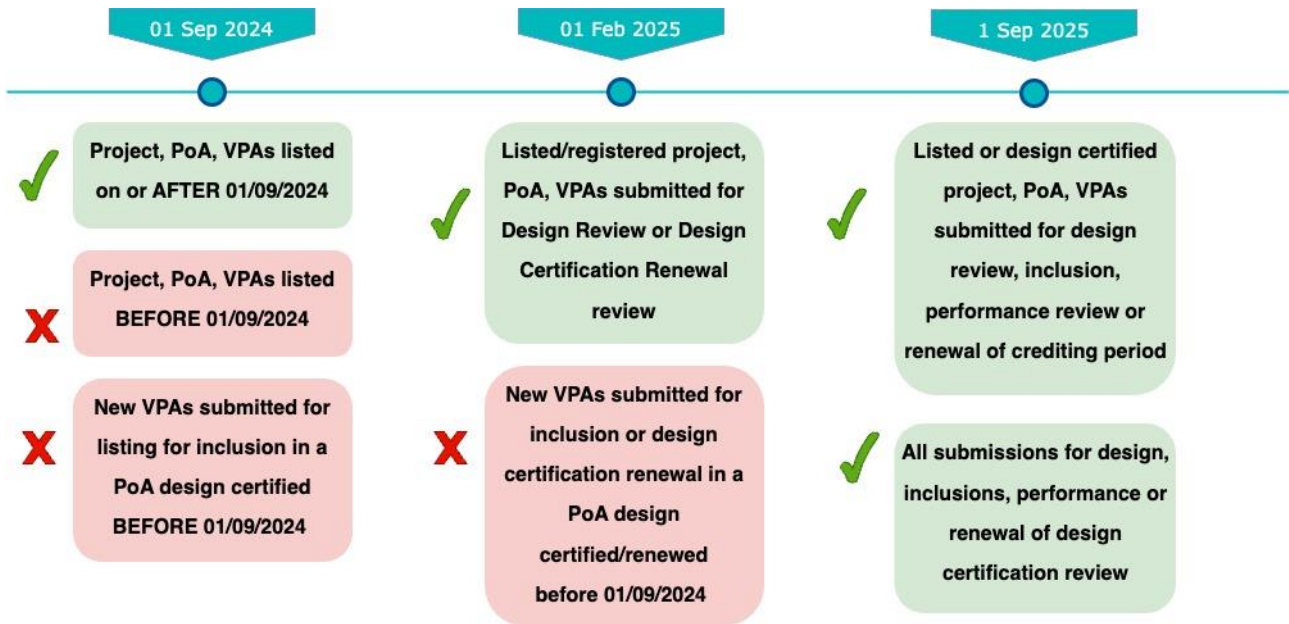


Figure 1: Diagrammatic illustration of the timelines

## RULE UPDATE

### 1| SCOPE

1.1.1 | The digital SDG Impact Tool is applicable to all GS4GG projects, PoA and VPAs.

### 2| APPLICABILITY

2.1.1 | The use of digital SDG Impact Tool shall be mandatory starting from:

- a. 01/09/2024, by all projects, PoAs, and their VPAs that achieve listing status after 01/09/2024. However, this excludes new VPAs listed for inclusion in a PoA that achieved design certification status before 01/09/2024.
- b. 01/02/2025, by all listed projects, PoAs, and VPAs submitted for design review or certified projects, PoAs and VPAs submitted for design certification renewal review, regardless of the listing date. This excludes new VPAs submitted for inclusion or design certification renewal in a PoA that achieved design certification or design certification renewal status before 01/09/2024.
- c. 01/09/2025, by all listed and certified projects, PoAs, and their VPAs submitted for design review, performance review, or renewal of crediting period.

2.1.2 | Any standalone project, PoA and its VPAs may use the digital tool before the aforementioned dates voluntarily.

### 3| ENTRY INTO FORCE

3.1.1 | The digital version of SDG Impact Tool came into effect from 31/10/2023.

### 4| PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

4.1.1 | The requirements as per paragraphs 5.1.11 and 6.1.2. of the [Principles & Requirements](#), and Rule Clarification [public disclosure requirements for project documentation](#) apply to publication of outcomes of SDG Impact Tool application as well.

4.1.2 | All the projects using the digital SDG Impact Tool for any review, shall download the report from the tool and upload it on the registry account to make it publicly available after the closure of review. For guidance on steps how to download the report from the tool, please refer to the [user manual for project developers](#).

4.1.3 | Certification body shall ensure that requirements of the para 4.1.2 above are fulfilled by the project developer/CME.

## DOCUMENT REVISION HISTORY

VERSION NUMBER	RELEASE DATE	DESCRIPTION
v 1.0	24/07/2024	Initial adoption