

**Validation and Verification Body
Accreditation Program (VVBAP)**

Program Overview

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Validation and Verification Body Accreditation Program (VVBAP): Program Overview

This Program Overview describes accreditation program requirements, accreditation cycle requirements and witnessing requirements. Please refer to the SCC website for an overall description of the program.

1. Accreditation Program Requirements

ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS <i>(SCC is a signatory to IAF and APAC for this accreditation program)</i>	SCHEME OWNER/ REGULATOR (SCHEME)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISO/IEC 17029:2019 - Conformity assessment — General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies • ISO 14065:2020 General principles and requirements for bodies validating and verifying environmental information • ISO 14066:2023 Environmental information — Competence requirements for teams validating and verifying environmental information • IAF MD 4:2023 IAF Mandatory Document For The Use Of Information And Communication Technology (ICT) For Auditing/Assessment Purposes • IAF MD 6:2023 IAF Mandatory Document for the Application of ISO 14065:2020 	<p>Government of Canada Environment and Natural Resources (Clean Fuel Regulation - CFR)</p> <p>Verra (Verified Carbon Standard, VCS)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISO 14066:2011 Greenhouse gases — Competence requirements for greenhouse gas validation teams and verification teams 	<p>Transport Canada (Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation, CORSIA)</p>

2. Accreditation Cycle Requirements

The initial accreditation (IA) for Greenhouse Gas Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs) requires the VVB to demonstrate access to sufficient technical experts in the relevant sectors for which accreditation is sought and shall be evaluated by SCC during the assessment for competence for all sectors for which they seek accreditation.

Office and witnessing activities may be conducted in part or whole in a remote capacity based on past performance and other considerations.

Initial accreditation or scope extensions can be granted upon the successful completion of witness assessments within 6 months of the date of granting accreditation. If the required witness assessments are not completed within the 6-months' timeframe, then the accreditation or scope extension may be withdrawn. SCC may conduct a scope extension remotely and may forego the onsite witness assessment requirement following the completion of the document review process.

Once accredited, the program operates on a four-year accreditation cycle, structured with three years of surveillance activities followed by a reassessment activity every fourth year. Each surveillance activity thereafter will generally take place no more than twelve (12) months of the previous activity. Each surveillance activity is referenced by the designation S1, S2, S3 depending on the stage of the accreditation cycle, concluding with reaccreditation (RA).

During the three (3) years between initial accreditation and reaccreditation and between each reaccreditation, annual surveillance will be conducted at the VVB's head office and other location(s) to support continued accreditation. Each year, SCC will provide the VVB with an updated Accreditation Cycle Plan. This outlines the activities for the next 4 years, and the specific locations to be assessed and assessment teams (if known) for the upcoming year and will be developed from the most recent information collected from the VVB with respect to locations and corporate changes.

Surveillance activities for locations will be sampled over the Accreditation Cycle. A sampling methodology will be implemented for identification of surveillance activities for locations. Subcontracted entities, affiliates, partners, sister and/or parent organizations may be subject to assessment. If the objective evidence is found to be sufficient, SCC will perform surveillance activities at each location once over the four-year accreditation cycle.

Where necessary, a Technical Expert is assigned to the assessment (head office or witness activities) with expertise related to the technical sectors being assessed.

VVB shall review the Accreditation Cycle Plan upon receipt and notify SCC of any concerns with the planned assessment activities. When required, SCC will request that the VVB complete a Witness Assessment Selection Form to assist with the planning of the witness assessments. Annual assessment activities use sampling of locations so that each location is assessed at least once during the accreditation cycle following the initial assessment. Sampling may

increase if the VVB performance raises doubt as to the credibility of the validation or verification statements issued by the VVB.

Annual surveillance assessments are of shorter duration than initial accreditation or reaccreditation assessments and focus on a portion of the requirements and areas where a issues such as NCs from the previous assessments were raised.

In the fourth year of the accreditation cycle as part of the reaccreditation, SCC conducts a reassessment of the head office. Reaccreditation will consider all elements of the requirements. Any location and witness assessment requirements that were not completed in the surveillance years will be conducted in the RA year. The focus of annual surveillance activities and reassessments may be influenced by experience gained during previous activities.

A VVB may request that SCC conduct a joint assessment at a location with another accreditation body or that SCC consider another accreditation body's oversight results in lieu of performing an assessment activity identified in the Accreditation Cycle Plan. In such cases the VVB must make the request in writing at least 6 months prior to the planned activity.

3. Witness Assessment Requirements

SCC witnesses VVB activities over the accreditation cycle.

Following the granting of initial accreditation, accreditation will be granted conditionally for technical sectors that are yet to be assessed. This is with the objective of performing a successful witness audit for each of the critical technical sectors (Mandatory, Required, Level 3). Non-critical technical sectors (Level 1, Level 2) and critical technical sectors not covered in a witness audit, will be assessed using file reviews during office assessments throughout the accreditation cycle.

If a technical sector (critical or non-critical) is not assessed before the end of the accreditation cycle, then this sector will be removed from the scope of accreditation. Additionally, a technical sector will be removed if during the surveillance periods it becomes evident that the VVB cannot demonstrate competence for this sector.

SCC applies a risk-based approach when completing witness audit activities for organization and project level sectors. This approach is outlined in the next section.

a. Organization Level – Verification Witness Assessment Requirements

A minimum of one witness assessment per main sector in Group 1 (organization verification) is required. Witness audits shall be prioritized based on the following risk-based criteria:

- i. Level 3 sectors shall be prioritized over level 2 and level 1 sectors;
- ii. Level 2 sectors shall be prioritized over level 1 sectors; and,
- iii. Sectors 3.2 and 9 must be witnessed.

Technical Sectors		Risk Level of Witness Activity
Group 1	Verification	
Sector 1	G1 S1.1 General: Service	Level 1 or above
	G1 S1.2 General: Aviation Road Transportation, Railways & Shipping	Level 1 or above
Sector 2	G1 S2 General Manufacturing	Level 2 or above
Sector 3	G1 S3.1 Power Generation	Level 2
	G1 S3.2 Electric Power Transactions	Mandatory
Sector 4	G1 S4 Mining & Mineral Production	Level 3
Sector 5	G1 S5 Metals Production	Level 3
Sector 6	G1 S6 Chemical Production	Level 3
Sector 7	G1 S7 Oil & Gas extraction, Production & Refining including Petrochemicals	Level 3
Sector 8	G1 S8 Waste Handling & Disposal	Level 3
Sector 9	G1 S9 Agriculture, Forestry & Other Land Use (AFOLU)	Mandatory

b. Project Level – Validation/Verification Witness Assessment Requirements

- i. Witnessing of validation activities within a given sector shall count towards recommendation on maintaining accreditation for project verification for the same sector.
- ii. Maintaining accreditation for project validation requires witnessing of project validation activities. Witnessing of verification activities shall not be extended to the recommendation on maintaining accreditation for validation.
- iii. In addition to completion of the required witness assessment for Sector A, demonstration of competence for the Sector A sub-sectors is required for maintaining accreditation of those requested sub-sectors.
- iv. A VVB must undergo four project-level witness assessments to maintain accreditation for all of the group sectors.

Additional factors during the planning and selection process may consider elements such as total emissions per facility, type of emissions, combustion versus process or non-CO₂, and single or multi-site to determine levels of risk. Preference may be given to witnessing sectors and/or activities:

- a) Where required by regulation or sector programs;
- b) Where previous witness audits have yielded NCs;
- c) To observe personnel that have not yet been witnessed;
- d) That have not previously been witnessed; and,
- e) Where total emissions per facility exceed 25 kilo tonnes.

During years when a witness assessment is not conducted, SCC will perform a document review of a sample of completed verifications. These reviews shall be documented in the office assessment report.

Technical Sectors		Risk Level of Witness Activity	
		Group 2	Group 3
		Validation	Verification
Sector A	GHG Emission reductions from fuel combustion		
	G2 and/or G3 A.1 Renewable energy production	Required	Required, unless covered by G3 SB
	G2 and/or G3 A.2 Energy efficiency improvements		
	G2 and/or G3 A.3 Transportation		
Sector B	GHG emission reductions from industrial processes (non-combustion, chemical reaction, chemical fugitive emissions, flare & venting from oil, and other)		
	G2 and/or G3 SB Destruction of ozone depleting substances	Mandatory	
Sector C	GHG Emission Reductions & Removals from Agriculture, Forestry & Other Land Use (AFOLU)		
	G2 and/or G3 SC Carbon sequestration due to afforestation, avoided deforestation, sustainable forest management, and re-vegetation. Soil carbon sequestration due to improved agricultural land management (no-till, grass cover)	Mandatory	
Sector D	Carbon Capture and Storage		
	G2 and/or G3 SD Carbon Sequestration in Geological Formations	Mandatory	
Sector E	GHG Emissions from Livestock		
	G2 and/or G3 SE Animal waste management – CH ₄ , N ₂ O	Sector E or Sector F	
Sector F	Decomposition of Waste Material, Handling and Disposal		
	G2 and/or G3 SF Landfill use, waste handling and disposal, and coal mine methane.	Sector E or Sector F	

4. Clean Fuel Regulation (CFR) Program Scheme

The CFR scheme requirements are detailed in ECCC’s Clean Fuel Regulations which present regulatory requirements and guidance to ensure uniformity in the implementation. The CFR supports ECCC’s goal to incentivize innovation and adoption of clean technologies and expand the use of low carbon intensity fuels throughout the economy.

Please refer to the below references for more information:

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-pollution/energy-production/fuel-regulations/clean-fuel-regulations/compliance.html>; and,
- <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2022-140/index.html>

The following are the scheme-specific accreditation and verification standards:

Accreditation standards	ISO 17029:2019 ISO 14065:2020 ISO 14066:2023
Verification standards	ISO 14064-3:2019 Clean fuel regulations: methods for verification and certification.

The following is the listing of the SCC Technical Sectors.

A witness audit will be required specific to the CFR scheme. CFR sectors may overlap with organizational and/or project sectors.

	Technical Sectors	Description
Sector 1	Fossil Fuels	Production, import, distribution, and delivery (including at fueling stations) of fossil fuels to end users and distribution companies.
Sector 2	Renewable/Bio/Low-carbon-intensity (CI) Fuels	Production, import, distribution, and delivery (including at fueling stations) of non-fossil, low-carbon-intensity (CI), renewable, and biofuels.
Sector 3	Electricity	Production, distribution of electricity, and transactions related to electricity (including at charging stations for EVs)
Sector 4	Green Hydrogen (from non-fossil fuels)	Production, import, distribution, and delivery of green hydrogen from renewable sources.

5. Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSAIA)

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) requirements are detailed in ICAO's [Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation \(CORSAIA\)](#). CORSAIA supports ICAO's goal to stabilize net carbon dioxide emissions from international aviation at 2020 levels, despite the projected increase in air traffic.

Scheme requirements include:

- RG-GHG-ICAO CORSAIA - SCC Requirements and Guidance for Accreditation of GHG Verifiers for ICAO-CORSAIA Emissions and Emissions Unit Cancellation Reports;
- ICAO CORSAIA Documents;
- International Civil Aviation Organization, Standards and Recommended Practices – Annex 16 Volume IV; and,
- International Civil Aviation Organization, Doc 9501 (Environmental Technical Manual), Volume IV (CORSAIA): Procedures for demonstrating compliance with CORSAIA The following are the scheme-specific accreditation and verification standards.

A witness audit will be required specific to the CORSAIA scheme.

Accreditation standards	ISO/IEC 17029:2019 ISO 14065:2020 ISO 14066:2011 International Civil Aviation Organization, Standards and Recommended Practices – Annex 16 Volume IV International Civil Aviation Organization, Environmental Technical Manual – Volume IV
Verification standards	ISO 14064-3:2019 International Civil Aviation Organization, Standards and Recommended Practices – Annex 16 Volume IV International Civil Aviation Organization, Environmental Technical Manual – Volume IV

6. Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program Scheme

Scheme requirements for the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program are in accordance with the VCS Rules and is defined by VCS document Program Definitions.

This includes the below:

- VCS Program Guide;
- VCS Standard;
- Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) Requirements;
- Jurisdictional and Nested REDD (JNR) Requirements; and,
- Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Requirements.

For information on the VCS Program and the VCS Rules, please refer to the most recent versions of the VCS program documents available on the VCS program website (verra.org).

The following is the listing of the SCC VVBAP Technical Sectors and the correlated VCS Technical Sectors. To be accredited in a VCS Technical Sector, the VVB must be accredited by SCC in the corresponding SCC VVBAP Technical Sector.

Technical Sectors	VCS Technical Sectors
G2 SA.1 and/or G3 SA.1 GHG Emission Reductions from fuel combustion: Renewable energy production	1. Energy Industries (renewable/non-renewable sources) 2. Energy distribution
G2 SA.2 and/or G3 SA.2 GHG Emission Reductions from fuel combustion: Energy efficiency improvements	3. Energy demand
G2 SA.3 and/or G3 SA.3 GHG Emission Reductions from fuel combustion: Transportation	7. Transport
G2 SB and/or G3 SB GHG Emission Reductions from industrial processes (non-combustion, chemical reaction, chemical fugitive emissions, flare & venting from oil, and other)	4. Manufacturing industries 5. Chemical industry 8. Mining/mineral production 6. Construction 9. Metal production 10. Fugitive emissions from fuels 11. Fugitive emissions from industrial gases 12. Solvents use
G2 SC and/or G3 SC GHG Emission Reductions & Removals from Agriculture, Forestry & Other Land Use (AFOLU)	14. Agriculture, Forestry, Land Use
G2 SD and/or G3 SD Carbon Capture and Storage	N/A
G2 SE and/or G3 SE GHG Emissions from Livestock	15. Livestock and manure management
G2 SF and/or G3 SF Decomposition of Waste Material, Handling and Disposal	13. Waste handling and disposal

Revision History

VERSION	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE(S)	APPROVED DATE
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Release • Separated Program Overview • Added international recognition information • Reorganized content • Added Scheme Owner(s) or Regulator(s), if applicable • Changed terminology from 'fixed office locations' to 'locations' • Removed certification standards • The following was removed: "The maximum number of witness audits for a VVB-accredited for all organization level sectors shall be five." 	2024-04-02