

PoA Rules and Guidance – Annex F (revised on 23 December, 2010)

This document replaces Annex F dated 23 November 2009 in the rule updates section.

1 PoA eligibility

Where a group of project activities is submitted together for Gold Standard registration within a PoA, each of these activities must be in compliance with the Gold Standard eligibility criteria. Micro-scale project activities applying for the Gold Standard VERA micro-scale scheme cannot apply within a Voluntary PoA at the same time.

2 PoA boundary

Definition of the boundary for the PoA is the geographical area (e.g. municipality, region within a country, country or several countries) within which all CPAs/ VPAs included in the PoA will be implemented, taking into consideration all applicable national and/or sectoral policies and regulations of each host country within that chosen boundary.

3 PoA timeframe

3.1 Define PoA and CPAs/ VPAs crediting period

The duration of the PoA, shall not exceed 28 years. The duration of the PoA shall be defined by the entity at the time of request for registration of the PoA. Any CPA/ VPA can be added to the PoA at any time during the duration of the PoA by the coordinating/ managing entity. The duration of the crediting period of any CPA/ VPA shall be limited to the end date of the PoA regardless of when the CPA/ VPA was added.

3.2 Definition of regular/retroactive CPA/VPA, PoA submission

Regular CPA/VPA – CPA/VPA for which a Local Stakeholder Consultation has been conducted as per Gold Standard requirements before the start of implementation.

Retroactive CPA/VPA – CPA/VPA that started implementation although no Local Stakeholder Consultation has taken place as per Gold Standard requirements.

PoA submission to Gold Standard–

i. For a regular PoA, the date when the Local stakeholder consultation report for the PoA is uploaded on the registry.

ii. For a retroactive PoA, the date when the documents for the pre-feasibility assessment have been uploaded on the registry and the PFA fee has been paid.

3.3 Retroactive registration and retroactive crediting for CDM PoAs and their respective CPAs

3.3.1 Retroactive registration

Scenario 1

Retroactive CPA(s) that start implementation before the time of first submission of the PoA to Gold Standard will have to undergo a Pre-Feasibility assessment, a full validation and a registration review by the Gold Standard in order to be included in the PoA. All such CPA(s) must undergo a full pre-feasibility assessment and cannot be fast-tracked.

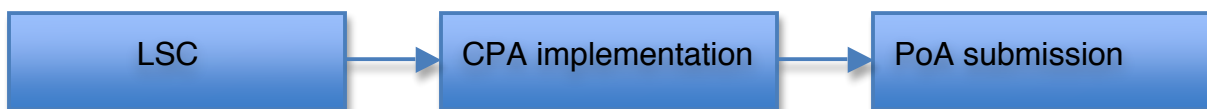
Furthermore, such CPA(s) are only eligible if they follow the CDM guidance provided in EB 47 – PoAs that commence CDM validation prior to 31st December, 2009 may include CPAs with a starting date between 22 June 2007 and the commencement of CDM validation of the PoA, if a list of such specific CPAs is provided to the validating DOE and the UNFCCC secretariat prior to 31 January 2010.



Scenario 2

Regular CPA(s) that start implementation before the time of first submission of the PoA to Gold Standard will have to undergo a full validation and a registration review by the Gold Standard in order to be included in the PoA. Specific attention will be given to the additionality with respect to the early consideration of revenues from CERs.

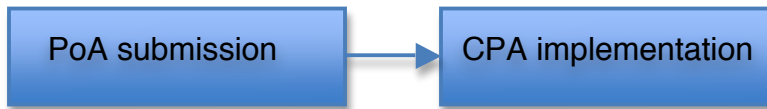
Such CPA(s) are only eligible if they follow the CDM guidance provided in EB 47 – PoAs that commence CDM validation prior to 31st December, 2009 may include CPAs with a starting date between 22 June 2007 and the commencement of CDM validation of the PoA, if a list of such specific CPAs is provided to the validating DOE and the UNFCCC secretariat prior to 31 January 2010.



Scenario 3

Retroactive CPA(s) that start implementation after time of first submission of the PoA to the Gold Standard will be included in the PoA subject to a pre-feasibility assessment. The first of such CPA(s) will undergo a full pre-feasibility assessment (not eligible for fast-tracking) which will identify

inclusion criteria for future retroactive CPAs. These criteria will also have to be checked by the DOE as part of the compliance check, together with the inclusion criteria defined in the PoA. All subsequent CPAs can be fast-tracked but need to ensure that they comply with all inclusion criteria both defined originally in the PoA and in the list of complementary criteria established by the pre-feasibility assessment of the first retroactive CPA .



Scenario 4

There are no specific requirements for regular CPA(s) that start implementation after the time of first submission of the PoA.



3.1.1 *Retroactive crediting*

If a CDM PoA is registered with the Gold Standard under the regular project cycle after it has been registered with the UNFCCC, some of the CPAs may become operational before it is registered with the Gold Standard. In such a case, CERs generated since the date of registration with the UNFCCC or generated for a period of up to two years prior to Gold Standard registration, whichever occurs later, can be labelled Gold Standard retroactively.

A CDM PoA submitted for Gold Standard registration under the retroactive project cycle is potentially eligible for receiving labels for CERs generated since the date of registration with the UNFCCC or generated for a maximum of two years prior to Gold Standard registration, whichever occurs later.

3.2 **Retroactive registration and retroactive crediting for Voluntary PoAs and their respective VPAs**

3.2.1 *Retroactive registration*

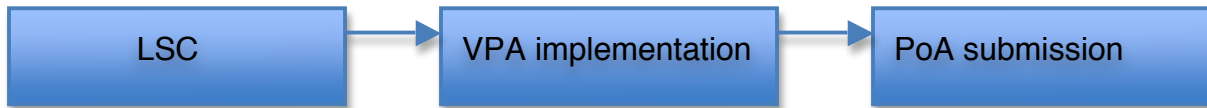
Scenario 1

Retroactive VPA(s) that start implementation before the time of first submission of the PoA to Gold Standard will have to undergo a pre-feasibility assessment, a full validation and a registration review by the Gold Standard in order to be included in the PoA. All VPA(s) must undergo a full pre-feasibility assessment and cannot be fast-tracked.



Scenario 2

Regular VPA(s) that start implementation before the time of first submission of the PoA to Gold Standard will have to undergo a full validation and a registration review by the Gold Standard in order to be included in the PoA. Specific attention will be given to the additionality with respect to the early consideration of revenues from VERs.



Scenario 3

Retroactive VPA(s) that start implementation after time of first submission of the PoA to the Gold Standard will be included in the PoA subject to a pre-feasibility assessment. The first of such VPA(s) will undergo a full pre-feasibility assessment (not eligible for fast-tracking) which will identify inclusion criteria for future retroactive VPAs. These criteria will also have to be checked by the DOE as part of the compliance check, together with the inclusion criteria defined in the PoA. All subsequent VPAs can be fast-tracked but need to ensure that they comply with all inclusion criteria both defined originally in the PoA and in the list of complementary criteria established by the pre-feasibility assessment of the first retroactive VPA.



Scenario 4

There are no specific requirements for regular VPA(s) that start implementation after the time of first submission of the PoA.



3.2.2 Retroactive crediting

A Voluntary PoA submitted for Gold Standard registration under the regular project cycle is potentially eligible for receiving credits for realised emission reductions from VPAs that become operational prior to Gold Standard registration for a maximum of two years.

A Voluntary PoA submitted for Gold Standard registration under the retroactive project cycle is

potentially eligible for receiving credits for realised emission reductions prior to Gold Standard registration for a maximum period of two years.

4 Additionality

A PoA is additional if it can be demonstrated that in the absence of carbon finance (i) the proposed voluntary measure would not be implemented, or (ii) the mandatory policy/ regulation would be systematically not enforced and that noncompliance with those requirements is widespread in the country/region, or (iii) that the PoA will lead to a greater level of enforcement of the existing mandatory policy /regulation or to a greater level of adoption of an existing voluntary scheme. This shall constitute the demonstration of additionality of the PoA as a whole.

Additionality should be demonstrated both at the PoA level and at the CPA/ VPA level using an approved UNFCCC or Gold Standard additionality tool unless the coordinating/ managing entity provides convincing argumentation validated by a DOE and approved by the Gold Standard as to why this is only required at the PoA level.

If such an approach is followed, then additionality at the CPA/ VPA level has to be defined as part of the eligibility criteria for the inclusion of a project activity as a CPA/ VPA under the PoA. These criteria shall include criteria for the demonstration of the additionality of a CPA/ VPA as well as the type and/ or extent of information (e.g. criteria, indicators, variables, parameters or measurements) that shall be provided by each CPA/ VPA in order to ensure its eligibility.

5 Use of Gold Standard registry

To develop a PoA under the Gold Standard, an account must be opened in the Gold Standard Registry. The PoA and its corresponding CPAs/ VPAs will be managed via this account as follows:

- The coordinating/ managing entity of the PoA opens an account in their name in the Gold Standard registry;
- A PoA entry is created under this account with a unique GS ID. All relevant documents required at the registration step will be uploaded (PoA-DD, PoA Passport, CPA-DD template) to this GS ID;
- An entry per CPA/ VPA is created (apart from the template CPA), each with its own unique GS ID, in the Coordinator account or in the project proponents accounts depending on what has been agreed with regards to the issuance of the labels/credits. All relevant documents to a CPA/ VPA (CPA/VPA-DD, CPA/VPA Passport, CPA/VPA LSC report) will be uploaded to its registry entry; and
- The name of each CPA/ VPA **MUST** have a prefix that links it to the relevant PoA.

Example: A hydro PoA in Mongolia comprised of two project activities will have the following three entries on the Gold Standard registry:

GS ID	Project Name
GSXXX	GSXXX ABC hydropower PoA in Mongolia
GSYYY	GSXXX ABC hydropower PoA- Choybalsan hydropower plant in

	<i>Mongolia</i>
GSZZZ	<i>GSXXX ABC hydropower PoA- Dzuunmod hydropower plant in Mongolia</i>

6 Stakeholder consultation

Stakeholder consultation must happen at both the PoA level (generic consultation) and the CPA/ VPA level (specific consultations) unless convincing argumentation validated by a DOE and approved by the Gold Standard is provided as to why this should not be required for the particular PoA.

A single stakeholder consultation can be organised for a group of CPAs/ VPAs as long as convincing argumentation (e.g. close enough to each other location wise and time wise, identical activity, etc.), validated by a DOE and approved by the Gold Standard, is provided as to why this should not be required for the particular PoA, and as long as a Local Stakeholder Consultation report is produced for each one of the CPAs/ VPAs. Gold Standard stakeholder consultation for PoAs is comprised of two consultations (Local Stakeholder Consultation and Stakeholder Feedback Round) similar to the requirement for regular project activities.

7 Sustainability assessment

7.1 'Do No Harm' assessment

Coordinating entities submitting a PoA for Gold Standard registration shall conduct the 'Do No Harm' Assessment at the CPA/ VPA equivalent level, unless convincing argumentation validated by a DOE and approved by the Gold Standard is provided as to why this should not be required for the particular PoA.

7.2 Detailed impact assessment- sustainable development matrix

Coordinating entities submitting a PoA for Gold Standard registration shall conduct the *Detailed Impact Assessment* at the CPA/ VPA equivalent level, unless convincing argumentation validated by a DOE and approved by the Gold Standard is provided as to why this should not be required for the particular PoA.

8 Selection of a baseline and monitoring methodology

The Gold Standard allows Voluntary PoAs to use more than one methodology without prior approval. All methodologies must be introduced in the PoA-DD together with a justification of their use.

9 De-bundling provisions

De-bundling provisions in EB36 Report Annex 27 do not apply for Voluntary PoAs.

10 Gold Standard Passport and project design documents

In case of a CDM PoA, a CPA-DD and a CPA-Passport are required for each CPA in addition to the CDM-POA-DD and CDM-POA-Passport, unless approvals have been obtained otherwise as per Section 6 and 7 above. Similarly, for a Voluntary PoA, a VPA-DD and a VPA-Passport are required for each VPA in addition to the Voluntary-POA-DD and Voluntary-POA-Passport.

11 PoA validation

Coordinating entities shall submit to a DOE the following documentation for validation:

- A completed CDM-POA-DD or Voluntary-POA-DD as applicable, prior to registration review. Generic information on baseline and monitoring must be provided for each one of the different methodologies (or combination of methodologies) considered.
- A completed CPA-DD or VPA-DD based on the application of the PoA to one real case, for each one of the different methodologies (or combination of methodologies) considered, and prior to registration.
- A Gold Standard Passport for each one of the CPAs or VPAs (unless approvals have been obtained otherwise as per Section 6 and 7 above). All retroactive CPAs or VPAs must be submitted prior to registration review.

12 Gold Standard registration

12.1 CDM PoAs

The Gold Standard registration process takes place at the PoA level. However, for CDM PoAs, under special circumstances such as when the PoA Coordinating Entity is not willing to act as the Gold Standard Coordinator, registration at the CPA level can be allowed, following an evaluation that will be performed on a case-by-case basis.

In the case that registration takes place at the CPA level, the following conditions must be satisfied:

1. The serial numbers associated with the CERs issued by the UNFCCC to the relevant CDM PoA must allow for a clear differentiation among the various CPAs;
2. The CDM PoA-DD and the different CPA-DDs will have to be provided to GS for review;
3. A CDM PoA-DD and a GS PoA Passport must be submitted to GS for approval, which will contain all the information necessary to allow the DOE to perform a GS compliance check for the subsequent CPAs. It will be submitted together with a first CPA-DD; and
4. GS CPA project documentation, i.e., the CPA-DD and the CPA-Passport must be delivered for each one of the GS applicant CPAs.

12.2 Voluntary PoAs

The Gold Standard registration process takes place at the PoA level therefore both the Voluntary PoA and all its VPAs have to be registered with the Gold Standard.

13 PoAs and liability

For Voluntary PoAs, whenever a validated VPA is found to be erroneously included in the Voluntary PoA, the Project Proponent shall within sixty (60) calendar days after receiving notification of non-compliance:

- Compensate issued Gold Standard credits with Gold Standard credits from other projects of its portfolio; or
- Compensate issued Gold Standard credits with Gold Standard credits bought from other Gold Standard projects.

For Voluntary PoAs, whenever a verified VPA is found not to deliver according to the registered Voluntary PoA (e.g. VPA no longer operating), but credits have already been issued to that PoA, the Project Proponent shall within sixty (60) calendar days after receiving notification of non-compliance:

- Compensate issued Gold Standard credits with Gold Standard credits from other projects of its portfolio; or
- Compensate issued Gold Standard credits with Gold Standard credits bought from other Gold Standard projects.

14 Registration, Issuance fees and Share of proceeds

14.1 Registration and Issuance Fees

For PoAs applying for registration under the regular cycle, the registration fee (for GSv2.0 PoAs) will be based on the first CPA/ VPA and issuance fee will be applicable to all CPAs/VPAs.

For PoAs applying for registration under the retroactive cycle, the registration fee (for GSv2.0 PoAs) will be based on the first CPA/VPA and issuance fee will be applicable to all CPAs/ VPAs.

14.2 Share of Proceeds

For GSv2.1 PoAs, share of proceeds shall apply to all GS CPAs/ VPAs.

15. Methodology versions and renewal of crediting period for PoA and CPA/VPA

15.1 CDM/Voluntary PoA

The latest methodology version applicable at the time of first submission to Gold Standard shall be used. At the time of renewal of the PoA (after every 7th year), the latest version of the methodology available at that time shall be adopted.

15.2 CPA/VPA

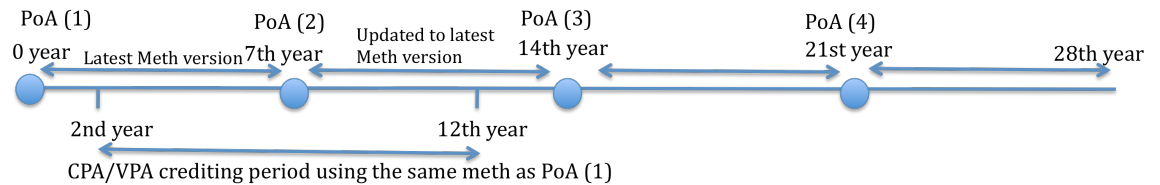
- i. All CPAs/VPAs to be included in the PoA shall use the same version of the methodology that is defined in the most recent version of the PoA documentation. The use of an updated methodology version is also allowed for, after a validation by a DOE

followed by a registration review by the Gold Standard with respect to methodology changes.

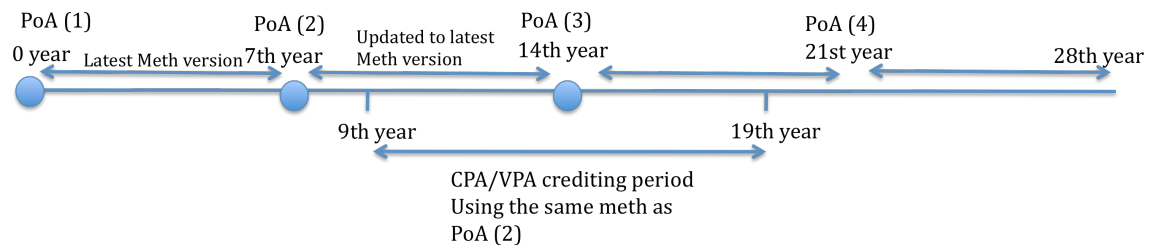
- ii. At the time of renewal of a CPA/VPA, the methodology version defined in the most recent version of the PoA documentation shall be adopted. The use of an updated version is also allowed for, after a validation by a DOE followed by a registration review by the Gold Standard with respect to methodology changes.

Examples:

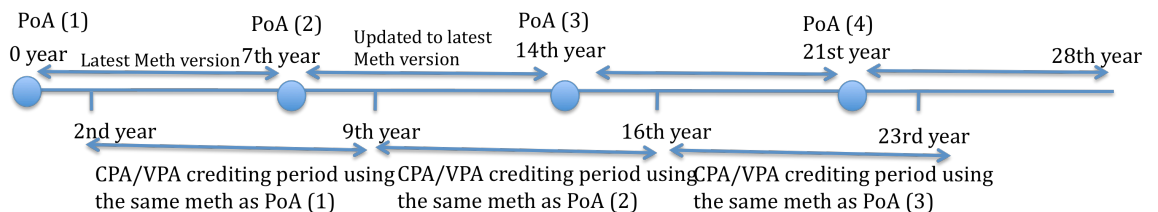
- A CPA/VPA with a fixed crediting period included during the second year of the PoA shall use the methodology version defined in the PoA documentation at the time of registration; this methodology version is valid for the course of the CPA/VPA's crediting period.



- A CPA/VPA with a fixed crediting period included during the 9th year of the PoA shall use the methodology version defined in the PoA documentation that was revised during its renewal after the 7th year; this methodology version is valid for the course of the CPA/VPA's crediting period.



- A renewable CPA/VPA included during the second year of the PoA. shall use the methodology version defined in the PoA at the time of registration. When the CPA/VPA's crediting period is renewed, it shall use the latest methodology version defined in the PoA documentation that was revised during its renewal.



15.3 Documents to be submitted for PoA and CPA/VPA during renewal of crediting period.

The documents to be submitted during crediting period renewal shall be in line with the list of documentation mentioned in the GS guidelines for the renewal of a crediting period but with relevant documents to be submitted at both PoA and CPA/VPA levels.

15 List of Acronyms

The following acronyms are applicable:

PoA	Programme of Activities
CPA(s)	CDM Programme Activity(ies)
VPA(s)	Voluntary Programme Activity(ies)
CDM PoA	PoA applying for CDM registration
Voluntary PoA	PoA applying for Gold Standard registration
CDM-POA-DD	Design document for a Programme of Activities applying for CDM registration
CPA-DD	Design document for a CDM Programme of Activity
Voluntary-POA-DD	Design document for a Programme of Activities applying for Gold Standard registration
VPA-DD	Design document for a Voluntary Programme of Activity