

June 30th 2009

Comparison between the Gold Standard Requirements v2.0 and v2.1

Disclaimer

This document outlines the changes to the Gold Standard Requirements v2.0. The new rules under Version 2.1 are effective immediately and may be applied by most projects under Gold Standard v2.0. For further information regarding eligibility, please consult the Gold Standard Requirements Version 2.1 and the associated documents.

The changes between GSv2.0 and GSv2.1 are based on the following:

- *Gold Standard TAC decisions clarifying and refining existing rules or addressing gaps in the rules identified after the launch of GSv2;*
- *Minor clarifications and identifications of errors or ambiguities collected by the Gold Standard Secretariat since the launch of Gold Standard v2.0;*
- *The introduction of an updated rule on Gold Standard pre-CDM VERs from CDM projects launched on May 20, 2009; and*
- *The introduction of a Share of Proceeds Fee Structure in lieu of the Fixed Cash-Per-Credit Fee Structure.*
- *The Toolkit now includes improved guidance on how to structure the Gold Standard stakeholder consultation, additional guidance for DOEs on validation and verification workplans, guidance and clarifications on review periods and guidance on the approval process of revised CDM methodologies for the VER market.*

This document is for informational purposes only. The binding rules for all Gold Standard projects are located in the Gold Standard Requirements Version 2.1 document, which is available on the Gold Standard website (www.cdmgoldstandard.org).

<u>RULE</u>	<u>CURRENT GS VERSION 2.0</u>	<u>TYPE OF CHANGE</u>	<u>NEW GS VERSION 2.1</u>
Section II - Definitions	<i>'Pre-CDM VERs'</i> means Gold Standard VERs issued to VER projects before CDM or JI registration.	Replaced by	<p>'Pre-CDM VERs' means Gold Standard VERs issued to CDM projects for a monitoring period that occurred before registration by the UNFCCC.</p> <p>'Pre-JI VERs' means Gold Standard VERs issued to JI projects for a monitoring period that occurred before registration by the UNFCCC.</p>
Section II - Definitions	Not applicable	Added	<p>'Share of Proceeds' means for a project applying under the regular project cycle that has not submitted the complete Local Stakeholder Consultation Report (see Gold Standard Toolkit, sections 2.6 & 2.9) by August 1, 2009, or for a project applying under the retroactive project cycle that has not submitted the complete documentation required for a pre-feasibility assessment (see Gold Standard Toolkit, Table 2.9) and has not paid the pre-feasibility assessment fee by August 1 2009, the mandatory transfer and delivery of 2% of all Voluntary Emission Reduction credits issued or 1.5% of all Certified Emissions Reduction credits labeled, or the equivalent substitution of</p>

			any other Gold Standard VER or CER, respectively, to the Gold Standard Foundation in lieu of the fixed cash registration and issuance fees.
Rule III.b.3	Gold Standard VER host country or state. Gold Standard VER project activities may be located in any host country or state. However, where host countries or states have caps on GHG emissions, projects shall only be eligible if the Project Proponent has provided the Gold Standard Foundation with satisfactory assurances that an equivalent amount of allowances will be retired to back-up the GS VERs issued. Gold Standard credits will not be issued prior to confirmation that an equivalent amount of allowances has been retired (see section T.1.2.b for references).	Replaced by	Gold Standard VER host country or state. Gold Standard VER project activities may be located in any host country or state. However, where host countries or states have caps on GHG emissions, projects shall only be eligible if the Project Proponent has provided the Gold Standard Foundation with satisfactory assurances that an equivalent amount of allowances will be retired to back-up the GS VERs issued. Any AAUs may be used for this purpose. Gold Standard credits will not be issued prior to confirmation by the relevant local authorities that an equivalent amount of allowances has been retired (see section T.1.2.b for references).
Rule III.d.6	Bundled project activities. Where project activities are submitted together for Gold Standard registration within a bundle of activities, each project activity shall individually be in compliance with the Gold Standard eligibility criteria.	Replaced by	Bundled project activities. Where project activities are submitted together for Gold Standard registration within a bundle of activities, each project activity shall individually be in compliance with the Gold Standard eligibility criteria. Eligibility criteria with regards to the scale of the project (see III.e.1 and III.e.2) shall apply to the bundle

			as a whole and not to the individual project activities.
Rule III.d.7	Programme of Activities. Where a group of project activities is submitted together for Gold Standard registration within a Programme of Activities, each of these activities must be in compliance with the Gold Standard eligibility criteria.	Replaced by	Programme of Activities. Where a group of project activities is submitted together for Gold Standard registration within a Programme of Activities, each of these activities must be in compliance with the Gold Standard eligibility criteria. Micro-scale project activities cannot apply under a Programme of Activities.
Rule III.e.4	Not applicable	Added	Annual emission reductions for elements not covered by a CDM project activity. GS VERs may be claimed for separate project elements not covered by a CDM project activity <u>as long as</u> they are validated separately as a VER project activity. This rule also applies to the 1 km buffer corridors under CDM PoAs. See T.4.11.
Rule III.f.3	Not applicable	Added	Bundle. A bundle of micro-scale project activities making use of different methodologies may be submitted within the same PDD. CDM rules apply for small-scale projects.
Rule III.f.4	Not applicable	Added	Voluntary Programme of Activities. VER CPAs may use different methodologies under the same

			VER PoA.
Rule III.g.1	<i>ODA Support.</i> Official Development Assistance (ODA) support for any project activity will render that project activity ineligible for carbon crediting under the Gold Standard where the ODA is provided under the condition that the credits generated by the project activity will be transferred, either directly or indirectly, to the donor country providing ODA support. ODA is defined in section T.1.2.e.	Replaced by	<i>ODA Support.</i> Official Development Assistance (ODA) support for any project activity located in a country named by the OECD Development Assistance Committee's ODA recipient list will render that project activity ineligible for carbon crediting under the Gold Standard where the ODA is provided under the condition that the credits generated by the project activity will be transferred, either directly or indirectly, to the donor country providing ODA support. ODA is defined in section T.1.2.e.
Rule III.g.2	<i>ODA Declaration Form.</i> All Gold Standard applicants must sign and submit the ODA Declaration Form provided in Annex D of the Toolkit with the Project Design Document in connection with validation.	Replaced by	<i>ODA Declaration Form.</i> All Project Applicants applying for project activities located in a country named by the OECD Development Assistance Committee's ODA recipient list must sign and submit the ODA Declaration Form provided in Annex D of the Toolkit with the Project Design Document in connection with validation.
Rule III. h.1	Not applicable	Added	<i>Parallel submissions to the Gold Standard CDM/JI and VER streams.</i> A project activity may be submitted for registration to both the Gold Standard CDM/JI stream and the Gold Standard

			VER stream in parallel.
Rule III.h.1.1	Not applicable	Added	If the proposed CDM/JI project activity is successfully registered under the UNFCCC, the Gold Standard VER project activity shall be cancelled.
Rule III.h.1.2	Not applicable	Added	If the proposed CDM/JI project activity is rejected by the UNFCCC, in order to continue registration of the project activity under the GS VER stream the project proponent must apply for a <i>Pre-feasibility Assessment</i> in accordance with the procedure provided in section T.2.5.
Rule III.h.1.3	Not applicable	Added	The Gold Standard VER project activity shall only be made public and be registered after an official communication with the UNFCCC on rejection of the project has been submitted by the Project Proponent to the Gold Standard Foundation, or after the Project Proponent has formally requested that the Gold Standard cancel registration under the GS CDM/JI stream for the project activity.
Rule III.h.2	Not applicable	Added	<i>Gold Standard VER submission after UNFCCC</i>

			<p><i>rejection.</i> Following the rejection of a project activity by the UNFCCC, a Project Proponent may apply for Gold Standard registration under the VER stream. This process is initiated through application for a <i>Pre-feasibility assessment</i> in accordance with the procedure provided in section T.2.5, if and after a revised methodology has been submitted to and approved by the Gold Standard as a Gold Standard VER methodology.</p>
Rule III.h.3	Not applicable	Added	<p><i>Upgrading GS VERs to GS CERs/ERUs during a crediting period.</i> A Project Proponent may seek to upgrade a Gold Standard VER project activity to a Gold Standard CDM/JI project activity at any time during the crediting period with respect to <u>future</u> emission reductions, provided the Project Proponent applies under the Gold Standard CDM/JI stream <u>before</u> any GS VERs have been issued, or project proponents enter into an agreement with the Gold Standard Foundation according to which the project applicant commit to surrender to the Gold Standard Foundation, for immediate retirement, CERs or ERUs that will be issued in respect of GHG Reductions generated by the Project in an amount equal to the pre-CDM or JI GS VERs. The agreement shall make use of the 'Gold Standard CDM Emission Reduction Acquisition Agreement' template or the 'Gold</p>

			Standard JI Emission Reduction Acquisition Agreement' template provided as Annex O and Annex P in the Gold Standard Toolkit.
Rule III.i.1	Not applicable	Added	<i>Upgrading VERs to GS VERs.</i> VER project activities registered, or to be registered, under another voluntary carbon crediting scheme may seek to upgrade a VER project activity to a GS VER project activity at any time during the crediting period with respect to future emission reductions, provided proof of the following:
Rule III.i.1.1	Not applicable	Added	The project activity opts out from the other voluntary project and the emission reductions of a given vintage are claimed only once, under one single scheme;
Rule III.i.1.2	Not applicable	Added	The total duration of the crediting period does not exceed the <i>standard UNFCCC crediting period</i> (i.e. 10 years, or 7 years renewable a maximum of twice for 21 years in total) when all carbon credits sought by the Project Proponents are aggregated, regardless of the various carbon standards considered (see V.a.5); and

Rule III.i.1.3	Not applicable	Added	<p>The project proponent opts in for Gold Standard by delivering the full set of GS specific project documentation, or the project documentation provided under the other voluntary scheme together with a report highlighting and discussing the gaps between the requirements of the other voluntary scheme and the Gold Standard requirements (“Gap Analysis Report”). This report shall be validated by a DOE/AIE in accordance with the Gold Standard validation requirements. See also Toolkit, Chapter 3.</p>
Rule III.i.2	Not applicable	Added	<p><i>Certificate trading schemes.</i> Project activities claiming Green or White Certificates, or equivalent certificates, shall NOT be eligible for Gold Standard registration unless Project Proponents provide a clear and convincing demonstration that no double counting would arise from the issuance of Gold Standard carbon credits.</p>
Rule III.i.3	Not applicable	Added	<p><i>European Union Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS).</i> Project activities involving facilities under the EU ETS shall NOT be eligible for Gold Standard registration unless the Project Proponent has provided the Gold</p>

			Standard Foundation with satisfactory assurances that an equivalent number of allowances under the EU ETS (termed 'EUAs') will be retired to back-up the Gold Standard VERs issued. All EUAs may be used for this purpose. Gold Standard credits will not be issued prior to confirmation by the relevant local authorities that an equivalent number of EUAs have been retired to back-up the Gold Standard credits issued.
Rule V.a.2.1	For projects proceeding under the regular project cycle, the start date of the Gold Standard Crediting Period shall be the date of formal registration under the Gold Standard	Replaced by	For VER project activities proceeding under the regular project cycle, the start date of the Gold Standard Crediting Period shall be the date of start of operation or a maximum of two years prior to Gold Standard registration, whichever occurs later.
Rule V.a.2.2	Project activities proceeding under the retroactive project cycle, may be eligible for retroactive crediting for realised emission reductions prior to Gold Standard registration of a maximum period of two years.	Replaced by	For CDM or JI project activities proceeding under the regular project cycle, the start date of the Gold Standard Crediting Period shall be the date of registration under CDM or JI or a maximum of two years prior to Gold Standard registration, whichever occurs later.
Rule	Not applicable	Added	The start of the Gold Standard Crediting Period

V.a.2.4			may be postponed for one year without justification required, or for up to two years if convincing justification is provided.
Rule V.a.4	Partial Crediting Periods	Removed	This Rule was removed in its entirety.
Rule V.a.6	Gold Standard VERs seeking CDM or JI registration ('Pre-CDM VERs') . Project activities approved as Gold Standard VER project activities that are in the process of seeking CDM or JI registration under the UNFCCC are eligible to claim Gold Standard VERs for a maximum of one year prior to the start of the CDM crediting period (date of registration under UNFCCC) provided:	Replaced by	Rule V.a.5 Gold Standard VERs for project proponents seeking CDM or JI registration ('Pre-CDM VERs' or 'Pre-JI VERs')). Project proponents that are in the process of seeking CDM or JI registration under the UNFCCC are eligible to claim Gold Standard VERs under the following conditions.
Rule V.a.6.1	The project developer provides proof that the final version of the Project Development Document (PDD) was submitted for CDM validation to the Designated Operational Entity (DOE) prior to 31 January 2008.	Replaced by	Rule V.a.5.1 Projects can claim Gold Standard pre-CDM VERs for a maximum of <u>one year</u> prior to the start of the CDM crediting period (date of registration under the UNFCCC) provided: 1. The project developer provides proof that the final version of the Project Development Document (PDD) was submitted for CDM validation to the Designated Operating Entity (DOE) and creates a project entry for the pre-CDM VER 'clone' in the Gold Standard

			<p>Registry prior to 31 December 2009; and</p> <p>2. The reasons for the mismatch between the start of project operation and the CDM registration date are provided to the DOE and confirmed by the DOE as part of the Verification Report covering the GS VER period.</p>
Rule V.a.6.2	The reasons for the mismatch between the start of project operation and the CDM registration date are provided to the DOE as part of the Verification Report covering the GS VER period.	Replaced by	<p>Rule V.a.5.2 Projects can claim Gold Standard pre-CDM VERs for a maximum of two years prior to the start of the CDM or JI crediting period (date of registration/determination under UNFCCC) provided the project proponent enters into an agreement with the Gold Standard Foundation according to which the project proponent commits to surrender to the Gold Standard Foundation, for immediate retirement, CERs or ERUs that will be issued in respect of GHG Reductions generated by the Project during the CDM or JI crediting period in an amount equal to the Pre-CDM VERs or Pre-JI VERs. The agreement shall make use of the 'Gold Standard CDM Emission Reduction Acquisition Agreement' template or the 'Gold Standard JI Emission Reduction Acquisition Agreement' template provided as Annex O and Annex P to the Gold Standard Toolkit, and no delivery is required for</p>

			a grace period of the initial two years of issuance after CDM registration/JI determination.
Rule V.a.6.3	Not applicable	Added	Rule V.a.5.3 Until December 31, 2009, Project Proponents may choose between the options outlined in Sections V.a.5.1. and V.a.5.2. Project Proponents must notify the Gold Standard in writing of the chosen approach if the Project Proponent intends to use either of these approaches for projects applying for registration.
Rule VII.b.3	Not applicable	Added	<i>Bundle of project activities.</i> Project proponents shall conduct the 'Do No Harm' Assessment at the project activity level, unless convincing argumentation validated by a DOE is provided as to why this should not be required for the particular bundle.
Rule VII.c.7	Not applicable	Added	<i>Bundle of project activities.</i> Project proponents shall conduct the Detailed Impact Assessment at the project activity level, unless convincing argumentation validated by a DOE is provided as to why this should not be required for the particular bundle.



Rule VIII.b.8	Not applicable	Added	<i>Bundle of project activities.</i> The Local Stakeholder Consultation shall take place at the project activity level, and a report per project activity shall be prepared and submitted. However, coordinating entities may organise a single meeting for several project activities for implementation in parallel, as long as they can convincingly demonstrate that this does not compromise fulfillment of the requirements for the Gold Standard stakeholder consultation.
Rule VIII.d.1	<i>Purpose.</i> The Stakeholder feedback round is the second round of stakeholder consultation necessary to qualify for Gold Standard certification under the regular project cycle. It is intended to cover all issues raised from the Local Stakeholder Consultation meeting and address how due account was taken of stakeholders' comments. See T.2.11.	Replaced by	<i>Purpose.</i> The Stakeholder feedback round is the second round of stakeholder consultation necessary to qualify for Gold Standard certification. For project activities applying under the regular project cycle, it is intended to cover all issues raised from the Local Stakeholder Consultation meeting and address how due account was taken of stakeholders' comments. For project activities applying under the retroactive project cycle, it is intended to cover all issues raised from the pre-feasibility assessment. Project Proponents under the retroactive project cycle shall therefore conduct the stakeholder feedback round according to the outcomes of the Pre-feasibility Assessment. Guidelines can be found in section T.2.11.

Rule VIII.f.3	<i>Registration review period.</i> Upon formal application for registration, the Gold Standard shall initiate a fixed review period of eight (8) weeks during which the Gold Standard Secretariat and Technical Advisor Committee and the Gold Standard supporter NGOs may request further clarification or corrective action from the Validator or the project developer (see section T.3.10).	Replaced by	<i>Registration review period.</i> Upon formal application for registration and, for projects employing the Fixed Cash-Per-Credit Fee Structure , the payment of the registration fee, the Gold Standard shall initiate a fixed review period of eight (8) weeks during which the Gold Standard Secretariat and Technical Advisor Committee and the Gold Standard supporter NGOs may request further clarification or corrective action from the Validator or the project developer. The period is composed of a six (6)-week period open for comments for the Technical Advisory Committee and the GS supporter NGOs and a two (2)-week period for the synthesis and consolidation of all the comments received by the Gold Standard Secretariat. See section T.3.10.
Rule VIII.f.3.1	Not applicable	Added	Requests for clarification or corrective action that have not been addressed within one year will result in the project being deleted from the GS Registry.
Rule IX.a.2	<i>Verification review period.</i> Upon receipt of a Gold Standard Verification Report, the Gold Standard Foundation shall initiate a fixed verification review period of three (3) weeks. During this	Replaced by	<i>Verification review period.</i> Upon receipt of Gold Standard Monitoring and Verification Reports, the Gold Standard Foundation shall initiate a fixed verification review period of three (3) weeks.

	<p>period, the Gold Standard Secretariat, the Technical Advisory Committee and Gold Standard Supporter NGOs may raise requests for clarification and/or make requests for corrective action. See section T.4.10.</p>		<p>During this period, the Gold Standard Secretariat, the Technical Advisory Committee and Gold Standard Supporter NGOs may raise requests for clarification and/or make requests for corrective action. The period is composed of a two (2)-week period open for comments for the Technical Advisory Committee and the GS supporter NGOs and a one (1) week period for the synthesis and consolidation of all the comments received by the Gold Standard Secretariat. See section T.4.10.</p>
Rule IX.b.1	<p><i>Gold Standard CDM and JI project activities.</i> Upon the Project Proponent’s submission of UNFCCC serial numbers for issued CERs and ERUs that satisfy all Gold Standard criteria, and payment of the required Gold Standard issuance fee, the Gold Standard Foundation shall issue the premium quality label associated with issued CERs or ERUs. The detailed procedure is provided in Section T.4.11 of the Toolkit.</p>	Replaced by	<p>IX.b.1. <i>Gold Standard CDM and JI project activities.</i> Upon the Project Proponent’s submission of UNFCCC serial numbers for issued CERs and ERUs that satisfy all Gold Standard criteria, and payment of the required Gold Standard issuance fee, the Gold Standard Foundation shall issue the premium quality label associated with issued CERs or ERUs. No Gold Standard-labeled CERs are delivered to the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund. See Section T.4.11.</p>
Rule IX.b.3	<p><i>Validity period.</i> Once issued, Gold Standard credits remain valid until the time when they are permanently retired in the Gold Standard Registry (GS VERs) or until the time they are used for compliance or retired in an authorised registry (GS CERs, GS ERUs).</p>	Replaced by	<p><i>Validity period.</i> Once issued, Gold Standard credits remain valid until the time when they are permanently retired in the Gold Standard Registry (GS VERs) or until the time they are used for compliance or retired in an authorised registry (GS CERs, GS ERUs). Once issued, GS CERs, ERUs or</p>

			VERs cannot be retroactively cancelled.
Chapter 10	Not applicable	Added	Chapter 10 addresses the Share of Proceeds Fee Structure and is new in Version 2.1.
Toolkit, Annex C	<p>Eligibility of project activities making use of Palm oil for electricity and/or heat generation, or for biofuel production shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Gold Standard Foundation, in the light of a Pre-feasibility assessment. The project participant shall provide the following as part of the documentation to be reviewed in the pre-feasibility assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Local Stakeholder Consultation Report, in accordance with the guidelines for a Local Stakeholder Consultation as provided in section T.2.6. - A report ('Compliance Report') showing that the project activity is in compliance with the latest version of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil guidance document on Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Palm Oil Production , validated by a DOE/AIE. <p>Methane recovery project activities in waste water treatment plants related to Palm Oil</p>	Replaced by	<p>Eligibility of project activities making use of Palm oil and/or palm oil mill by-products or residues for electricity and/or heat generation, and/or for biofuel production shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Gold Standard Foundation, in the light of a Pre-feasibility assessment. The project participant shall provide the following on top of the usual project documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Local Stakeholder Consultation Report, in accordance with the guidelines for a Local Stakeholder Consultation as provided in section T.2.6, and provided as part of the documentation to be reviewed at the time of the pre-feasibility assessment. - A report ('Compliance Report') showing that the project activity is in compliance with the latest version of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil guidance document on Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Palm Oil Production, validated by a DOE/AIE, and provided as part of the documentation to be reviewed at the time of the registration

	production shall comply with all rules provided for palm oil project activities in the section 'Electricity and/or heat, and liquid biofuels from biomass resources'.		<p>review. Project proponents must demonstrate that they have started the process for RSPO compliance at the time of submission for the pre-feasibility assessment.</p> <p>Methane recovery project activities in waste water treatment plants related to Palm Oil production shall comply with all rules provided for palm oil project activities in the section 'Electricity and/or heat, and liquid biofuels from biomass resources'.</p>
Annex D, Template Part A	Section II refers to the Financier Declarations.	Replaced by	Section II is removed
Annex D, Template Part B	A declaration of financier non-use of ODA is required.	Replaced by	The requirement of a financier declaration on ODA is removed.