

Rule clarification: Prior consideration rule for projects undergoing a design change

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The Gold Standard would like to clarify the prior consideration rule for projects undergoing a design change.

Under the most recent rule update¹ from January 2015, the demonstration of prior consideration of carbon revenues for Gold Standard Verified Emissions Reduction (VER) projects, applies only to retroactive projects. Whereby the projects must submit the required documentation to Gold Standard (time of first submission) within one year of its start date. Project documents submitted after this date will not be eligible for Gold Standard certification.

The prior consideration rule is also applicable to a registered project that undergoes a design change. A Gold Standard registered project requesting to include a new technology/measures, shall submit the request for approval of design change to the Gold Standard within one year of the start date² of the proposed technology/measures. If the developer fails to submit the request for approval within this one year, the design change component will not be eligible for Gold Standard certification. The design change request shall be assessed in line with the Gold Standard Design Change rules.

For example, if a project developer intends to include four additional wind turbines with a total capacity of 10 MW to an already registered Gold Standard project, the design change request to include this additional 10 MW capacity needs to be submitted within a year of the start date of new wind turbines i.e., the date when the real action/implementation for the 10 MW wind turbines takes place such as signing the contract or the date of release for the payment. More information on this definition can be found in our Requirements³.

¹Revision in the rules and requirements for Prior Consideration of Carbon Revenues for GS-VER projects released on 22 January 2015, available at http://www.goldstandard.org/sites/default/files/documents/rule-update_prior-consideration.pdf

² In the case of installing multiple technologies or measures for inclusion in a registered project, the start date is taken from when the first technology or measure is implemented. For e.g. a new batch of cookstoves are distributed over a period, the design change needs to be submitted within one year from the start date of the first cookstove in the batch.

³ Energy requirements - http://www.goldstandard.org/sites/default/files/gsv2.2_requirements.pdf