

Summary of Changes from ACR Standard v7.0 to 8.0

The following is a summary of significant changes to the *ACR Standard* from v7.0 published December 2020 to v8.0 posted for public comment November 1, 2021.

Topic	Revision	Section(s)
ACR Governance	Updated ACR Governance to include the role of the ERT Board of Managers.	Introduction
ACR Objectives	Clarified language describing ACR's overall objectives.	1.B
Scope – included GHGs and Particulate Matter	Removed reference to black carbon in GHG and particulate matter scope. ACR does not have any methodologies that include quantification of black carbon.	1.D
Scope exclusion: Renewable Energy project types	Clarified language regarding existing scope exclusion of grid connected electricity generation projects.	1.E.1
Policy regarding revisions to ACR Standard	Clarified that eligibility is set at validation, but projects may be required to adhere to relevant policy updates in subsequent versions of the ACR Standard.	1.J
Eligibility: Start Date	Clarified an exception to project validation deadlines. This provision is intended for projects that have conducted a pilot project or long-term data collection on which the methodology was based and/or directly contributed to the creation of the methodology. Recognizing that the length of ACR's methodology development process may extend beyond the Standard's overarching validation deadline requirements, ACR's Start Date criterion includes this provision to allow the eligibility of projects that were initiated with the objective of supporting the development of a new ACR methodology. The period of eligibility for these projects was also reduced to 5 years from the start date to listing.	Tables 2 and 4
Eligibility: Real	Clarified language to requirement for offsets to be "real"	Table 2
Eligibility: Emission Removal Origin	Removed the Emission or Removal Origin criterion as it was determined to be redundant to requirements stipulated in the Offset Title criterion and the ACR Scope.	Table 2
Regulatory Surplus	Clarified the wording of the key question for the Regulatory Surplus test to include enforcement in addition to mandate.	Table 3
Clarification of terms	Clarified term Offset Project Listing Form (vs. GHG Project Listing form), and clarification to include reference to the Reserve Account for geologic sequestration projects.	6.A
Fees associated with project validation / verification	Clarified that fees for validation and verification services are agreed between the Project Proponent and the VVB.	6.A
Clarification of terms	Clarified Template for ACR Project Deviation Request (vs. Methodology Deviation template)	6.D
Aggregation	Addition of Site-level requirements for aggregation section, consistent with PDA Site level requirements.	6.F.1.2
Programmatic Design Approach	Addition of language specifying that only a single version of any ACR methodology may be used among sites enrolled in a PDA project.	6.F.2.1 and 6.F.2.2

	Clarified that the enrollment period for PDA projects is 5 years after the project Start Date unless otherwise specified in the relevant methodology. Additional text edits for clarity.	
Design considerations for Aggregation and PDA	Moved AFOLU relevant examples up to section 6.F.3 so that design considerations for aggregated and PDA projects are more clearly presented together. Additional text edits for clarity.	6.F.3
Methodology approval	Clarified that ACR conducts the internal review described in bullet #1 at currently published fees.	7.B
ACR Technical Committees	Removed section describing ACR Technical Committees. This terminology is no longer relevant as ACR engages selected peer review experts for methodology development and modification processes. Removed reference to ACR Technical Committee in the definition of Methodology Deviations and Revisions.	Former 7.D and Definitions
Ongoing Disclosure of community and environmental impacts.	Clarified that Project Proponents shall provide confirmations and/or updates to the original environmental and community impact assessments in their ongoing Monitoring Reports.	8.D
Submittal of verification reports	Added deadline for submittal of verification reports: no later than 2 years from the end of the reporting period being verified.	9.C
Validation Report and Opinion	Added new section outlining the requirement for a validation report and opinion to be submitted for any project.	9.E
Verification Report and Opinion	Added requirements for the verification report to include verification timeline, a list of verified documents, the percent error calculation, and the relevant risk mitigation mechanism calculation for projects with a risk of reversal.	9.F
Validation acceptance by ACR	Clarified that ACR acceptance process applies to validation as well as verification.	9.G
Validation and Verification Body oversight	Clarified that ACR may suspend or revoke its approval of a VVB. Added details regarding ACR's selection of priority projects for audit, including those that are implementing a newly published methodology, those conducting the validation and verification activities with a newly approved VVB, and for which a VVB's newly approved scope expansion is relevant.	9.I
Projects registered on ACR and other Programs	Clarified that ACR AFOLU projects that have a risk of reversal are not eligible for simultaneous registration on ACR and another GHG program.	10.A.1
ACR Complaints Procedure timeline	Clarified timing for ACR's response to a complainant.	11.A
Definitions	Clarified definition of "Intentional Reversal" in relation to willful withdrawal of a parcel/parcels. Added definition for Reserve Account.	Definitions
Agriculture Soil Carbon Enhancement	Deleted reference to agriculture soil carbon enhancement from eligible project types list as ACR does not have any approved methodologies for this project type. Deleted reference to Agriculture soil carbon enhancement section under Baselines and Leakage.	A.1.1 and A.4
Start Date	For IFM, modified list of activities denoting eligible start date. Clarified that the start date definition for Avoided Conversion of Non-Forest is the Same as that for Avoided Conversion of Forest. Removed reference to Agricultural Land based projects.	Table 4

Conservation Easement duration	Clarified in footnote 41 that all land conservation agreements must be employed with a specified duration “at least as long” as a project’s minimum project term.	Table 4
Baselines: IFM	Clarified that Best Management Practices refers to State published Best Management Practices.	A.4.2
Leakage	Clarified that market effects leakage must be accounted or mitigated and how the methodology must address it.	A.4.7
Aggregation and PDA Design Requirements for AFOLU Projects	Consolidated this section with section 6.F.3 so previous section A.5.1 is no longer needed and was deleted.	former A.5.1
Verification schedule	Updated policy for AR and wetlands projects to allow timing of first verification up to 12 years after project start date.	A.7.3
Avoiding double counting in CORSIA	Updated language for alignment with Article 6	Appendix B
Reference Documents	Updated ISO 14064 and 14065 references throughout to 14064:2019 and 14065:2020 versions. Updated associated terminology: validation/verification “assertions” to validation/verification “statements”; and validation/verification “statements” to validation/verification “opinions”.	Throughout