

SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM ACR STANDARD V2.0 TO V2.1

Effective with the release of this announcement, the American Carbon Registry publishes the ACR Standard v2.1, superseding v2.0.

Version 2.1 makes certain updates and clarifications for consistency with other ACR standards and methodologies. All essential requirements remain unchanged.

The updates and clarifications in v2.1 include:

- Text on project boundaries, and relevance and completeness, in Chapter 2 has been expanded to make consistent with related requirements in the *ACR Forest Carbon Project Standard*. The circumstances in which particular GHG sources and carbon pools may be excluded from accounting are specified.
- ACR's requirements for independent validation and verification have been clarified. ACR screens and certifies all GHG Project Plans, but this internal certification does not take the place of independent validation and verification. Validation of GHG Project Plans, and verification of GHG assertions, may occur simultaneously and be conducted by the same ACR-approved accredited verifier.
- Clarification is made that verification (and validation) need only occur prior to ERT issuance, which for some project types may be significantly later than the Start Date and/or project registration date.
- Chapter 4 on Additionality has additional text on acceptable types of performance standards, and the distinction between the common practice component of ACR's three-prong test and a practice-based performance standard. As before, the ACR Standard does not attempt to define any particular performance standard, only provides the option for Project Proponents to fulfill ACR's additionality requirement by demonstrating that the project activity is surplus to regulations and exceeds an applicable performance standard as defined in an approved methodology. The option of ACR's three-prong additionality test, more appropriate and conservative for some project types, is also retained.
- The processes for acceptance of existing methodologies, approval of new methodologies, approval of proposed methodology modifications, and potential approval of methodologies from other GHG programs are consolidated into a single Chapter 7. ACR accepts ACR-published and CDM Executive Board-approved methodologies. All new methodologies, significant modifications, and methodologies from other GHG programs require ACR's process of public consultation and scientific peer review, which is detailed in Chapter 7.
- The roles and responsibilities of ACR Technical Committees are described.