

# Expert Network & Governance

## Aim of the document

Carbon Standards International (CSI) ensures the environmental integrity, scientific quality, and market viability of its standards through a two-tier quality assurance system:

1. Board of Directors (BoD) – Governance, integrity assurance, and veto right
2. Independent Expert Network – Technical and scientific review

This model meets the requirements of institutional buyers and endorsement programs with regard to independence, transparency, and accountability.

## 1. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is the highest governing and supervisory body of CSI (see [Governance Rules](#)). It holds a veto right regarding the publication or revision of standards.

## 2. Independent Expert Network

CSI maintains a flexible, thematically broad expert network. Experts are not assigned to specific standards but are invited on an ad hoc basis. CSI reviews potential conflicts of interest.

At minimum, contacts shall be maintained in the following areas of expertise:

- Climate science & carbon cycles
- MRV & data methodology
- Geochemistry / physical processes
- Persistence
- Risk analysis
- Environmental & ecosystem impacts, with a focus on soil science
- Market mechanisms & carbon markets
- Quality assurance systems
- Legal systems (European and global)

### a. Role in Standard Development

During the development or revision of standards, draft versions of the standard or individual chapters are shared with relevant experts.

- Normally at least three experts
- Selection based on technical competence and independence from project interests
- Experts give written, critical feedback on draft versions

Experts may be involved in the standard development process during the preparation of the first version in accordance with [Development of standards and methodologies and their updates](#). The fields of expertise of the experts involved are listed on the first pages of the standard.

In addition, prior to its final version, the standard is made available by CSI to further experts for review. Their fields of expertise are also added to the documentation. Reviewers may receive project-based remuneration to compensate their services.

### b. Extended Consultation Role

The expert network may also be consulted on fundamental strategic questions or in cases of uncertainty regarding the market impact of different options.

- Objective: Broaden and strengthen the basis for decision-making
- Benefit: Strengthens argumentation in customer communication and the credibility of the standards
- Practice: Experts provide recommendations that are documented in internal decisions and justifications

Experts may receive project-based meeting fees to compensate their services.

### 3. Documentation

CSI publishes:

- Confirmation of expert review as an integral component in the development of a standard.

Example: "This standard was developed with input from the Expert Network.

Draft versions were reviewed by independent scientific experts with relevant expertise in biochar, soil science, MRV and carbon cycle science.

Feedback from expert review and a public consultation was incorporated prior to finalisation."

- Summaries of the public consultation together with feedback from the expert round, including structured responses (accepted/not accepted, justification). Individual comments are not attributed to specific persons.