CARBON STANDARDS
international

DEVELOPMENT AND UPDATES OF STANDARDS AND METHODOLOGIES

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Preamble and aim

Carbon Standards International AG (CS) develops various standards (often referred to as "methodology" in the voluntary carbon market) in order to promote positive carbon cycles.

This document describes how they are developed, updated and published.

1. Development of new standards and methodologies (standards)

Step 1 – Development

New standards are developed by CS's strategic Department of Business Development in close collaboration with the Scientific Committee. This happens with constant communication with the Product Manager (PM) and Chief Standard Officer and consultation of individual experts from the expert network.

Step 2 – Independent Expert Network

CSI cultivates a flexible, thematically broad network of experts who are invited on an ad hoc basis for the technical and scientific review of new standard requirements and standard / national law interpretation. For more information, see "Expert Network and Guidance".

They have specific knowledge of particular topics, and CS may involve individual experts in the evaluation of the standard. The first version is shared with typically three experts who comment on it. The comments of the experts are reviewed by the Scientific Committee and if necessary, included into the standard. CS undertakes to consider feedback and publishes the feedback from the expert network together with the feedback from the public consultation.

The Scientific Lead creates a pre-final version of the standard / methodology for publication. This is done in close communication with the Chief Standard Officer, who ensures that the contents of different standards correspond, requirements are feasible and all CS standards have the same structure, wording, etc.

The fields of expertise of the contributing experts are listed on the first page of the standard.

Step 3 – Public Consultation

The pre-final version is published on the website www.carbon-standards.com to start the public consultation. To ensure transparency and the feasibility of implementation CS informs all relevant stakeholders worldwide, including partners, clients, certification/validation/verification bodies, and regulatory authorities. Those who signed up to receive the newsletter for public consultation of standards will receive this information automatically. The public consultation is open for 30 days. Feedback can be provided during the publication period using the "Standards Amendment Form" on the website (i.e. for Global Biochar C-Sink: https://www.carbon-standards.com/application-form-amendment-to-global-biochar-c-sink-standard
The Chief Standard Officer with the assistance of the Technical and Scientific Committee evaluates the feedback . CS publishes the feedback from the expert network together with the feedback from the public consultation with structured responses (accepted/not

accepted, justification). E.g. for Global Biochar https://www.carbon-standards.com/docs/transfer/4000128EN.pdf. Individual comments are not attributed to specific individuals.

Step 4 – Publication

The updated version is published on the website. A newsletter containing the information about the changes will be sent out. The update is discussed and presented in webinars. Endorsed CBs/VVBs will be informed on the changes and undergo training.

2. Updates of standards and methodologies (standards)

2.1. Regular updates

This chapter describes the workflows for regular updates of standards. Regular updates may also include internal and external requests for amendments.
Regular updates are carried out by CS and after instigation by CS. The regular updates also include conclusions and amendment requirements drawn from the analysis of verification findings, accumulated non-conformities, or a loss of additionality across multiple projects (as opposed to an isolated project-level non-conformity under the Sanctions Regulations).

The intervals for regular updates may vary depending on the standard but are at maximum three years.

Step 1 - First version

The first draft prepared by the Scientific Committee. This draft is first assessed by the Technical Committee at CS. This draft will include all proposals that have been received since the last update and are available from CS for the amendment process in the list of topics for standard updates. Details of the first draft can already be discussed in advance with associations, stakeholders, scientists, authorities, etc. This will result in the first version, which will be prepared by the Scientific Committee. This is done in close communication with the Product Managers (PM) and the Chief Standard Officer and consultation of individual experts from the expert network.

Step 2 – Independent Expert Network

The first version is shared with typically three experts who comment on it. The comments of the experts are reviewed by the Scientific Committee and if necessary, included in the standard.
CS undertakes to consider feedback and publishes the feedback from the expert network together with the feedback from the public consultation. The Scientific Lead creates a pre-final version of the standard / methodology for publication. The fields of expertise of the contributing experts are listed on the first page of the standard.

Step 3 - Public consultation

The pre-final version is published on the website www.carbon-standards.com to start the public consultation. To ensure transparency and the feasibility of implementation CS informs all relevant stakeholders worldwide, including partners, clients, certification/validation/verification bodies, and regulatory authorities. Those who signed up to receive the newsletter for public consultation of standards will receive this information automatically. The public consultation is open for 30 days. Feedback can be provided during the publication period using the "Standards Amendment Form" on the website. The Chief Standard Officer with the assistance of the Technical and Scientific Committee evaluates the feedback.
CS publishes the feedback from the expert network together with the feedback from the public consultation with structured responses (accepted/not accepted, justification). Individual comments are not attributed to specific individuals.

Step 4 - Publication

The final version is published on the website and communicated in a newsletter to everyone who is registered for the newsletter. The newsletter and the website provide transparent information on the updates made from the previously valid to the current version.
The final version of the standard is valid as of its publication. Transition periods may be defined, which in turn must be communicated and published. For further information look at "Principles of Global C-Sink Standards"

2.2. Exceptional updates to standards and methodologies (standards)

An extraordinary update is always preceded by at least one internal or external request for standard amendments or a stakeholder complaint under Chapter 8 of Principles of Global C-Sink Standards that indicates a published standard systematically causes overestimation of emission removals.
Requests are handed in together with supporting data by stakeholders via "request standard amendment form" online on www.carbon-standards.com website (see form under the relevant standard). Typical standard amendment requests are scope extension or change requests of individual guidelines.
Standard amendment requests are published on Carbon Standards webpage for 30 days. CS's Chief Standard Officer with the assistance of the Technical and Scientific Committee shall, within 2 weeks of receipt of request, determine whether the request is rejected or approved. The justification will be sent to the requester and published on the website. If approved, the justification shall indicate the further process and its effect on C-Sinks already issued under the affected standard version. Possible consequences of an accepted request are:

- Commissioning a study for further clarification
- Request expert network for an opinion
- Inclusion of the request in the next regular update

- Publication of Rule Update; Rule Updates will be implemented in the standard with the next regular update.
- Request for extraordinary update to Scientific Committee

3. History of standards and methodologies (standards)

Global C-Sink Standards follow a transparent versioning system to ensure clarity and traceability of updates over time. The document "Principles of Global C-Sink Standards" describes the structure of the versions and history of the standards:
The updated version is published on the website and the changes of the version are published in the correction mode, see the respective website of the service (see www.carbon-standards.com).