



**DEVELOPMENT AND  
UPDATES OF  
STANDARDS AND  
METHODOLOGIES**



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## Preamble and aim

Carbon Standards International AG (CSI) develops various standards and methodologies (methodologies 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 CSI'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 CSI 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. CSI 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 CSI 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](http://www.carbon-standards.com) to start the public consultation. To ensure transparency and the feasibility of implementation CSI 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.g. 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. CSI 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 CSI and after instigation by CSI. The intervals for regular updates may vary depending on the standard but should be carried out at least every three years.

### **Step 1 - First version**

The first draft prepared by the Scientific Committee. This draft is first assessed by the Technical Committee at CSI. This draft will include all proposals that have been received since the last update and are available from CSI 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.

CSI 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](http://www.carbon-standards.com) to start the public consultation. To ensure transparency and the feasibility of implementation CSI 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.

CSI 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](#)"

### **3. Exceptional updates to standards and methodologies (standards)**

An extraordinary update is always preceded by at least one internal or external request for standard amendments.

Further information can be found at "[Principles of Global C-Sink Standards](#)".

### **4. 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](http://www.carbon-standards.com) ).