

Project requirements for EU-CRCF Compliance

Preamble and aim

The EU Carbon Removal and Carbon Farming Regulation (EU-CRCF) — formally Regulation (EU) 2024/3012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 establishing a certification framework for permanent carbon removals, carbon farming and carbon storage in products¹ — establishes an EU-wide, voluntary certification framework. It applies to permanent CO₂ removal, carbon farming, and CO₂ storage in products, for projects located within the European Union. Its goal is to harmonize the market and establish uniform quality and trust standards across the EU. The EU-CRCF is expected to become the de facto reference framework for quality in the European carbon sink market.

Projects under the EU-CRCF are subject to certification in accordance with the certification methodology tailored to a specific carbon removal technology. This document outlines general requirements, specifications on terminology, and requirements for the activity and monitoring plans that projects must follow to comply with the EU-CRCF.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/3012/oj/eng>

1. Terminology and general aspects

1.1. Terminology

The following table lists the terms, as defined for projects under the EU-CRCF, along with their equivalents in the document [Principles of Global C-Sink Standards](#).

Principles of Global C-Sink Standards	EU-CRCF
Project	Activity
Activity proponent	Operator
Validation and verification body	Certification body
Validation	Certification, certification audit
Project verification	Re-certification, recertification audit
Re-validation	Corresponds to: Certification of new activity
Project Design Document (PDD)	Activity plan and monitoring plan
C-Sink verification	Monitoring audit
Validity period of PDD (5 years, see Principles document Ch. 6.6)	Activity period

1.2. Certificate of compliance

Projects adhering to EU-CRCF receive a certificate of compliance at their validation (certification) in case of a positive outcome. This certificate gets renewed at project verification (re-certification). In case of a failure of the annual project verification, the certificate gets withdrawn (see Ch. 1.3., withdrawn certificate).

1.3. Inactive projects

In case of projects in line with EU-CRCF, the certificate of compliance of an inactive project are deemed either terminated, withdrawn or expired:

Terminated certificate

The certificate of compliance is referred to as 'terminated', if the certificate was voluntarily cancelled while it was still valid.

Withdrawn certificate

The certificate of compliance is referred to as 'withdrawn', if the certificate was permanently cancelled by CSI or the VVB (Certification body).

Expired certificate

The certificate of compliance is referred to as 'expired', if the certificate is no longer valid and the project has not been re-validated after the end of the activity period.

See also Ch. 6.4.7. of [Principles of Global C-Sink Standards](#) for further information on the definition of inactive projects. Activity proponents with a withdrawn, terminated or expired certificate will be labelled as such and listed on the [Global C-Sink Registry](#) for 36 months after the date of withdrawal, termination or expiry of the certificate. Changes to the certificate status of a project will be updated in the public registry promptly.

1.4 Certification period

The period between the re-certification (project verification) and the most recent preceding re-certification or certification (validation) is referred to as certification period.

1.5 Reapplication after non-conformities closed

Operators may reapply once all non-conformities have been resolved.

1.6 Provision of reports and certificates to EU Commission and national authorities

Upon request, CSI will provide the Commission and the national authorities responsible for supervision of the certification bodies with access to the respective audit reports and certificates of compliance.

2. Activity plan and monitoring plan

Operators of activities under EU-CRCF shall submit an activity plan as well as a monitoring plan. These plans cover the aspects of the 'Project Design Document' described in the [Principles of Global C-Sink Standards](#) and is subject to review by the certification body at the certification audit.

2.1 Activity plan

The activity plan to be submitted by the operator and shall include:

- Description of activities
 - eligibility for certification under Regulation (EU) 2024/3012
 - legal ownership and contact information of the operator
 - georeferenced boundaries of the activity:

This includes, if applicable, codes from the national integrated administration and control system (IACS) and land parcel identification system (LPIS) pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
 - technologies, practices and processes applied
 - start date of the activity
 - information listed in Article 8(1) of Regulation (EU) 2025/2358.
- Description of the application of the certification methodology
 - quantification, including calculation of the activity baseline, if applicable
 - additionality, including funding sources:

Where the activity is financed through a combination of public and private funding, in order to document that there is no overcompensation of costs, any form of public financing received or applied for with regard to the activity must be indicated. Confidential details may be submitted as confidential annex to the activity plan. The certification body will reference to the information in the certificate of compliance.
 - long-term storage
 - sustainability
- Expected total carbon removals and total greenhouse gas emissions associated to the activity
- Expected net carbon removal benefit generated by the activity

2.2 Monitoring plan

The monitoring plan to be submitted by the operator shall include:

- Data and parameters to be monitored
- Monitoring frequency
- Emission sources and sinks
- Data source
- Measurement methods and procedures, including details on accuracy and calibration
- Quality assessment or quality control procedures
- Responsibility for collection and archiving