

APRIL 2024 OVERVIEW OF VCS PROGRAM UPDATES AND EFFECTIVE DATES

Release Date: 16 April 2024

This document provides an overview of the updates to the VCS Program rules and requirements released in April 2024 and the effective dates of these changes. The updates are listed in order of first appearance in the VCS Program rules and requirements.

Note: “Effective immediately” means that the update applies to all project requests submitted on or after the release date (16 April 2024).

“All project requests” refers to any project request submitted to the Verra Registry (e.g. pipeline listing as “under validation,” registration approval, crediting period renewal, verification approval, etc.). For more information about submitting project requests, see the *Registration and Issuance Process*.

For updates that are not effective immediately, project proponents may conform with updated requirements before the effective date. If project proponents choose to make such updates ahead of the effective dates, the validation/verification body must validate or verify the project in accordance with the updated requirements.

ID#	Description of Update	Affected Documents & Section Numbers	Effective Date
1.	<p>The following updates have been made relating to the VCS safeguard requirements:</p> <p><i>VCS Standard, v4.7</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 3.19.2 – Updated to specify all of the sections for which project proponents are expected to assess risk, and to clarify that any mitigation measures must be <i>commensurate</i> with the identified risks. 	<i>VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.19</i>	Effective for all project requests submitted to the Verra Registry on or after 1 January 2025 .

ID#	Description of Update	Affected Documents & Section Numbers	Effective Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 3.19.10 – Updated to specify that the project proponent shall identify, <i>minimize</i>, and mitigate any impacts caused, including from <i>the release of chemical pesticides and fertilizers</i>. Section 3.19.15 – Updated to clarify that the project proponent is also expected to <i>protect staff and contracted workers employed by third parties</i>. Section 3.19.26 – Updated to specify that the demonstration of no adverse impact also applies to <i>areas needed for habitat connectivity</i>. 		
2.	<p>The following updates have been made relating to registration under another GHG program:</p> <p><i>VCS Standard, v4.7</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 3.23 – Concept section updated to include reference to VCS Program rules on double registration. Section 3.23.3, 3.23.6 – Requirements have been added to specify that projects registered under another GHG program are only eligible for registration and issuance under the VCS Program after the date of project inactivity in the other GHG program <p><i>VCS Program Definitions, v4.5</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition added for “Date of Project Inactivity” <p><i>Registration and Issuance Process, v4.5</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections 4.2.3, 4.2.5 - Updated requirements to specify that evidence of the date of project inactivity must be provided, where relevant. Sections 4.2.15, 4.2.17 – Updated requirements to specify that projects registered under another GHG program are only permitted to register with the VCS Program after the date of project inactivity in the other GHG program. 	<p><i>VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.23</i> <i>VCS Program Definitions, v4.5</i> <i>Registration and Issuance Process, v4.5, Section 4.2</i> <i>Registration Representation (single PP), v4.4</i> <i>Registration Representation (multiple PPs), v4.3</i></p>	<p>Updates to the <i>VCS Standard, Registration and Issuance Process</i>, and <i>Registration Representations</i>: Effective for all projects that request registration or crediting period renewal under the VCS Program on or after 1 January 2025.</p> <p>Updates to the <i>VCS Program Definitions</i>: Effective immediately.</p>
3.	<p>The following updates have been made related to double selling:</p> <p><i>VCS Standard, v4.7</i></p>	<p><i>VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.23</i> <i>VCS Program Definitions, v4.5</i></p>	<p>Effective immediately</p>

ID#	Description of Update	Affected Documents & Section Numbers	Effective Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 3.23 – Concept section updated to include reference to VCS Program rules on double selling which are addressed in the Registry Terms of Use. <p><i>VCS Program Definitions, v4.5</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition of “double selling” added. <p>Note that the <i>Registry Terms of Use</i> has also been updated and is available on the Verra website.</p>	<i>Registry Terms of Use</i>	
4.	<p>The following update has been made to the <i>Methodology Development and Review Process</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 3.5.1 – Updated to clarify that Verra <i>identifies a shortlist of eligible validation/verification bodies that meet all request for proposal and VCS Program criteria.</i> 	<i>Methodology Development and Review Process, v4.4, Section 3.5.1</i>	Effective immediately
5.	<p>All project templates have been updated to align with the revised requirements in the <i>VCS Standard</i> and <i>Registration and Issuance Process</i>.</p>	<i>VCS Project Description Template, v4.4</i> <i>VCS Monitoring Report Template, v4.4</i> <i>VCS Joint Project Description and Monitoring Report Template, v4.4</i> <i>VCS Validation Report Template, v4.4</i> <i>VCS Verification Report Template, v4.4</i> <i>VCS Joint Validation and Verification Report Template, v4.4</i>	<p>Effective for all project requests submitted to the Verra Registry on or after 1 January 2025.</p> <p><i>Note: Updated versions of the CCB and VCS Program joint project templates will be revised accordingly and released shortly. These templates will have the same effective date of 1 January 2025 for all project requests.</i></p>