

CLARIFICATIONS TO VERRA PROGRAM RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

Publication date: 4 December 2024

This document provides clarifications applicable to the program documents referenced in the table below. All clarifications listed below are effective immediately. Project proponents and validation/verification bodies (VVBs) must apply and interpret the Verra program documents consistent with the clarifications set out in this document.

The clarifications will be incorporated into the next issued version of the program documents. Relevant diagrams and cross-references will also be updated in the next version as needed to reflect these changes.

Clarification	Description	Document and Section Reference	Effective Date
Clarification 1	Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Standards (CCBS) Program adjustments to the description of Verra’s review process for validation and verification public comment period requests	<i>CCB Program Rules, v3.1, Sections 4.3.5 and 4.3.7</i>	Effective immediately
Clarification 2	Jurisdictional & Nested REDD+ (JNR) framework adjustments to the description of Verra’s review process for pipeline listing requests	<i>JNR Registration and Issuance Process, v4.2, Sections 3.1.8 and 3.1.9</i>	Effective immediately
Clarification 3	Plastic Waste Reduction Standard (Plastic Program) adjustments to the description of Verra’s review process for validation and verification public comment period requests	<i>Plastic Program Guide, v1.0, Sections 5.4.5 and 5.4.6</i>	Effective immediately
Clarification 4	Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta) Program adjustments to the description of Verra’s review process for validation and verification public comment period requests	<i>SD VISta Program Guide, v1.0, Sections 3.3.2, 3.3.3, and 3.4.2</i>	Effective immediately
Clarification 5	Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program adjustments to the description of Verra’s review process for pipeline listing requests	<i>VCS Program Registration and Issuance Process,</i>	Effective immediately

Clarification	Description	Document and Section Reference	Effective Date
		v4.6, Sections 3.1.9 and 3.1.10	

The redlined clarifications are in the following sections. The text in ~~strikethrough red~~ represents deletions and in **green** represents insertions.

I. Background of the clarifications to the Verra programs

Verra is implementing necessary clarifications to its programs’ procedural documents to ensure that the processes described therein accurately reflect current internal practices. The changes reflect the recent streamlining of the review process for project documents submitted to list on the Verra project pipeline as *under development* or *under validation* by requiring Verra review prior to validation/verification body review only in cases where it is deemed necessary or high-risk. This practice aligns with Verra’s recently **announced risk-based approach to project reviews**. Relevant diagrams and cross-references will also be updated in the next versions of program documents as needed to reflect these changes.

II. Clarification 1: CCBS Program adjustments to the description of Verra’s review process for validation and verification public comment period requests

Clarification: CCB Program Rules, v3.1, Sections 4.3.5 and 4.3.7

- 2.3.5 A completeness check of the submitted documents will be conducted **where deemed necessary** to ensure that all required project documents have been submitted using the appropriate templates and the appropriate project version of the *Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards* has been applied...
- 4.3.7. VCS will conduct a completeness review of the submitted documents **where deemed necessary** to ensure that all relevant sections of each of the documents have been completed with appropriate data types and that climate, community and biodiversity benefits are not being double counted (as set out in Section 3.4).

Note – Documents in the CCBS Program refer to “VCS,” the former name of “Verra.” Verra’s name will be revised consistently throughout the program documentation in the next program update.

III. Clarification 2: JNR framework adjustments to the description of Verra’s review process for pipeline listing requests

Clarification: JNR Registration and Issuance Process, v4.2, Sections 3.1.8 and 3.1.9

3.1.8 Verra checks the submitted documents **where deemed necessary** to ensure that:

- 1) The relevant sections of the *VCS JNR Baseline Description Template* or the *VCS JNR Program Description Template*, respectively, have been completed in accordance with Sections 3.1.3, 3.1.4 and 3.1.5, as appropriate.

2) The listing representation has been signed by the relevant responsible parties.

3.1.9 Verra reviews the jurisdictional element documents **where deemed necessary** to ensure that sufficient information is present and may require the jurisdictional proponent to update documentation before listing the jurisdictional element on the Verra registry. A jurisdictional FREL or jurisdictional program will only be listed on the pipeline and posted for public comment after the relevant documentation has been reviewed and approved by Verra, as set out in the VCS Program document *JNR Validation and Verification Process*.

IV. Clarification 3: Plastic Program adjustments to the description of Verra's review process for validation and verification public comment period requests

Clarification: *Plastic Program Guide, v1.0, Sections 5.4.5 and 5.4.6*

5.4.5. Verra ~~shall check~~ **reviews** the submitted project documents **where deemed necessary** to ensure that ...

5.4.6. Verra reviews the project description **and/or monitoring report where deemed necessary** to ensure that sufficient information is present for the project to undergo public comment and may require the project proponent to update project documentation before listing the project on the Verra Registry.

V. Clarification 4: SD VISta Program adjustments to the description of Verra's review process for validation and verification public comment period requests

Clarification: *SD VISta Program Guide, v1.0, Sections 3.3.2, 3.3.3, and 3.4.2*

3.3.2. The Verra registry shall ensure that all required documentation has been submitted. In addition, Verra reviews project documents **where deemed necessary** to ensure that sufficient information is present for a project to undergo public comment. Verra may require the project proponent to update project documentation before the project is listed on the project database.

3.3.3. Where Verra has reason to believe that false or misleading project information has been submitted, Verra will seek clarification from the project proponent **where deemed necessary**. Where the project proponent cannot satisfactorily justify the information provided for a project, Verra reserves the right not to list or to take a project listing off the database.

3.4.2. The Verra registry shall ensure that all required documentation has been submitted. In addition, Verra reviews project documents **where deemed necessary** to ensure that sufficient information is present for a project to undergo public comment. Verra may require the project proponent to update project documentation before the project is listed on the project database.

Note – Documents in the SD VSta Program use the term “project database” to refer to the “Verra Registry.” This term will be revised consistently throughout the program documentation in the next SD VSta Program update.

VI. Clarification 5: VCS Program adjustments to the description of Verra's review process for pipeline listing requests

Clarification: *Registration and Issuance Process. v4.6, Sections 3.1.9 and 3.1.10*

3.1.9 Where a project proponent requests to list a project as *under development*, Verra conducts a completeness review of the submitted project documents **where deemed necessary** to ensure that:

- 1) The relevant sections of the *VCS Project Description Template* have been completed in accordance with Sections 3.1.1.
- 2) The listing representation has been signed by the relevant responsible parties.

Any issues raised as a result of the Verra completeness review shall be addressed before the project listing request can proceed.

3.1.10 Where a project is requesting to list as, or update its status to, *under validation*, Verra reviews the submitted project documents **where deemed necessary** to ensure that sufficient information is present for the project to undergo public comment. Any issues raised as a result of the Verra review shall be addressed before the project can proceed to public comment.