

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS TO VCS PROGRAM RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

Publication date: 9 June 2026

This document provides corrections and clarifications applicable to the program documents referenced in the table below. Such corrections and clarifications are effective on the effective dates listed in the table. Project proponents and validation/verification bodies (VVBs) must apply and interpret the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program documents consistent with the corrections and clarifications set out in this document.

The corrections and clarifications will be incorporated into the next issued versions of the program documents.

Correction / Clarification	Description	Document and Section Reference	Effective Date
Clarification 1	Requirements for revised template section numbers and documents submitted for project requests under VCS Version 5	<i>Registration and Issuance Process, v5.0</i> , Sections 3.1.6–3.1.7 and 4.2.3–4.2.6 <i>VCS Standard, v5.0</i> , Sections 3.2.4, 3.8.11, and 3.18.2	Effective for all project requests submitted on or after 1 January 2027. For projects with a project start date prior to 1 January 2027, certain documents are not required to be submitted, as set out in the <i>VCS Version 5: Overview of VCS Program Updates and Effective Dates</i> document.
Correction 1	Name change of the Geolocation File Requirements, Grouped Project Batch Report Template, and Grievance Redress Process	<i>VCS Standard v5.0</i> , Section 3.10.2 and 3.17.4(10) <i>VCS Version 5: Overview of VCS Program Updates and Effective Dates</i> , Rows V5#78 and V5#79	Effective immediately

I. Clarification 1: Requirements for revised template section numbers and documents submitted for project requests under VCS Version 5

Clarification: *Registration and Issuance Process, v5.0, Sections 3.1.6–3.1.7 and 4.2.3–4.2.6*

3.1.6 To list a project as *under development*, the project proponent shall submit the following to Verra:

- 1) A draft project description with at least the following sections³ completed or equivalent sections in combined template versions):

~~which shall include (at a minimum the cover page and drafts of Sections 1.1–1.6, 1.8–1.12, 1.14–1.18, 3.1, and 3.2 (inclusive) of the VCS Project Description Template,³ or the equivalent sections in the VCS Joint Project Description & Monitoring Report Template~~

Title page

1.1 – Summary Description of the Project

1.2 – Audit History

1.3 – Sectoral Scope and Project Classification

1.4 – Project Eligibility

1.5 – Project Proponent

1.8 – Project Start Date and Initial Crediting Period Start Date

1.9 – Project Crediting Period

1.10 – Project Scale

1.11 – Project Design

1.12 – Conditions Prior to Project Initiation

1.13 – Description of the Project Activity

1.15 – Compliance with Laws and Other Regulatory Frameworks

1.16 – Double Counting and Participation with Other GHG Programs

1.17 – Double Claiming, Other Forms of Credit, and Scope 3 Emissions

2.1.4 – Grievance Redress Procedure (in the *VCS Project Description Template, v5.0A*) or 2.4 – Grievance Redress Mechanism (in the *VCS Project Description Template, v5.0B*)

3.1 – Methodology Details

3.2 – Applicability and Eligibility of Methodology

- 2) A draft stakeholder engagement plan
- 3) A draft environmental, social, and governance (ESG) risk assessment

Note – Indicative information is sufficient ~~(e.g., the proposed approach for establishing the right to operate, rather than the full rationale and evidence that will be submitted for validation)~~.

³Section numbers are based on the VCS Project Description Template, v5.0A and v5.0B~~v4.4~~

3.1.7 To list a project as *under validation*, the project proponent shall submit the following to Verra:

- 1) A project description with all sections completed, using the most recent applicable version of the *VCS Project Description Template* or ~~the~~ *VCS Joint Project Description & Monitoring Report Template*
- 2) A stakeholder engagement plan
- 3) An ESG risk assessment
- 4) ~~2)~~ A geolocation file
- 5) ~~3)~~ Proof of VVB contracting, provided in accordance with Section 4.2.10
- 6) ~~3)~~ A listing representation

4.2.3 Where a project is presented for registration without verification review, the project proponent shall provide the following to Verra:

- 1) Project description and registration representation
- 2) Validation report and validation representation
- 3) Non-permanence risk report, where relevant
- 4) GHG emission reduction and carbon dioxide removal calculation spreadsheets, except where the project proponent submits digitally via the Verra Project Hub and reduction and removals are calculated automatically
- 5) Evidence of the right to operate and the right to reductions and removals
- 6) Stakeholder engagement plan
- 7) ESG risk assessment
- 8) ~~6)~~ Proof of contracting, where relevant
- 9) ~~7)~~ Any annexes or supporting documents referenced in the project description
- 10) ~~8)~~ Geolocation file
- 11) ~~9)~~ Evidence of the date of project inactivity in another GHG program, where relevant
- 12) ~~10)~~ AFOLU Buffer Deed, where relevant

4.2.4 Where a project is presented for verification review, the project proponent shall provide the following to Verra:

- 1) Monitoring report and issuance representation
- 2) Verification report and verification representation

- 3) Non-permanence risk report, where relevant
- 4) GHG emission reduction and carbon dioxide removal calculation spreadsheets, except where the project proponent submits digitally via the Verra Project Hub and reductions and removals are calculated automatically
- 5) Evidence of the right to operate and the right to reductions and removals
- 6) Proof of contracting, where relevant
- 7) Any annexes or supporting documents referenced in the project documents
- 8) Geolocation file
- 9) Evidence and representation with respect to the cancellation of GHG credits from another GHG program, where relevant
- 10) Grouped project batch report for each new batch of instances being added during the monitoring period, where relevant
- 11) ESG risk monitoring report

4.2.5 Where a project proponent requests registration and verification review together, they shall provide the following to Verra:

- 1) Project description and registration representation
- 2) Validation report and validation representation
- 3) Non-permanence risk report, where relevant
- 4) Monitoring report and issuance representation
- 5) Verification report and verification representation
- 6) GHG emission reduction and carbon dioxide removal calculation spreadsheets, except where the project proponent submits digitally via the Verra Project Hub and reductions and removals are calculated automatically
- 7) Evidence of the right to operate and the right to reductions and removals
- 8) Proof of contracting, where relevant
- 9) Stakeholder engagement plan
- 10) ESG risk assessment
- 11) ESG risk monitoring report
- 12) ~~9)~~ Any annexes or supporting documents referenced in project documents
- 13) ~~10)~~ Geolocation file

- 14) ~~11)~~ Evidence and representation with respect to the cancellation of GHG credits from another GHG program, where relevant
- 15) ~~12)~~ Evidence of the date of project inactivity in another GHG program, where relevant
- 16) ~~13)~~ AFOLU Buffer Deed, where relevant

4.2.6 Where a project proponent reassesses the project baseline as part of a verification approval request, the following shall be ~~provided~~ **submitted** to Verra in addition to the documents listed in Section 4.2.4:

- 1) An updated project description **that includes revisions to at least the following sections⁴ using the most recent applicable template version (or equivalent sections in the most recent applicable combined template versions) ~~that includes updated Sections 1.14–1.16, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 4.1–4.4, and 5.1⁴ to reflect any changes as required in accordance with baseline reassessment requirements set out in the VCS Standard, to the baseline scenario and any updates to baseline emissions quantifications:~~**

Title page

3.1 – Methodology Details

3.2 – Applicability and Eligibility of Methodology

3.3 – Project Boundary

3.4 – Baseline Scenario

3.5.1 – Regulatory Surplus

4.1 – Baseline Emissions

4.2 – Project Emissions

4.3 – Leakage Emissions

4.4 – Other Relevant Quantification

4.5 – Estimated GHG Emission Reductions and Carbon Dioxide Removals

5.1 – Data and Parameters

5.2 – Monitoring Plan

Any other sections required to be revised according to the VCS Program rules⁵

- 2) A stakeholder engagement plan and an ESG risk assessment, where required by the VCS Program rules⁶

⁴ Section numbers are based on the VCS *Project Description Template, v5.0A and v.5.0B* ~~v4.4~~

⁵ For projects with a project start date prior to 1 January 2027, see the VCS *Version 5: Overview of VCS Program Updates and Effective Dates* document for the sections required to be completed when submitting the first crediting period renewal request or the first verification approval request that includes a baseline reassessment on or after 1 January 2030.

⁶ See the VCS *Version 5: Overview of VCS Program Updates and Effective Dates* document.

Clarification: VCS Standard, v5.0, Sections 3.2.4, 3.8.11, and 3.18.2

3.2.4 At baseline reassessment, the project proponent shall...

...

- 4) revise the sections of the project description, and submit any other required documents, as set out in the *Registration and Issuance Process*. ~~Sections 3.1–3.4, 3.5.1, 4, and 5 of the project description.~~⁴⁹

⁴⁹Section numbers are based on the VCS Project Description Template, v4.4.

3.8.11 At project crediting period renewal, the project proponent shall...

...

- 5) submit an updated project description that includes at least the following sections using the most recent applicable template version (or equivalent sections in combined template versions):⁴⁷ ~~revise Sections 3.1–3.4, 3.5.1, 4, and 5 of the project description.~~⁴⁷

Title page

All of Section 1 – Project Details

All of Section 3 – Application of Methodology, except for Section 3.5.2 – Additionality Methods, unless required at crediting period renewal by the applied methodology(ies)

All of Section 4 – Quantification of Estimated Reductions and Removals

All of Section 5 – Monitoring

All appendices, where any information has changed from the most recent validated project description

Any other sections required to be revised according to the VCS Program rules⁴⁸

- 6) submit a stakeholder engagement plan and an ESG risk assessment, where required by the VCS Program rules.⁴⁹

⁴⁷ Section numbers are based on the VCS *Project Description Template*, v5.0A and v5.0B ~~v4.4~~

⁴⁸ For projects with a project start date prior to 1 January 2027, see the VCS *Version 5: Overview of VCS Program Updates and Effective Dates* document for the sections required to be completed when submitting the first crediting period renewal request or the first verification approval request that includes a baseline reassessment on or after 1 January 2030.

⁴⁹ See the VCS *Version 5: Overview of VCS Program Updates and Effective Dates* document.

3.18.2 Throughout project design and implementation, project proponents shall document the following, using the VCS *Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Risk Monitoring Report Template* and associated guidance:

...

Background

The VCS Program rules specify which section numbers of the project description template must be revised or completed for certain project requests. This clarification:

- updates the numbering of the section numbers to align them with the VCS Project Description Template, v5.0A and v5.0B.
- includes the full heading name of the section written out for improved readability and use.
- requires the “Grievance Redress Procedure” or “Grievance Redress Mechanism” section to be completed at pipeline listing as *under development* to ensure stakeholders have access early on to such information.
- requires the “Project Details” section to be updated at crediting period renewal to ensure all information from the previously validated project description is included and updated where needed.

The VCS Program rules also list the documentation which must be submitted for each project request. The clarification includes new documents that must be submitted in line with the *VCS Standard, v5.0*, including:

- the stakeholder engagement plan
- the ESG risk assessment and risk monitoring report
- the grouped project batch report

Finally, the clarification specifies that certain safeguards-related sections and documents must be completed at a project’s first crediting period renewal request or verification approval request that includes a baseline reassessment that is submitted after 1 January 2030, for projects with a project start date prior to 1 January 2027.

II. Correction 1: Name change of the Geolocation File Requirements, Grouped Project Batch Report Template, and Verra Grievance Redress Process

Correction: VCS Standard v5.0, Section 3.10.2 and Section 3.17.4(10)

3.10.2 A geolocation file shall be prepared at validation and verification in accordance with the *Geolocation File ~~Preparation Tool~~ Requirements*.

...

3.17.4 Throughout the stakeholder engagement and FPIC processes, project proponents shall...

- 10) at the earliest interactions with stakeholders, provide all stakeholders access to the project’s grievance redress mechanism (see Sections 3.17.22–3.17.23), and Verra’s Grievance Redress [Policy Process](#).

Correction: VCS Version 5: Overview of VCS Program Updates and Effective Dates, Row V5#79

V5#79	<p>Project location reporting</p> <p>Updated project location requirements clarify expectations for reporting a project’s geographic information and require that an updated geolocation file be submitted at both validation and verification.</p> <p>A forthcoming Geolocation File Preparation Tool will specify the required file type format for different project types (e.g., KML file, geoJSON file)</p> <p>The Geolocation File Requirements document specifies the requirements for preparing a geolocation file.</p> <p>In the <i>VCS Program Definitions</i>, the definitions for “leakage belt” and “project area” were revised. Definition for “project zone” was removed.</p>	<p><i>VCS Standard, v5.0, section 3.10.1 – 3.10.4</i></p> <p><i>Registration and Issuance Process, v5.0, section 3.1.7(2), 4.2.3 – 4.2.5, 4.4.3</i></p>	<p>Updates to all documents: Effective for all project requests submitted on or after 1 January 2027</p>
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Correction: VCS Version 5: Overview of VCS Program Updates and Effective Dates, Row V5#78

V5#78	<p>Grouped project requirements</p> <p>New rules for grouped projects require that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • capacity limits apply at the project level, not the instance level. • instances are added in batches via a Batch Inclusion Form (to be developed). • instances are added in batches via a completed Grouped Project Batch Report Template, available on the Verra website. • instances added in a batch have been implemented in the monitoring period during which they are added. • grouped project eligibility areas align with the physical boundary of a jurisdiction and do not span more than one country. <p>Other updates were made to streamline the clarity and layout of section 3.5 “Project Design” of the <i>VCS Standard</i>.</p> <p>In the <i>VCS Program Definitions</i>, definitions were added or revised for “project activity instance (instance),” “grouped project,” “grouped project eligibility area,” “initial project activity instance,” and “jurisdiction.”</p>	<p><i>VCS Standard, v5.0, sections 3.2.9 – 3.2.10, 3.5, 3.9.3</i></p> <p><i>VCS Program Definitions, v5.0</i></p>	<p>Updates to the <i>VCS Standard</i>:</p> <p>The following requirements are effective for all registration requests submitted on or after 1 January 2027:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity limits apply at the project-level (<i>VCS Standard, v5.0, sections 3.5.12 – 3.5.13</i>) • Grouped project eligibility areas align with jurisdictional boundaries and do not span more than one country (<i>VCS Standard, v5.0, section 3.5.4</i>) <p>The following requirements are effective for all project requests submitted on or after 1 January 2027:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instances are added in batches via a Batch Inclusion Form, completed Grouped Project Batch Report Template and instances must have been implemented in the monitoring period during which they are added (<i>VCS Standard, v5.0, sections 3.5.8 – 3.5.11</i>) • All other clarification and streamlining updates made to the <i>VCS Standard, v5.0, section 3.5</i>
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			Updates to the <i>VCS Program Definitions</i> : Effective 1 January 2027
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Background

The *VCS Standard, v5.0* and the *VCS Version 5: Overview of VCS Program Updates and Effective Dates* document reference the *Geolocation File Preparation Tool* as the document that must be used to prepare a geolocation file. Verra has revised the name of this document to be the *Geolocation File Requirements*.

Similarly, the *VCS Version 5: Overview of VCS Program Updates and Effective Dates* document makes a reference to the *Batch Inclusion Form*. The name of this template has been changed to the *Grouped Project Batch Report Template*.

Finally, Verra's Grievance Redress Policy is being renamed as Verra's Grievance Redress Process.