



**Verified Carbon
Standard**

A VERRA STANDARD

FSC Label Guidance

Version 1.0

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

This document provides guidance to project proponents on the requirements and procedures for applying Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) labels to Verified Carbon Units (VCUs) issued to projects that are both registered under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program and have FSC Forest Management (FM) Certification.

1.2 Background on VCU Labels and FSC Label

This collaboration between the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Verra aims to ensure that VCUs from FSC FM-certified forests are appropriately labeled to indicate conformance with both standards.

Project proponents whose projects conform to the VCS Program and also hold FSC Forest Management (FM) certification for the land enrolled in the VCS project may indicate that their VCS projects are located on lands that are also FSC FM certified by adding a certification label to their respective VCUs in the Verra Registry.

A VCU certification label indicates that a unit meets the requirements of other (non-VCS) standards or programs developed by non-profit or governmental organizations. Project proponents must follow the rules and requirements of each program and must consider the respective program documents as the primary source for each program's project requirements.

2 ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Eligibility Criteria for the FSC Label

Any VCS project (including joint VCS and Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards (CCBS) Program projects) that conforms with the respective requirements of the Verra program and is also developed on land that holds the FSC FM certification is eligible to receive FSC-labeled VCUs.

Projects must meet the following criteria to be eligible for FSC labels on their VCUs:

1. **Valid FSC FM certificate:** The FSC FM certificate must be valid.
2. **Full spatial overlap:** The VCS project area¹ must have 100% spatial overlap with an FSC FM certified area.

¹ See the *VCS Program Definitions* for the definition of "project area."

3. **Full temporal overlap:** The FSC FM certificate must be fully valid for the entire vintage periods for which VCUs are requested.

To make a retroactive label request, project proponents must ensure the entire batch of VCUs that was previously issued is eligible to be labeled.

3 PROCESS

3.1 Overview

To apply for FSC-labeled VCUs from the Verra Registry, Project Proponents must submit a valid FSC FM certificate and an up-to-date geolocation file as per the *VCS Standard*.

Verra, in collaboration with FSC, will then check that the FSC FM certificate is valid for the entire vintage periods for which VCUs are being requested, and confirm that there is a 100% spatial overlap between the VCS project area and the FSC FM certified area.

3.1.1 Submission Requirements

The VCS project proponent must provide the following documentation to the Verra Registry:

- A valid demonstration of an active FSC FM certificate (including a link to the FSC database to prove active status),
- An up-to-date geolocation file in accordance with the latest applicable version of the *VCS Standard*, and
- A KML file for FSC FM certified area.

3.1.2 Review Process

1. **Certificate validity:** Verra and FSC will confirm that the FSC FM Certificate is valid.
2. **Spatial and temporal overlap:** Verra and FSC will ensure that there is a 100% spatial overlap between the VCS project area and the FSC FM certified area, and that the FSC FM certificate is valid for the entire vintage periods for which VCUs are requested.
3. **Label Issuance:** Once the above checks are complete, FSC labels will be applied to the eligible VCUs. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to report the FSC labeling of VCUs to FSC.

3.2 Applying for FSC-labeled VCUs from the Verra Registry

The label may be requested by selecting the 'Forest Stewardship Council' certification label from the "Additional Certifications" page on the Verra Registry when preparing the VCU issuance request.

Verra works with FSC to ensure that all required documentation is submitted and reviewed before FSC labels are applied.

3.3 Use of FSC Trademarks in Connection with the Retirement of FSC-labeled VCUs

Where an entity retiring FSC-labeled VCUs wishes to use the FSC trademark (initials only) in any claim (e.g., a statement on its website or annual report, such as “*The FSC Labelled VCUs retired by [Company Name] were generated from FSC FM certified forests*”), FSC requires that such entity must, prior to making such claim, enter into a valid trademark license agreement with FSC through execution of the FSC Labelled VCU Limited Trademark Authorization Letter. The only permitted trademark that may be used is the FSC acronym (initials only).

Project proponents and intermediary credit users should inform end-users of this obligation. Verra does not review, approve, monitor or control claims made by entities retiring VCUs and disclaims any responsibility or liability, whether direct or indirect, arising from unauthorized or non-compliant use of FSC trademarks. Failure to obtain proper authorization prior to use of the FSC trademark may result in enforcement action by FSC.

To obtain the FSC Labelled VCU Limited Trademark Authorization Letter template, entities must contact FSC Global Development GmbH (GD) via ecosystemservices@fsc.org.

More information about the process and requirements for using the FSC Trademark in connection with VCU retirement claims can be found on the FSC website.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Date	Comment
v1.0	14 May 2026	Initial version released.

ABOUT VERRA



Verra sets the world's leading standards for climate action and sustainable development. We build standards for activities as diverse as reducing deforestation, improving agricultural practices, addressing plastic waste, and achieving gender equality. We manage programs to certify that these activities achieve measurable high-integrity outcomes. We work with governments, businesses, and civil society to advance the use of these standards, including through the development of markets. Everything we do is in service of increasingly ambitious climate and sustainable development goals, and an accelerated transition to a sustainable future.

Verra's certification programs include the [Verified Carbon Standard \(VCS\) Program](#) and its [Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+ \(JNR\) framework](#), the [Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards \(CCBS\) Program](#), the [Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard \(SD VISta\) Program](#), and the [Plastic Waste Reduction Program](#).



Standards for a
Sustainable Future



**Verified Carbon
Standard**



**Jurisdictional and Nested
REDD+ Framework**



**Climate, Community
& Biodiversity Standards**



**Scope 3
Standard**



**Sustainable Development
Verified Impact Standard**



**Plastic Waste
Reduction Standard**