

Update to Validation/Verification Body Accreditation Recognition

1 INTRODUCTION

This document summarizes the main points of feedback received during the 2018 VCS Version 4 public consultation in respect of the proposal to revise the scope of recognized VVB accreditation for the VCS Program to include only accreditation to *ISO 14065* by an accreditation body that is a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). This document also sets out whether and how the original proposal was updated as a result of that feedback. The abstract, background, and details of the proposal published during the 2018 consultation are available in the [original consultation document](#).

2 RESULTS AND CONSIDERATIONS OF 2018 CONSULTATION

During the 2018 public consultation, Verra received comments from 20 different stakeholders, including project developers, validation/verification bodies, trade associations, and other market participants.

The feedback received during the first consultation was largely positive. In particular, the majority of commenters suggested that moving to a single form of VVB accreditation, such that Verra would have a consistent level of performance oversight across the VVB community, would promote the integrity of the VCS Program. This feedback was in line with the rationale for the proposal. However, important feedback was received highlighting potentially negative impacts if the proposal were operationalized on the timeframes originally proposed. More specifically, some commenters suggested that operationalizing the proposal by the beginning of 2020 was too aggressive, and could result in a limited pool of approved VVBs which could in turn significantly impact the time and cost of validation and verification services. It was also suggested that a greater pool of IAF members offering VCS Program accreditation must be available before the proposal could be operationalized. Verra has considered all feedback received.

Given the supportive feedback highlighted above, Verra has concluded that the original proposal continues to make sense, and that Verra should continue work to operationalize it. However, Verra is sensitive to the potential that this proposal could quickly increase auditing costs and limit the available pool of VVBs available in the market if it is not rolled out over a sensible timeframe.

Therefore, in order to operationalize this proposal, a critical mass of IAF members must first offer VCS Program accreditation; Verra does not believe that critical mass has been reached to-date¹.

Therefore, Verra has concluded that the proposal should be updated to extend the timeline of implementation. More precisely, Verra will continue working with IAF members to operationalize this

¹ Since the 2018 public consultation, Verra has been working with IAF members to operationalize this proposal. In September 2018, Verra signed a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) with the Organismo Nacional de Acreditación de Colombia \(ONAC\)](#) to offer an accreditation program with the VCS Program. Additionally, Verra has been in discussions with a number of other IAF members, including the Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle (DAkKS), L'Ente Italiano di Accreditamento (ACCREDIA), and the Indian National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB).

proposal, and will reassess the viability of this proposal on an annual basis. However, at the latest, this proposal will go into effect two years from the release of VCS Version 4.

For the sake of clarity, Section 3 below indicates how this proposal would ultimately be incorporated into the VCS rules.

2 PROPOSAL

The following demonstrates how the proposal would ultimately be integrated into the VCS rules. Again, for the sake of clarity, these changes will not be included with the launch of VCS Version 4, and would only be implemented once Verra has determined that a sufficient number of IAF members offer VCS Program accreditation, or two years from the release of VCS Version 4, whichever is earlier. At that point, the specifics of this proposal would be integrated into Section 5.1 (“Accreditation Requirements”) of the current version of the VCS Program Guide².

The proposal would be integrated into the VCS rules as follows:

5.1 ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

Validation/verification bodies are eligible to provide validation and verification services under the VCS Program if they have signed the required agreement with the Verra and are:

- ~~1) Accredited under a VCS approved GHG program;~~
- 2) Accredited under ISO 14065 for scope VCS by an accreditation body that is a member of the International Accreditation Forum; ~~or~~
- ~~3) Approved under the VCS temporary accreditation program.³~~

The validation/verification body shall hold such accreditation or approval...

² Note that the specific section number of the VCS Program Guide may change, depending on the final details of the [Proposal for Reorganizing and Restructuring VCS Program Documents](#).

³ Note that Verra is also planning to remove the temporary accreditation program. This is a legacy program not used in more than 5 years, and Verra is confident that there are a sufficient number of VVBs in the market such that this program is no longer relevant.