

STANDARDS ENDORSEMENT APPLICATION FORM

Instructions

- Before applying, the Standard should review and understand all criteria in the Standards Endorsement Review Criteria and requirements outlined in the Standards Endorsement Procedure Guide.
- The application form should be completed in full for both independent Standards and Government/UN approved Standards. The IETA Secretariat’s decision to allow a “light touch” assessment for Government/UN approved Standards will be made based on the thoroughness of the information provided.
- Throughout the entire application process, we ask that you refrain from externally communicating any association with ICROA, including publishing any statements such as “pending ICROA endorsement” or “adheres to the ICROA Code of Best Practice.”
- Important: All Standards, new and currently Endorsed, are required to proactively inform ICROA of any updates or changes to the Standard’s programme operations or methodologies and provide information regarding the impacted criteria. The IETA Secretariat will review the changes and determine whether a full third-party assessment is required to evaluate compliance with the Standards Endorsement Review Criteria.

Contact Information

Please complete the following table with up-to-date contact information.

Full Name of Standard	
Contact Person	
Contact Email	
Date of Submission	
Version of Submission	

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Government or United Nations (UN) Endorsement

Is the Standard approved by a government or UN Organisation?

If yes, describe the level of government (national government, state-level government, etc.) or the UN Organisation that has approved the Standard, and for what use.

If yes, when was approval granted?

2. Independence

Who designed the Standard and developed the rules?

Provide evidence to show that the Standard is managed by an independent organisation / group of organisations.

Describe how credits get to market, who the beneficiaries are, and the parties involved in the transactions (and how, if at all, the Standard is involved).

3. Governance

Describe the governance structure.

Describe the processes for appointments to leadership, committees, and groups.

Are there any legal disputes that directly or indirectly involve the Standard?

Does the Standard undertake annual audits? Describe the process and auditor(s).

Provide evidence to show that the Standard complies with all laws and regulations.

Provide evidence of clear roles and responsibilities for members of the organisation.

Share the publicly available rules used to guard against conflicts of interest. Provide evidence that these rules are enforced.

Share the published grievance and redress mechanism. Describe the process by which comments are received and addressed.

Describe the methodology development process in detail, including how, and to what extent, experts are involved, and stakeholders are considered.

How frequently are methodologies updated, and what is the process for methodology revisions?

How many methodologies are currently published, in draft form / under approval, expected to be published, and expected to be removed?

4. Registry

Who is the registry provider? If the Standard is also the registry provider, please provide details of separation of duties and avoidance of conflicts of interest.

Share the link to the registry and outline if there are any special access arrangements to the registry.

Describe how the registry tracks the chain of custody and ensures no double counting.

Are all project documents publicly available on the registry? (Project plans, monitoring reports, verification statements, and legal representations, etc.)

Describe the legal framework deployed by the registry, including the processes for “know your customer” checks.

How does the registry guard against conflicts of interest?

Describe the registry’s security and provisions for regular security audits.

5. Validation and Verification

Certify that each project is independently verified. Provide evidence to support this.

Are projects verified to a reasonable level of assurance?

Describe the validation and verification process.

Detail in a clear and transparent manner the oversight provided to validation and verification bodies (VVBs).

How is independence of the VVB ensured? How are conflicts of interest addressed and avoided?

What accreditation(s) or qualifications must the VVB have to be deemed eligible by the Standard?

Which VVBs are approved for use by the Standard?

6. ICROA Principles

Unique

Explain the measures in place to prevent double counting (double issuance or double use).

Real

Provide details on how the Standard ensures only real emission reductions are credited.

Does the Standard issue any credits ex-ante?

If yes, how are these credits distinguished from ex-post carbon credits on the registry?

*If yes, does the Standard allow for a transition from ex-ante to ex-post over time?
Provide clear details of this process.*

Permanent

Under which methodologies does the Standard issue credits for project activities that have a risk of reversal (i.e., removal-type credits)?

Describe the measures the Standard takes to ensure that emission reductions associated with carbon credits are permanent. Include a description of the link between the Standard-level and methodology-level requirements.

Does the Standard require a multi-decadal commitment from project proponents?

Provide evidence of the comprehensive risk mitigation plan in place to ensure that non-permanence risks are minimized.

Provide the rationale for any buffer or contingency accounts. Describe the process for replacing any lost units due to intentional or unintentional reversals.

Additional

Describe the various additionality requirements employed by the Standard. Include a description of the link between the Standard-level and methodology-level requirements.

Provide at least one example of how the business-as-usual scenario is determined for a project baseline.

Describe how regulatory surplus defined and enforced.

Do jurisdictional programs demonstrate additional reductions below the historical reference level?

Measurable

How does the Standard monitor and avoid any baselines that lead to over-crediting?

How frequently are baselines re-evaluated? What is the process for updating and/or recalculating baselines over time?

How is conservativeness factored into quantifications? Provide at least one example.

How is leakage demonstrated to be minimal? How is the risk of leakage addressed, mitigated, and calculated? Provide at least one example.

7. Environmental and Social Impacts

Describe the legal safeguards in place to prevent and/or mitigate unintended environmental and social impacts of carbon crediting projects.

What requirements are in place to ensure relevant stakeholders are engaged fairly and proactively in the project development process?

Demonstrate with at least one example how the “Do No Harm” principle is fulfilled by projects.

8. Stakeholder Considerations

Describe how stakeholders’ views were considered during the Standard’s development.

Provide evidence that stakeholder comments are transparently addressed during updates to the Standard, during methodology development/revision, and when provided as part of project development.

Describe the public consultation process (process flow, parties involved, etc.) at the programme-level, during methodology development/revision, and as part of project development.

9. Scale

The Standard must have a sufficient presence in the market to be fully Endorsed. This concretely translates to:

- 10+ projects registered, and
- 100,000 tCO₂e issued.

A Standard can apply for Endorsement prior to these conditions being met. If evidence for all other review criteria is deemed acceptable, the Accreditation Committee has the ability to *Conditionally* Endorse the Standard. More information on Conditional Endorsements can be found in the Standards Endorsement Procedure Guide.

Provide evidence of adequate scale.

10. Additional Criteria to be Assessed

The third-party Assessor will evaluate and provide a recommendation on the following:

- Describe the portrayal of the Standard in the media.
- Does Endorsement of this Standard provide a reputational risk to ICROA?
- Could the Standard reasonably be expected to develop relevant market share for impact?

The Standard is not expected to provide evidence to answer these questions. The results of the Assessor's findings will be shared with the Accreditation Committee to be considered as part of the full evaluation package.