

# GOLD STANDARD FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS

## RENEWABLE ENERGY ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS

**Version 1.2**

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## GOLD STANDARD FOUNDATION VISION & MISSION

**OUR VISION:** Climate security and sustainable development for all.

**OUR MISSION:** To catalyse more ambitious climate action to achieve the Global Goals through robust standards and verified impacts.

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## 1. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

1.1.1 This Requirements document, hereafter "the RE Activity Requirements", provides necessary guidelines and requirements for Renewable Energy activities seeking certification of the project design and/or to issue Gold Standard Certified Impact Statements and Products.

1.1.2 The RE Activity Requirements document is designed to be read in conjunction with the [Principles & Requirements](#), and associated documents including Gold Standard Approved Methodologies and Product Requirements such as [GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration Product Requirements](#), [Renewable Energy Label Product Requirements](#).

1.1.3 To maintain the integrity of the standard, Gold Standard reserves the right to issue updates and changes, clarifications or corrections to its requirements. Typically, this will involve a notice period and guidance will be provided on how to apply the new rules and requirements. Likewise, the Gold Standard reserves the right to require additional information and evidence to be supplied by the Project Developer.

## 2. ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

2.1.1 All Renewable Energy Projects for which Gold Standard certification is being sought shall fulfil the requirements as set out in this document and those referenced or associated documents.

2.1.2 In order to be eligible for Gold standard certification, all Renewable Energy Projects, shall meet the following Eligibility Criteria:

- (a) Projects shall generate and deliver energy services (e.g. mechanical work/electricity/heat) from non-fossil and renewable energy sources
- (b) Projects shall comprise of renewable energy generation units, such as photovoltaic, tidal/wave, wind, hydro, geothermal, waste to energy and renewable biomass, that are
  - Supplying energy to a national or a regional grid; OR
  - Supplying energy to an identified consumer facility via national/regional grid through a contractual agreement such as wheeling.
- (c) Any Project supplying electricity to a mini-grid<sup>1</sup> shall refer to [Community Services Activity Requirements](#).

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<sup>1</sup> A mini-grid is defined as power system with a total capacity not exceeding 15 MW (i.e. the sum of installed capacities of all generators connected to the mini-grid is equal to or less than 15 MW) which is not connected to a national or a regional grid.

(d) Projects generating on-site energy for captive consumption at an industrial facility shall refer to the requirements in this document.

2.1.3 Grid connected<sup>2</sup> Renewable Energy projects - unless located in a Least Developed Country (LDC), Small Island Developing State (SIDS) or a Land Locked Developing Country (LLDC) - shall be deemed ineligible<sup>3</sup> for the issuance of Gold Standard Verified Emission Reductions (GS-VERs) or Gold Standard labels for Certified Emission Reductions (GS-CERs);

- (a) If a Renewable Energy project is connected to national or a regional grid and located in an Upper Middle- and High-Income Country<sup>4</sup>, OR
- (b) If project is located in a country where the penetration level of the proposed Renewable Energy Technology type is greater than 5%<sup>5</sup> of the total grid installed capacity, at the time of the first submission<sup>6</sup> to Gold Standard

This eligibility clause will come into effect from **24 Jan 2020**. Projects submitted for preliminary review after this date shall demonstrate compliance with this eligibility requirement.

2.1.4 Where exceptional circumstances exist, a project may seek an exception to paragraph 2.1.3. This include cases when a project serves

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<sup>2</sup> Renewable Energy project supplying electricity to mini-grid are exempted from this eligibility requirements and shall follow Gold Standard Community Services Activity Requirements to issue GS-VER or GS-CERs.

<sup>3</sup> This outcome only affects the eligibility of projects issuing GS-VERs or GS-CERs, projects applying other pathways (for example Gold Standard Renewable Energy Labels) are not affected.

<sup>4</sup> Refer to the latest country classification by income available at <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519>

<sup>5</sup> The penetration rate is the ratio of installed capacity of proposed renewable technology in the grid to total installed capacity of the grid in the host country or region. The 5% threshold will be periodically reviewed and updated, potentially with specific tools and approaches for different technologies/regions in future. The default position, in the absence of such approaches, shall be 5%.

<sup>6</sup> For preliminary review

<sup>7</sup> It refers to the conflict zones - as no-go areas for investment purpose, which might affect the decision making considering the long-term risk to the investment.

<sup>8</sup> The latest version of CDM methodology tool "[Common practice](#)" with applicable adjustments to include projects considered carbon revenue shall be applied to demonstrate the exceptional circumstances i.e., the project activity is not "common practice" in the relevant region of the host country.

impoverished beneficiaries at preferential electricity rates or the project is located in a conflict zone<sup>7</sup>, or penetration of proposed project technology type is not a common practice<sup>8</sup> in the relevant region of the host country. Exceptional circumstances will be judged on a case by case basis and are entirely at the discretion of Gold Standard. If exceptional circumstance exists;

- (a) A request for exception approval may be submitted before submitting the project for preliminary review.
- (b) The project developer shall submit a memo describing the exceptional circumstances that are relevant to the proposed activities, accompanied, at a minimum, with an Investment Analysis to demonstrate the financial additionality. The developer shall follow the latest version of CDM methodology tool "[Methodological tool: Investment analysis](#)" to demonstrate financial additionality as per the CDM Requirements. The review process may include independent expert analysis, paid for by the Project Developer but reimbursable against fees for first issuance (not reimbursable in the event of an unsuccessful application for exceptional circumstances). Penetration level significantly higher than the 5% benchmark, when proposed as an exception, are unlikely to be approved.
- (c) Projects must still demonstrate additionality at the time of design certification unless otherwise stated elsewhere in Gold Standard requirements.

2.1.5 Additional eligibility criteria are prescribed in Annex A for specific Renewable Energy project types like Hydropower, projects using biomass resources, biogas, waste heat/gas recovery, fossil co-generation, waste incineration and gas, and waste handling and disposal. etc.,

2.1.6 For Projects seeking to issue of both Renewable Energy Labels and Gold Standard VERs the requirements in listed documents shall also be met:

- (a) Applicable Impact Quantification Methodologies for Emissions Reductions
- (b) [GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration Product Requirements](#)
- (c) [Renewable Energy Label Product Requirements](#)

### **3. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

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3.1.1 **Types of project:** Eligible projects shall include physical action/implementation on the ground. Pre-identified eligible project types are mentioned in the Eligibility Criteria Section above.

3.1.2 **Location of project:** Eligible projects may be located in any part of the world. Hydropower projects shall not be located in HCVs<sup>9</sup> areas. Please refer to Annex A for further information on hydropower projects.

3.1.3 **Project area, boundary and scale:** Project Area and Boundary shall be defined in line with the applicable Methodologies and Product Requirements. The following scale categories are applied to RE activities:

- (a) **Microscale**
  - i. RE project issuing emission reductions less than or equal to 10,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq
  - ii. RE project seeking any product other than emission reductions with an installed capacity less than equal to 2 MW<sub>el</sub> / 6 MW<sub>th</sub>
- (b) Projects above microscale threshold are considered as Non microscale project.
- (c) For the purpose of applying UNFCCC methodologies for quantification of GHG reductions, 'small scale' is defined as mentioned in the [GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration Product Requirements](#)

3.1.4 Certain Impact Quantification methodologies allow projects to account for a Suppressed Demand scenario when establishing a baseline. In such cases, the application of the Suppressed Demand baseline is limited to small scale and microscale projects. Where a Suppressed Demand baseline is applied, it is not possible to 'stack' Gold Standard Certified Impact Statements or Products as the definition of the baseline may be contradictory.

## 4. ELIGIBILITY PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS

This section describes the additional requirements and/or deviations from the [Principles & Requirements](#). Renewable Energy projects seeking Gold Standard certification shall meet these additional requirements.

4.1.1 The Certification cycle for Renewable Energy projects is as detailed in the [Principles & Requirements](#). Upon successful completion of performance certification, the Renewable Energy Projects shall be issued

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<sup>9</sup> Refer to High Conservation Value Resource Network for definition of High Conservation Value Area. Available at <https://hcvnetwork.org/>

with Certified Impact statements and/or Products, as per the Gold Standard [Claims Guidelines](#).

4.1.2 A single Renewable Energy project may potentially pursue any number and combination of Certified Impact Statements or Products. However, certain Product Requirements, which supersede the generic requirements stated in this document can set restrictions on co-issuance of Certified Impact statements or Products. For instance, GS VER or GS CER with REC labels cannot be stacked for the same MWh.

## **Principle 1 – Contribution to Climate Security & Sustainable Development**

4.1.3 Project shall mandatorily contribute to SDG 13 (Climate Action) and two other SDGs. It is recommended to include a contribution to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) as one of the other 2 SDGs.

## **Principle 2 – Safeguarding Principles**

4.1.4 Project developers shall conduct a Safeguarding Principles Assessment and conform to the [Safeguarding Principles & Requirements](#).

## **Principle 3 – Stakeholder Inclusivity**

4.1.5 Projects shall identify and engage relevant stakeholders and seek expert stakeholder input where necessary in the design, planning and implementation. Specific stakeholder consultation requirements for hydropower, renewable biomass, MSW incineration projects are outlined in Annex A of this document.

## **Principle 4 – Demonstration of Real Outcomes**

4.1.6 The definition of start date is as per [Principles & Requirements](#), including for Retroactive Project Design Certification (under which a Project must achieve this status within two years of its start date).

4.1.7 Projects may receive Issuance of Certified Impact Statements or Products for a maximum of three Certification Renewal Cycles i.e., a total of 15 years, unless mentioned otherwise in the Product Requirements.

4.1.8 Projects shall mandatorily undergo Design Certification Renewal every 5 years as per [Principles & Requirements](#).

## **Principle 5 – Financial Additionality & Ongoing Financial Need**

4.1.9 Projects seeking the issuance of Certified Impact Statements or Products (for example GS - VERs) shall demonstrate financial additionality and

Ongoing Financial Need in accordance with [Principles & Requirements](#) unless mentioned otherwise in the Product Requirements.

4.1.10 An eligible Microscale project that meets any one of the criteria below shall be deemed additional:

- (a) The project is located in a Least Developed Country (LDC), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) or Land Locked Developing Country (LLDC)<sup>10</sup>. The project is located in a special underdeveloped zone of the identified by the Host Country Government<sup>11</sup>.
- (b) The project is located in a host country or part of the host country different from those defined above, but Project Developer can demonstrate that project implementation will essentially benefit poor communities<sup>12</sup>. The Project Developer shall seek approval from Gold Standard providing a detailed description as to how the activity will benefit poor communities.
- (c) The project is supplying electricity to grid; however, convincing evidence can be provided to demonstrate that project implementation will significantly improve access to electricity for the local communities, households or SMEs.
- (d) The project involves the installation of Solar Photovoltaic and Solar Thermal electricity generation, off-shore wind, marine technology, household rooftop wind turbine of size up to 100 kW or biomass integrated gasification combined cycle.
- (e) Other renewable energy technologies or measures for which the CDM EB has adopted the host country recommendation<sup>13</sup>. The end date of the validity shall be before the time of first submission to Gold Standard OR approved by The Gold Standard as part of positive list.

4.1.11 In case the deemed additionality criteria are also valid at the time of Crediting Period Renewal, the Ongoing Financial Needs assessment is

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<sup>10</sup> List as per UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (Annex 1, 2 and 3)

<sup>11</sup> Refer to definition in [CDM Methodological tool for Demonstrating additionality of microscale project activities](#)

<sup>12</sup> No specific definition of 'poor communities' is pre-established. The international or national definitions such as populations below poverty line can serve as the basis to assess the eligibility of the targeted communities.

<sup>13</sup> <https://cdm.unfccc.int/DNA/submissions/index.html>

deemed to be met. The baseline shall be reassessed at the time of Crediting Period Renewal.

## ANNEX A – ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SPECIFIC PROJECT TYPES

Annex A outlines the additional eligibility criteria for specific project types.

### 1. Hydropower project activity

1.1.1 Hydropower project activities located in High Conservation Values (HCVs)<sup>14</sup> areas shall NOT be eligible for certification under Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG). The Project Developers must assess if the project activity is in HCVs area. For such assessment, the Project Developer shall consult with the local authorities (e.g. protected areas such as national parks) AND refer to existing international sources of information such as the [World Database on protected planets](#), [IUCN](#), [UNEP](#), the [Ramsar list of wetlands](#), and the [United Nations list of protected areas](#). The outcome of the assessment shall be provided with the project documentation submitted for preliminary review.

1.1.2 Unless already addressed satisfactorily as part of an existing Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), the opinion of an independent, relevant expert(s) shall be provided at a minimum on all of the following issues (the opinion may be that an issue is not relevant for the considered project, but evidence must be provided in support of this) :

	Issue	Requirements
(a)	<p>Are there any competing uses of water resources at the project location, of what nature and how severe are they?</p> <p>Convincing evidence must be provided that the hydropower project does not divert water from other current users or if it does, these users are in agreement with the shift of use.</p>	The expert opinion must be provided in time for validation and be reflected in the Monitoring Plan for verification along the crediting period.
(b)	<p>What is the minimum ecological flow that shall be complied with at any point in time, accounting for the specificities of local ecosystems and seasonality?</p> <p>What quality assurance and control procedures shall be put in place for appropriate continuous monitoring over the crediting period?</p>	The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation.

<sup>14</sup> Refer to High Conservation Value Resource Network for definition of High Conservation Value Area. Available at <https://hcvnetwork.org/>

(c)	Is the groundwater level seriously affected by the hydropower project?	The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation.
	What quality assurance and control procedures shall be put in place for appropriate continuous monitoring over the crediting period?	
(d)	Is the design of the fish passages and screens (water intake structure) installed in line with internationally recognised guidance?	The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation.
	Are these measures indeed effective over the crediting period, and if not, what shall be done to improve the situation?	The expert opinion shall be provided in time for verification.
(e)	What sediment management plan shall be considered?	The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation.
	Is it indeed effective over the crediting period, and if not, how shall it be improved?	The expert opinion shall be provided in time for verification.
(f)	What mitigation measures shall be put in place to prevent soil erosion?	The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation.
	Are they effective and if not, what complementary action shall be taken?	The expert opinion shall be provided in time for verification.

1.1.3 Besides the issues listed above, the expert(s) is free to include any other issue that they identify as being relevant for the project. The Project Developers have the opportunity to provide their views on the identified issues and their relevance as part of the report to be delivered by the expert in the context of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between The Gold Standard, the Project Representatives and the independent expert. For regular cycle projects, the independent expert(s) shall be invited to the Stakeholder Consultation and will identify the list of issues for which an independent expert opinion will be needed on time for validation and/or verification.

1.1.4 This list is approved by Gold Standard as part of the review of the stakeholder consultation report. For retroactive projects, a Detailed Preliminary Review (Pathway 2 as per [Principles and Requirements](#)) shall be conducted. Independent expert(s) shall be contracted on time to deliver as part of the documentation submitted for preliminary review the list of issues for which an independent expert opinion will be needed on time for validation and/or verification. This list is reviewed and potentially approved by Gold Standard as part of the preliminary review.

1.1.5 Project Developer shall plan for and conduct a one-day training for the hydropower plant staff on the different issues identified by the

independent expert. This training shall be included in the Monitoring & Reporting Plan.

1.1.6 The Gold Standard will evaluate the eligibility of hydropower activities with an installed capacity greater than 20 MW on a case-by-case basis at the time of preliminary review. This 20 MW capacity threshold shall apply to each one of the project activities as part of a bundle, and not to the overall bundle, and to each CPA/VPA as part of a PoA. The Project Developer shall provide the following additional information as part of the documentation to be reviewed:

- (a) A Stakeholder Consultation Report, in accordance with the relevant [Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements](#). For project activities involving existing dams (such as dams built for irrigation purposes), the stakeholder consultation shall include a site-visit by local stakeholders taking part in the consultation.
- (b) A Compliance Report showing that the project is in compliance with the latest WCD guidelines<sup>15</sup>, validated by a [GS-VVB](#).

## 2. Project activity using biomass resources

2.1.1 Project activities making use of non-renewable biomass resources shall NOT be eligible for Gold Standard registration. Project developers shall, therefore, provide convincing evidence that the project activities make use of renewable biomass resources<sup>16</sup>. The renewability of the biomass shall be monitored along the crediting period and be included in the Monitoring Plan, where required by the applied Impact quantification methodology.

2.1.2 Project activities expected to make use of biomass resources already in use shall NOT be eligible for Gold Standard registration unless convincing evidence is provided to demonstrate that the current users agree with the envisioned shift of use (potential leakage associated to such a shift must be taken into account). In the absence of such an agreement, Project Developers shall demonstrate that their project activity makes use of surplus biomass for each type of biomass resources used.<sup>17</sup> They must do so once, ex-ante on time for validation for small-scale project activities (installed capacity upto 15 MW or 45 MW<sub>th</sub>), and in time for validation and for each one of the verifications (inclusion in the Monitoring Plan) for project activities greater than 15 MW<sub>el</sub> or 45 MW<sub>th</sub>.

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<sup>15</sup> [www.dams.org](http://www.dams.org)

<sup>16</sup> & <sup>17</sup> [https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/Meetings/023/eb23\\_repan18.pdf](https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/Meetings/023/eb23_repan18.pdf)

2.1.3 Project Developers shall demonstrate that their project will only make use of degraded land<sup>18</sup> and shall include this criterion in the Sustainability Monitoring Plan to ensure there is no diversion of land from other essential purposes like food production. Two exceptions may be considered:

- (a) Convincing evidence is provided showing that the envisioned energy crop is part of a traditional rotational cropping, OR
- (b) An increase of the productivity is obtained, locally and to the benefit of the current users, through measures implemented in the context of the activity so as to at minimum compensate for the part of the land newly allocated to growing the energy crop.

Compliance with these criteria above must be monitored over the crediting period and thus be part of the Monitoring Plan.

2.1.4 Activities making use of GMOs shall also comply with the requirements prescribed in [Safeguarding Principles & Requirements](#) for Genetic Resources.

2.1.5 Avoidance of methane from biomass decay shall be eligible as long as biomass is used as a substitution for non-renewable fuels in project activities delivering energy services or for the production of a usable product with sustainable development benefits (e.g. composting).

2.1.6 The use of non-renewable fuel in biomass heat and/or electricity generation plants is authorised as long as the renewable fuel share reaches 50%<sup>19</sup> after the first 3 years<sup>20</sup> of operation for retrofit projects, and represents 80% from the outset for Greenfield projects.

2.1.7 The eligibility of project activities making use of Palm oil and/or palm oil mill by-products or residues for electricity and/or heat generation, and/or for biofuel production shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by Gold Standard, at the time of preliminary review. The Project Developers shall provide the following on top of the usual project documentation:

- (a) A Stakeholder Consultation Report, in accordance with [Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements](#), and provided as part of the documentation to be reviewed at the time of the preliminary review.
- (b) A Compliance Report showing that the project is in compliance with the latest version of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

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<sup>18</sup> <http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/ARmethodologies/tools/ar-am-tool-13-v1.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> Refers to the percentage of the total fuel consumed on an annual energy basis.

<sup>20</sup> The reference date for the 3-year period is the start date of crediting period.

guidance document on Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Palm Oil Production<sup>21</sup> (including the national interpretations), validated by a [GS-VVB](#), and provided as part of the documentation to be reviewed at the time of the registration review. Project Developers must demonstrate that they have started the process for RSPO compliance at the time of preliminary review. If the project is located in a country where a national interpretation of the RSPO principles has not been established and approved by the RSPO, compliance shall be established against the international RSPO Criteria. In such a case, the certification body must develop local indicators through a consultative process, available in the local language.

### **3. Project activity using Biogas (landfill gas and biogas from agro-processing, wastewater and other residues)**

- 3.1.1 Methane recovery project activities shall be eligible for emission reductions from both methane avoidance (including from the flared biogas fraction) and non-renewable fuel substitution as long as evidence is provided on time for validation to demonstrate that the system was designed in a way to at least make use of some of the biogas recovered for the delivery of energy services (e.g. electricity, heat).
- 3.1.2 Methane recovery project activities at wastewater treatment plants related to Palm Oil production shall comply with all the Palm Oil related rules mentioned above (paragraph 2.7).

### **4. Project activity using Waster Heat/Gas recovery**

- 4.1.1 Project activities involving waste heat recovery in industrial processes shall be eligible for emission reductions related to on-site energy consumption. Emission reductions related to the export of heat or electricity generated from waste heat shall NOT be eligible unless it can be shown that the primary and unique source of energy for the industrial process is renewable energy. This requirement applies on an annual basis and the electricity generation profile does not have to necessarily match the on-site demand profile on an instantaneous basis.
- 4.1.2 Project activities involving the waste gases recovery and use in industrial processes shall be eligible for emission reductions related to on-site energy consumption. Emission reductions related to the export of heat or electricity generated from the waste gases recovered shall NOT be eligible unless it can be shown that the primary and unique source of energy for the industrial process is renewable energy. This requirement applies on an annual basis and the electricity generation profile does not have to necessarily match the on-site demand profile on an instantaneous basis. Emissions from the combustion of the recovered

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<sup>21</sup> RSPO Website <http://www.rspo.org>

gases shall, of course, be taken into account in the calculation of project emissions.

## 5. Fossil co-generation

5.1.1 Fossil-fired co-generation project activities shall be eligible for emission reductions from end-use energy efficiency improvements, i.e. related to on-site energy consumption. Emission reductions related to the export of heat or electricity generated from the waste heat recovered shall NOT be eligible. This requirement applies on an annual basis and the electricity generation profile does not have to necessarily match the on-site demand profile on an instantaneous basis.

## 6. Waste incineration and gasification

6.1.1 Eligible Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) incineration activities seeking Gold Standard certification shall also meet the following requirements:

### (a) Stakeholder consultation

6.1.2 The Project Developer shall ensure meaningful, effective and informed participation from stakeholder groups such as local communities who are living in nearby area and may be impacted adversely or positively from the project. The Project Developer shall carryout the stakeholder consultation(s) following the [Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements](#).

### (b) Project Eligibility

6.1.3 The project shall involve energy generation (electricity and/or heat) from MSW incineration. The MSW incineration shall be considered as recovery operations concerning the waste hierarchy as long as the project activity recovers energy from municipal waste incineration in an efficient way.

6.1.4 Project activities planning to make use of waste materials that are already in use in the pre-project situation shall NOT be eligible unless convincing evidence is provided to show that the current users agree with the shift of use resulting from the project. In the absence of such an agreement, the Project Developers shall demonstrate that the project activity makes use of surplus waste materials and shall include this analysis in the Monitoring Plan. They must be done as follows for projects with installed energy generation capacities of:

- i. **less than or equal to 15 MW or 45 MW<sub>th</sub>** – once, ex ante, in time for validation
- ii. **greater than 15 MW or 45 MW<sub>th</sub>** – once, ex ante in time for validation and each verification

6.1.5 The project shall develop and implement a waste management awareness programme to encourage stakeholders to adopt best

practices for waste reduction, reuse and recycling and avoid any negative impact on prevailing waste management practices in the project boundary. Such a programme may include a variety of activities, such as- community outreach and education campaigns, educational campaigns via local schools and other institutes, educational displays, television/radio campaigns, etc.

6.1.6 The programme performance shall be evaluated frequently, at minimum biennially following the date of design certification, to assess its effectiveness and it shall be amended when required.

**(c) Emissions and operational requirements**

6.1.7 To avoid any potential negative impact, the project seeking certification under Gold Standard for the Global Goals shall meet the most stringent regulatory requirements available for emissions and operation of MSW incineration plant. In this regard, the Project Developer shall compare the host country regulatory requirements with the most recent version of European Union Regulations for Waste Incineration Plants & Waste Co-incineration Plants and shall submit the comparison table for Gold Standard review at the time of preliminary review. If due to the type of technology or otherwise it is not feasible to meet the most stringent regulatory requirements, the Project Developer shall submit the rationale and proposed mitigation measures at the time of preliminary review. In such cases, Gold Standard will make a decision in consultation with the experts (if required) on a case-by-case basis.

6.1.8 The Project Developer shall put measures in place to ensure that applicable host country or other applicable regulations are complied with.

6.1.9 Where the Project Developer becomes aware that a requirement of the applicable regulations has been breached or is being breached, the Project Developer shall

- i. Inform the Gold Standard immediately
- ii. Immediately take the measures necessary to ensure compliance is restored within the shortest possible time

6.1.10 Where a breach of the applicable regulations poses an immediate danger to human health or threatens to cause an immediate significant adverse effect upon the environment, the project shall be withdrawn from Gold Standard until compliance is restored to the satisfaction of Gold Standard.

**(d) Ongoing monitoring requirements**

6.1.11 The Project Developer shall report on compliance status with regards to regulatory requirements within six months of the operational start date, where applicable, and annually after the first reporting.

6.1.12 The Project Developer shall include the relevant information in the Annual Report, as required under Gold Standard for the Global Goals.

## 7. Waste handling and disposal

7.1.1 Project activities planning to make use of waste materials that are already in use in the pre-project situation shall NOT be eligible unless convincing evidence is provided to show that the current users are in agreement with the shift of use resulting from the project. In the absence of such an agreement, the Project Developers shall demonstrate that the project activity makes use of surplus waste materials<sup>22</sup> and shall include this analysis in the Sustainability Monitoring Plan. They must do so once, ex-ante on time for validation for small-scale projects (installed capacity upto 15 MWel or 45 MWth), and in time for validation and for each one of the verifications (inclusion in the Sustainability Monitoring Plan) for projects greater than 15 MWel or 45 MWth.

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<sup>22</sup> In accordance with the approach proposed in paragraph 18 of the Attachment C to Appendix B: General Guidance on Leakage in biomass projects (Attachment C to Appendix B of 4/CMP.1 Annex II)  
[http://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Guidclarif/ssc/index\\_guid.html](http://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Guidclarif/ssc/index_guid.html)

