SUMMARY OF CHANGES
FROM ACR STANDARD V3.0 TO V4.0

The following is a summary of major changes from v3.0 to v4.0 of the *ACR Standard.*

Topic	Revisions	Section
Effective date of v4.0 and application of changes in v4.0	The ACR Standard v4.0 supersedes the ACR Standard v3.0, published in April 2014. Any project listed or registered subsequent to **January 1, 2015** must follow all requirements of the ACR Standard v4.0. Projects that are registered prior to January 1, 2015, may be validated and verified according to ACR Standard v3.0 through the end of the Crediting Period. This gives projects in development under v3.0 a grace period to list under v3.0 if they prefer (though projects may list under v4.0 immediately on publication of v4.0). However, the following change made in v4.0 (as discussed below) shall immediately apply: • All projects must supply a project monitoring report to the verifier during verification as described in section 6.F of v4.0.	Introduction
ACR Scope – Greenhouse Gases and Particulate Matter	ACR is expanding its scope to include black carbon emissions in addition to the greenhouse gases and ozone depleting substances that are creditable in the program.	1.D
ACR Scope – Project Types	Clarifies that for hydropower projects, ACR will accept only run-of-river projects up to 10 MW.	1.E
ACR Scope – Project Types	Clarifies that ACR will not accept projects claiming indirect emission reductions or removals from energy or life-cycle based GHG accounting methods in Kyoto Protocol Annex I countries	1.E
ACR Scope – Unit of Measure	ACR is updating the use of its program-wide global warming potentials (GWP) to align with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report (AR4). The use of AR4 GWPs shall be applied as follows: • For projects that have completed validation or have been registered prior to January 1, 2015, the project	1.G

Topic	Revisions	Section
	proponent may choose to update GWPs to those found in AR4. This shall be a one-time election to update to the revised AR4 GWPs and shall be disclosed in the required project monitoring report that is submitted during the project's next verification. Once the election to update to AR4 GWPs has been made, it may not be reversed and shall remain in place for the remainder of the crediting period. • For projects listing or registering after the adoption date of ACR Standard, v4.0 (January 1, 2015), the GWPs found in AR4 shall be applied.	
Project Eligibility Requirements – Crediting Period	Modifies the crediting period for non-AFOLU projects to ten years and removes language suggesting that the crediting period for non-AFOLU projects could be specified in the ACR sector standard or approved methodology.	3 – Table 2
Project Eligibility Requirements – Emission or Removal Origin	Adds an eligibility provision for non-energy indirect emission avoidance/reduction projects that are not based on life cycle GHG accounting methods.	3 – Table 2
Project Eligibility Requirements – Regulatory Compliance	Adds a requirement that projects must maintain compliance with all laws, regulations, and other legally-binding mandates directly related to project activities. To meet this requirement, project proponents will submit a written and signed attestation to the verifier acknowledging the compliance status of the project during each verification interval.	3 – Table 2
Risk Analysis	Removes the prescriptive ACR Standard requirement to utilize the VCS AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool in favor of the risk analysis tool designated in the applicable methodology.	5.A
Project Development – ACR	Revises the language stating that ACR conducts a project "certification" and clarifies that ACR conducts an "eligibility screening" as an initial step in the project development process. Additionally, adds language to better describe the eligibility	6 – Introduction and 6.A

Topic	Revisions	Section
Certification	process.	
Project Development – Listing and Registration	Provides updated registration guidelines for projects that submit a listing form. Addtionally, describes when a project is determined to be "registered" in the ACR system.	6.A
Project Development – Project Deviations	Provides updated guidance on ACR policy to permit project-specific deviations to an existing approved methodology. Deviations are allowed where they do not negatively impact the conservativeness of an approved methodology's approach to the quantification of GHG emission reductions and removal enhancements. The process of requesting a deviation has also been clarified in this section.	6.E
Project Development – Project Monitoring Reports	Adds a requirement that a project monitoring report is required for all verification periods and clarifies that a validated GHG project plan shall not be modified once the validation is complete. Project monitoring reports will describe the current status of project operation, and include the data monitored and monitoring plan, and the calculated emission reductions for the reporting period. Additionally, project monitoring reports shall describe any project-specific deviations that may have occurred during the reporting period. The project monitoring report will be provided to the verifier during the verification process.	6.F
Project Development – Aggregation and Program of Activities	Adds basic requirements for projects that will utilize the project development methods of aggregation or a program of activities approach.	6.G
Methodology Modifications for Existing Approved Methodologies	Revises ACR policy on methodology modifications to align with its current procedure for methodology approval. States that methodology modifications will be conducted using ACR's internal review, Public Stakeholder Consultation, and Peer Review processes.	6.B, 7.A.2, 7.D
Validation and Verification – Materiality	Provides a description of a quantitative material misstatement and provides a percent error calculation.	8.B

Topic	Revisions	Section
Threshold		
Validation and Verification – Interval	Clarifies that the required ACR five year verification interval begins once a project is registered.	8.C