

Summary of Changes from ACR Standard v6.0 to 7.0

The following is a summary of significant changes to the *ACR Standard* from v6.0 published July 2019 to v7.0 posted for public comment October 2, 2020 through December 1, 2020, and published December 2020.

Topic	Revision	Section(s)
Introduction	Updates ACR description to include March 2020 approval by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to supply units to the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA).	
Scope: Greenhouse Gases	Updates covered gases to include nitrogen trifluoride (NF3).	1.D
Scope: Project Types	Withdraws the eligibility of the use of CDM methodologies.	1.E
Unit of Measure: Referenced GWPs	Updates requirements for the use of 100-year GWPs from IPCC AR5 for quantifying any GHG reductions and removal enhancements with a vintage year of 2021 or later to align with Paris Agreement requirements for country reporting.	1.G and Definitions
Uncertainty	<p>Clarifies uncertainty requirements such that uncertainty is calculated as the mean minus the lower bound of the 90% confidence interval applied to the final calculation of emission reductions/removal enhancements or calculated as specified in the applicable methodology.</p> <p>Clarifies that when biogeochemical or process models are used as the sole estimator of emission reductions / removals, the calculations must include estimates of input uncertainty in addition to structural uncertainty related to the inadequacy of the model, model bias, and model discrepancy. Further clarifies requirements to quantify structural uncertainty of models.</p>	2.B.3
Additionality: Regulatory Surplus	Clarifies additionality status in the event of regulatory changes during the crediting period.	Chapter 3 Table 2 4.A.1
Baseline	Clarifies timing requirements for recording of easements for AFOLU projects, as applicable.	4.A.1
Permanence	Clarifies the rationale for the 40-year AFOLU minimum project term as aligning with scientific reports that have assessed the critical role of the AFOLU sector in all 1.5°C-consistent pathways to achieve Paris Agreement targets and reach net zero emissions by mid-century to avoid the catastrophic effects of climate change.	Chapter 5
Reversal Reporting and Compensation	Clarifies that buffer pool credits will be retired for projects that do not renew their crediting period at the end of the Minimum Project Term.	5.D

Project development process	Clarifies that if the VVB changes during a validation and/or verification, the VVB selection and approval process must be repeated with the new VVB.	6.A
Project Proponent Attestations	Converts all Project Proponent attestation requirements to the Monitoring Report and removes references to the stand-alone Annual Attestation Statement to increase project reporting efficiency. The Monitoring Report now includes Attestations by the Project Proponent regarding the continuance, regulatory compliance, ownership, and community and environmental/social impacts of a project.	6.E and Definitions and references throughout
Aggregation and PDA Design Requirements for AFOLU Projects	Moves the AFOLU-specific aggregation and PDA project design considerations to Appendix A.5. Also, specifies there that Sites are located within a pre-defined geographic region, such that all fall within a maximum of three adjacent ecoregions and clarifies that the ecoregion will be defined at the province level .	6.F.3
Accepted Methodologies	Withdraws the eligibility of the use of CDM methodologies.	7.A.1
New Methodology development	Clarifies requirements for ACR's internal review, public consultation, and scientific per review process.	7.B
Validation and Verification	Clarifies that each Project shall be verified through the end of their Crediting Period to the relevant eligibility criteria (e.g., those listed in Tables 2 and 4, or the equivalent as presented in earlier versions of the ACR Standard or relevant ACR Sector Standard) specified in the version of the ACR Standard against which it was validated. And that all other ACR policies (e.g., administrative and reporting) may be required on an on-going basis.	Chapter 9
Avoiding Double Counting	Updates and clarifies requirements for avoiding double claiming with NDCs targets, CORSIA obligations and with voluntary offsetting.	Chapter 10
AFOLU Land Classification	Clarifies Forest land classification for eligible non-U.S. countries.	Appendix A.3.1
Buffer Pool Terms and Conditions	Separates the Buffer Pool Terms and Conditions from the ACR Standard to be a referenced, published, stand-alone document.	Former Appendix B
CORSIA Double Counting	Adds a new Appendix B: ACR Requirements for Avoiding Double Counting in the ICAO's CORSIA, which details rules and procedures to avoid the double counting of emission reductions and specifies a mechanism to compensate for double claims of emission reductions units between aeroplane operators for the CORSIA and host countries towards NDC achievement.	Appendix B
Definitions	Adds a new definition for Monitoring Report. Clarifies definitions for Cohort, Intentional Reversal, Reporting Period, Sustainable Biomass and Unintentional Reversal.	Definitions