



Methodology for the Approval of a Validation and Verification Body

Version: 3.0 Published: March 2025

Origination: March 2022

The Role of a Validation and Verification Body

In a carbon crediting system, **validation** and **verification** are two distinct processes that ensure the integrity and credibility of carbon credits. While both are essential for the issuance of carbon credits, they occur at different stages of a project and serve different purposes.

1. Definition and Purpose

- **Validation:**
 - **Purpose:** Validation occurs before the project starts or early in its development. It involves an independent assessment of the project's design, methodology, and potential to achieve emissions reductions or removals.
 - **What is Checked:** During validation, the project's baseline, methodologies, and plans for achieving emissions reductions are reviewed to ensure they comply with the rules of The Standard.
 - **Outcome:** If successful, the project is forwarded to the UKCCC for final verification and approval. The project receives formal approval from the UKCCC Commissioner and is eligible to start implementation. However, no carbon credits are issued during this phase.
- **Verification:**
 - **Purpose:** Verification occurs after the project has been implemented and is operational. It involves an independent assessment to confirm that the claimed emissions reductions and removals have actually occurred, based on monitoring data and evidence.
 - **What is Checked:** During verification, project performance data is reviewed to ensure that the emissions reductions achieved are real, measurable, and permanent. This includes checking actual emissions reductions against the baseline established during validation.
 - **Frequency:** The annual monitoring and verification visit leads to the issuance of credits less the uncertainty discount factor. The five-yearly verification leads to the release of credits held within the buffer assuming the project has met its targets.
 - **Outcome:** If the verification confirms that the emissions reductions are valid, the project is granted carbon credits that can be placed on the UKCCC registry.

2. Timing

- **Validation:**



- Occurs at the **start of the project** (pre-implementation).
- It is a forward-looking process, evaluating the project's design and potential to deliver future emissions' reductions.
- **Verification:**
 - Occurs **during or after the project has been implemented** (post-implementation).
 - It is a backward-looking process, confirming that the emissions reductions have already taken place and can be quantified.

3. Focus

- **Validation:**
 - Focuses on whether the project design, methodology, and plans are sound and capable of delivering future emissions reductions or removals.
 - Involves reviewing technical documents, methodologies, and assumptions for future performance.
- **Verification:**
 - Focuses on the **actual performance** of the project in terms of emissions reductions or removals.
 - Involves reviewing monitoring reports, field data, and evidence to confirm that the project has achieved what it set out to do.

4. Key Players Involved

- **Validation:**
 - Conducted by a third-party validator or an accredited independent body that specializes in assessing carbon project methodologies and design.
- **Verification:**
 - Conducted by a third-party verifier (often an accredited body different from the one that conducted validation), or the UKCCC Commissioner, to ensure impartiality in confirming the actual emissions' reductions.

5. Result

- **Validation:**
 - Results in the project being **approved** and allowed to proceed toward implementation, but no carbon credits are issued at this stage.
- **Verification:**
 - Results in the issuance of **carbon credits**, which are based on the verified emissions reductions and removals over a specific reporting period.

Summary of Differences



Aspect	Validation	Verification
Purpose	To assess the project design and potential for future emissions reductions	To confirm actual emissions reductions after project implementation
Timing	Before or at the start of project implementation	After the project has been implemented
Focus	Forward-looking (project design, methodology)	Backward-looking (actual performance, emissions reductions)
Outcome	Project is approved for future credit generation	Carbon credits are issued based on verified reductions
Performed by	Independent third-party validator	Independent third-party verifier or UKCCC Commissioner
Key Documents Reviewed	Project Design Document (PDD), baseline, methodology	Monitoring reports, data on actual emissions reductions

In summary, **validation** ensures that the project has the capacity and sound design to generate carbon credits, while **verification** ensures that the project has actually delivered measurable and verifiable emissions reductions and removals. Both processes are critical to maintaining the integrity of a carbon crediting system.



Methodology for the Approval of a Validation and Verification Body (VVB) acting for the UK Carbon Code of Conduct

1. Introduction

This document outlines the methodology for the approval of a Validation and Verification Body (VVB) for the UK Carbon Code of Conduct. The objective is to ensure that VVBs possess the necessary competencies, adhere to relevant standards, and operate with integrity and impartiality.

2. Scope

The methodology applies to all organizations seeking approval as a VVB under the UK Carbon Code of Conduct. It covers application submission, evaluation, approval, monitoring, and renewal processes.

3. Definitions

- **Validation:** The process of assessing project design against the criteria set out in the UK Carbon Code of Conduct.
- **Verification:** The periodic independent review and ex-post determination of monitored reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
- **VVB:** Validation and Verification Body, an independent entity accredited to perform validation and verification activities.

4. Application Process

4.1 Initial Inquiry

Organisations interested in becoming a VVB must submit an initial inquiry to the UK Carbon Code of Conduct Commissioner. The inquiry should include:

- Organization name and contact details
- Brief description of the organisation and its services
- Indication of interest in validation, verification, or both

4.2 Application Submission

Eligible organisations will be invited to submit a formal application comprising:

- Completed letter of application
- Evidence of accreditation to relevant standards (e.g., ISO 14065 and ISO 17029)
- Proof of experience in validation and verification of greenhouse gas projects
- Resumes of key personnel
- Quality management system documentation
- Conflict of interest policy



5. Evaluation Process

5.1 Document Review

The UKCCC Commissioner will conduct a preliminary review of the submitted documents to ensure completeness and compliance with the requirements.

5.2 Technical Evaluation

The UKCCC Executive Team, will assess the application. The evaluation will focus on:

- Accreditation status
- Technical expertise and experience
- Quality management systems
- Independence and impartiality policies
- Competence of personnel

5.3 On-site Assessment

An on-site assessment will be conducted to verify the implementation of documented procedures and to interview key personnel. The assessment will cover:

- Office facilities and resources
- Quality control processes
- Case studies of previous validation/verification work
- Adherence to accreditation standards

5.4 Report Preparation

Following the on-site assessment, the UKCCC Executive Team will prepare a detailed report summarizing findings and providing recommendations.

6. Approval Decision

6.1 Review of Findings

The UKCCC Commissioner will review the evaluation report and make an approval decision based on the UKCCC Executive Team's recommendations.

6.2 Notification

The applicant will be notified of the decision. Successful applicants will receive an official approval certificate and will be listed as an approved VVB on the UK Carbon Code of Conduct website.

6.3 Conditional Approval



In cases where minor non-conformities are identified, conditional approval may be granted subject to the applicant addressing the issues within a specified timeframe.

7. Monitoring and Renewal

7.1 Ongoing Monitoring

Approved VVBs will be subject to periodic monitoring to ensure continued compliance. This will include:

- Annual surveillance audits
- Review of validation/verification reports submitted
- Monitoring of complaints and feedback

7.2 Renewal of Approval

Approval is granted for a period of three years. For renewal, VVBs must submit a renewal application at least six months before the expiration of their current approval. The renewal process will follow similar steps as the initial approval, including document review and on-site assessment.

8. Complaints and Appeals

8.1 Complaints

Complaints regarding the performance of an approved VVB can be submitted to the UKCCC Executive Team. All complaints will be investigated, and appropriate actions will be taken.

8.2 Appeals

Applicants may appeal approval decisions by submitting a written appeal to the UKCCC Executive Team. An independent appeals committee will review the case and make a final decision.

9. Confidentiality

All information submitted by applicants and assessed during the evaluation process will be treated as confidential and used solely for the purpose of the approval process.

10. Contact Information

UK Carbon Code of Conduct Commissioner

commissioner@ukcarboncode.org