



Standards for a
Sustainable Future

Exemption Request Procedure



ABOUT VERRA

Verra sets the world's leading standards for climate action and sustainable development. We build standards for activities as diverse as reducing deforestation, improving agricultural practices, addressing plastic waste, and achieving gender equality. We manage programs to certify that these activities achieve measurable high-integrity outcomes. We work with governments, businesses, and civil society to advance the use of these standards, including through the development of markets. Everything we do is in service of increasingly ambitious climate and sustainable development goals – and an accelerated transition to a sustainable future.

Verra's certification programs include the [Verified Carbon Standard \(VCS\) Program](#) and its [Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+ \(JNR\) framework](#), the [Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards \(CCBS\) Program](#), the [Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard \(SD VISta\) Program](#), and the [Plastic Waste Reduction Program \(Plastic Program\)](#).

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1 EXEMPTION REQUEST PROCEDURE

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This document provides the eligibility criteria and procedure for submitting exemption requests. Exemption requests may be submitted by project proponents, authorized representatives, or validation/verification bodies (VVBs) seeking exemptions from program rules, requirements, and procedures under extraordinary circumstances.
- 1.1.2 This document applies to projects in the CCBS Program, JNR Program, Plastic Program, SD VISta Program, and VCS Program.
- 1.1.3 Exemption requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Verra may deny any exemption request at Verra's discretion and will not consider resubmissions of the same exemption request. The exemptions Verra grants are not considered to set precedents.

1.2 Eligibility Criteria

- 1.2.1 Exemption requests related to deadlines, VVB site visits, VVB rotation, and VVB change requirements are permitted. Exemption requests related to any other program rules will not be granted. The following applies:
 - 1) Exemption requests related to deadlines to initiate or complete pipeline listing, validation, verification, baseline reassessment, and crediting period renewal are permitted.
Exemptions to deadlines related to effective dates and grace periods of program updates, corrections and clarifications, and methodologies will not be granted.
 - 2) Exemption requests related to VVB site visits at validation and verification are permitted.
This does not apply to the Plastic Program.
 - 3) Exemption requests for VVB rotations are only permitted in the Plastic Program.
- 1.2.2 Exemption requests for projects to change VVB are permitted.
- 1.2.3 Exemption requests shall demonstrate that the project faces extraordinary circumstances that:
 - 1) Are beyond the project proponent's or VVB's reasonable control, commonly referred to as "force majeure" or "act of God,"¹ or
 - 2) Cannot be mitigated, avoided, or resisted by applying reasonable diligence.
- 1.2.4 The following list provides examples of acceptable extraordinary circumstances or factors, as well as unacceptable circumstances or factors. The list is illustrative only and non-exhaustive.

¹ Definition derived from International Accreditation Forum ID3 IAF Informative Document for Management of Extraordinary Events or Circumstances Affecting ABs, CABs and Certified Organizations (IAF, 2011), 11.

- 1) Examples of acceptable extraordinary circumstances or factors:
 - a) Natural disasters
 - b) Armed/political conflict
 - c) New pandemics that are not specific to COVID-19 pandemic events
 - d) Riots
 - e) Strikes
 - f) Malicious computer hacking
 - g) Change in applicable laws or regulations without advanced notice
- 2) Examples of unacceptable circumstances or factors:
 - a) Cost savings
 - b) Delays from the COVID-19 pandemic
 - c) Misinterpretations of rules or requirements
 - d) Overlooked existing or new program rules and their effective dates
 - e) Delays in validation or verification processes with contracted VVBs

1.3 Procedure

- 1.3.1 Exemption requests related to VVB requirements shall be submitted by a VVB. All other requests shall be submitted by a project proponent or authorized representative.
- 1.3.2 Exemption requests shall be complete to be considered. Complete exemption requests shall include:
 - 1) A completed *Exemption Request Form*² and
 - 2) Supporting evidence that can be reviewed by Verra. Acceptable types of evidence include, among others, statements, warnings, policies, or restrictions issued by official bodies³ or authorities, and negative opinion or disclaimed issuance of opinions issued by VVBs.
- 1.3.3 Exemption requests shall be submitted via email to registry@verra.org with the subject line “Exemption Request for Project ID XXXX” or by submitting a digital *Exemption Request Form* via the Verra Project Hub.
- 1.3.4 Verra reviews the exemption request and may request additional information and evidence. The exemption request is denied where the request does not meet the eligibility criteria or where the project proponent, authorized representative, or VVB fails to demonstrate that they face extraordinary circumstances or factors.
- 1.3.5 When the review is complete, Verra communicates the outcome via email and a decision letter. Where an exemption request is approved, Verra publishes the decision letter publicly on the Verra Registry.

² Template available on the Verra website.

³ An official body means any government, intergovernmental organization, or political subdivision, or any public agency, authority, bureau, commission, or department.

APPENDIX 1 DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Date	Comment
v1.0	27 Nov 2024	Initial version released.



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**Verified Carbon
Standard**



**Jurisdictional
& Nested REDD+**



**Climate, Community
& Biodiversity Standards**



**Sustainable Development
Verified Impact Standard**



**Plastic Waste
Reduction Standard**