

1. Introduction

The SVOCF Certification Architecture Overview defines the structural and procedural elements that govern the certification of individuals, organisations, and systems claiming alignment with the Symbiotic Value Orientation Competency Framework (SVOCF). It provides a blueprint for the purpose, processes, roles, and components of SVOCF-aligned certification.

This document is designed to ensure certification practice remains consistent with SVOCF-0.2 (Governance & Ethics Charter) and SVOCF-0.1 (Framework White Paper). SVOCF certification does not prescribe moral or cultural values; it focuses on structural sustainability, systemic balance, and capacity development through evidence-first evaluation.

2. Purpose of SVOCF Certification

SVOCF certification is designed to:

assess and validate alignment with SVOCF structural principles for sustainable value orientation and competence; provide developmental feedback that identifies areas for growth and improvement, rather than enforcing rigid rules or ideological standards;

support adaptable implementation across sectors, cultures, and regions while preserving SVOCF meta-neutrality and evidence integrity.

The primary purpose of SVOCF certification is to promote sustainable practice by evaluating capacity for self-regulation, adaptation, recovery, and long-term system viability—not merely isolated actions.

3. SVOCF Certification Framework

3.1 Certification Domains

SVOCF certification spans five domains corresponding to the core SVOCF subsystems. Each domain evaluates whether the candidate (individual, organisation, or system) demonstrates capacity for stability, balance, and adaptation in that domain.

Physical and Vitality Domain: Health, energy management, recovery capacity, and sustainable routines.

Psychological and Emotional Domain: Emotion regulation, resilience, stress coping, and psychological flexibility.

Cognitive and Learning Domain: Learning agility, critical thinking, problem solving, and anticipatory reasoning.

Social and Ethical Domain: Collaboration, responsibility, trust-building, and ethical decision-making.

Environmental and Planetary Domain: Ecological awareness, resource management, and action within environmental limits.

3.2 Certification Levels

SVOCF certification operates on a tiered system. Levels represent increasing capability for sustainable practice, self-regulation, and regeneration. They are not fixed statuses; they indicate scope, consistency, and complexity of demonstrated competence.

Level 1: Awareness and Alignment Focus: recognising sustainability needs and aligning practices with basic SVOCF principles. Criteria: initial understanding and application of core concepts such as self-regulation, resilience, and

adaptability.

Level 2: Balance and Regulation Focus: actively regulating behaviours and systems to maintain sustainability. Criteria: evidence of balancing internal/external demands and operating feedback and recovery mechanisms.

Level 3: Contribution and Regeneration Focus: contributing to and regenerating systems beyond the self. Criteria: ability to restore, enhance, and align systems with long-term sustainability goals, including ecological and social dimensions.

3.3 Certification Pathways

SVOCF certification can be applied to different stakeholder types. Pathways are adaptable and contextual; they must not override SVOCF governance boundaries or evidence standards.

3.3.1 Individual Certification Pathway

This pathway focuses on personal development and sustainable practice, including self-regulation, health management, learning capacity, social responsibility, and environmental stewardship. Individuals are assessed on balancing well-being with external demands and demonstrating evidence of sustainable decision-making and recovery capacity.

3.3.2 Organisational Certification Pathway

This pathway evaluates organisational systems and processes that support SVOCF principles. It includes resilience of structures, internal culture, governance integrity, and sustainability performance. Organisations are assessed on sustaining operations, innovating responsibly, and contributing to societal and environmental wellbeing through verifiable evidence.

3.3.3 Systemic Certification Pathway

This pathway applies to larger-scale systems such as communities, cities, or regional ecosystems. Assessment emphasises interconnectedness, network resilience, and systemic regeneration capacity. Evidence may include policy artefacts, community participation records, environmental indicators, and recovery performance after disruptions.

4. Certification Processes

4.1 Initial Assessment and Eligibility

Eligibility for SVOCF certification is determined through self-assessment and/or an initial review to establish baseline alignment with SVOCF principles. This phase is designed to:

identify readiness and appropriate certification scope;

clarify context, constraints, and stakeholders;

confirm evidence feasibility and ethics compliance (including privacy and non-harm rules).

4.2 Certification Evaluation

Once eligibility is confirmed, evaluation may include the following components (configured to context and risk level):

Document review: analysis of practices, policies, and outcomes aligned with SVOCF domains and level descriptors.

Interviews and/or site review: structured dialogue or observation to validate implementation and decision trade-offs.

Data review: analysis of appropriate performance indicators (e.g., wellbeing signals, ecological impact indicators, operational resilience metrics) under privacy safeguards.

4.3 Feedback and Developmental Recommendations

SVOCF certification is not limited to pass/fail outputs. It provides:

developmental feedback identifying strengths, risks, and improvement priorities;
guidance for advancement, including a roadmap for progressing through levels;
risk flags where evidence indicates potential overreach, bias, or governance non-compliance.

5. Certification Governance

5.1 Certification Bodies

Certification bodies are independent entities authorised to evaluate and issue SVOCF-aligned certification. They must operate under:

clearly defined evaluation protocols and versioned rubrics;
a transparent review and decision record process;
mechanisms for dispute resolution and appeals.

5.2 Ethical Oversight

Certification bodies must adhere to SVOCF-0.2 (Governance & Ethics Charter) to prevent bias, ensure transparency, and maintain non-coercive assessment practice, including separation of coaching and assessment where applicable.

5.3 Continuous Improvement and Recertification

SVOCF certification is not static. Certified entities participate in periodic recertification to maintain integrity and reflect learning:

Every 3 – 5 years for individual certifications (risk-adjusted).

Every 5 – 7 years for organisational and systemic certifications (risk-adjusted).

Recertification includes review of changes, improvements, adaptations, and any major disruptions since the previous certification.

6. Conclusion

The SVOCF Certification Architecture provides a flexible, scalable, and meta-neutral structure for assessing and validating sustainable value orientation and competence at individual, organisational, and systemic levels. By aligning certification with SVOCF principles—sustainability, adaptability, systemic balance, and evidence integrity—it supports culturally translatable and globally applicable practice without imposing uniform values or ideologies.

This document serves as the execution blueprint for SVOCF-aligned certification, connecting governance and conceptual definitions to operational assessment processes and continuous improvement.