

Annex 11

Draft guidance for criteria for consolidations and revision of methodologies

A. Mandate and Background

1. Noting Decision 7/CMP.1 in which the Executive Board was requested to expand its efforts to broaden the applicability of approved methodologies and prepare consolidated methodologies that, wherever possible, cover the full range of methodological approaches and applicability conditions as in the underlying approved methodologies, the Board requested the Meth Panel to provide draft guidance for consolidations and revision of approved methodologies.
2. These draft guidance provide a transparent set of conditions under which a methodology can or shall be revised and/or consolidated. The types of methodologies dealt with here are approved methodologies (AM), proposed methodologies under consideration by the Board (NM) and approved consolidated methodologies.

B. Criteria for revisions and consolidations of methodologies

Revisions

3. A revision is the modification of an approved methodology in order to improve it or broaden its scope. The revision results in the approved methodology with a new version number.
4. A revision of an approved methodology may be carried out if one or more of the following conditions are considered to apply:
 - a. new or a better understanding of scientific evidence indicate that emission reductions may be over- or under estimated based on the existing approved methodology or that the reductions may not be real, measurable and verifiable;
 - b. the applicability conditions require broadening to include more potential project types or conditions for use;
 - c. there are identified inconsistencies, errors and/or ambiguities in the language and/or formulae used within or between methodologies;
 - d. there is scope for simplification and or more clarification in order to improve its user-friendliness (also to include clarifications that have been given by the Meth Panel in response to queries regarding the applicability of approved methodologies);
5. The revision may be carried out in response to requests recommended in the meetings by the COP/MOP, Executive Board, the Meth Panel and working groups. In addition revisions may be carried out in response to request for revisions as per the procedures for revisions.¹
6. For minor revisions and corrections a simplified procedure is foreseen²: They are to be approved as “versions” rather than “revisions” as is the practice of the Board. Minor revisions include also the *incorporation* of a proposed new methodology into an approved methodology that requires only minor modification. The source and project participant of the incorporated methodology should be mentioned in the new version³. Minor revisions (including

¹ See the latest procedures for revisions and <<http://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Procedures>>

² Procedures need to be flexible so that minor revisions can be easily accommodated. (EB 15, paragraph 11)

³ The Board reiterated that the ‘source’ section of an approved methodology is based on information included in the CDM-PDD section titled “Date of completion of the application of the baseline study and monitoring methodology and the name of the responsible person(s)/entity(ies)” of draft CDM-PDD submitted by project

incorporations) result in a new “version” of the approved methodology, rather than a new consolidated methodology.

7. Should an approved methodology require a significant revision, its further use shall be put on hold and its revision be undertaken in an expedited manner.⁴

Consolidations

8. The aim of consolidating methodologies lies in (a) making the set of available methodologies more concise and user friendly and (b) avoiding possible inconsistencies between methodologies. Consolidation results in the issuance of a new approved consolidated methodology.
9. A consolidation of two or more proposed and/or approved methodologies into one single methodology should be carried out:
 - a. if the methodologies are similar in many of their core components (e.g. applicability, approach, technology, measure, baseline determination, demonstration of additionality, or emission calculation), and
 - b. if a new (“consolidated”) methodology can be drafted on the basis of these methodologies that is applicable to all the project activities to which at least one of the original methodologies are applicable.
10. The consolidated methodology can also include elements from other new proposed or approved methodologies, which are not part of the consolidation.
11. In consolidating methodologies, a balance has to be found between reducing the number of methodologies in available to project participants in the database and the complexity of the methodologies, in order to keep the database of methodologies lean and concise.

C. Criteria for the combined consolidation and revision of methodologies

12. The guidance in the following section is for the following two cases:
 - (i.) the consolidation of approved methodologies, or of approved and proposed new methodologies; and
 - (ii.) the consolidation of only proposed new methodologies without approved methodologies.

Consolidation of approved methodologies or of approved and proposed new methodologies (i.)

13. If the Board approves the consolidation of methodologies including approved methodologies (case i.), the consolidated methodology shall replace the previously approved methodology(-ies).
14. If the range of applicability conditions of the proposed consolidated methodology does not fully cover the combined range of applicability conditions of the original approved methodologies, then the original methodology not fully covered by the proposed consolidated

participants when proposing a new methodology. The Board further clarified that only the information provided in the above mentioned section of the CDM-PDD be included in the ‘source’ section of the approved methodology (EB26, paragraph 27(d))

⁴ See the latest procedures for the revision of an approved baseline or monitoring methodology by the Executive Board” <<http://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Procedures>>

methodology is not withdrawn, but revised so that its range of applicability conditions is restricted to project types for which the proposed consolidated methodology is not applicable. Additional revision might also be necessary to remove inconsistencies.

15. The withdrawal of an approved methodology because of consolidation shall not affect (a) registered CDM project activities using the withdrawn methodology(-ies) during their crediting period; and (b) project activities that use the previously approved methodology for which requests for registration are submitted before or within eight (8) weeks after the methodology was replaced by a consolidated methodology⁵.
16. The process of consolidation may involve a minor or major revision of the approved methodologies forming the basis of the consolidation. In order to make efficient use of the resources available within the Meth Panel, consolidation and revision may be carried out in a single step.
17. Depending on the type of revisions of approved methodologies that result from the the consolidation of methodologies, the Board may decide to invite public inputs on the proposed revision.

Consolidation of proposed methodologies not including approved methodologies (ii.)

18. The Board may approve the consolidation of several proposed methodologies (case ii.) into one single approved consolidated methodology.

⁵ The date of revision shall be effective as of the date of publication on the UNFCCC website (24h00 GMT), which shall be within five (5) calendar days after the date of publication of the report of the Board.