

CARBON CHECK
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Paris Agreement Credit Mechanism (PACM) herein after referred as Article 6.4

1.1 POLICY

As a DOE (under UNFCCC CDM and Article 6.4 accreditation) and Verification body Carbon Check is committed to assess projects based

only on the compliance to the requirements articulated by the decisions of the UNFCCC; methodologies, tools and guidelines stipulated by the CDM EB and Article 6.4 SBM.

Towards that end the pricing policy of Carbon Check will take into account the following factors:

- a) Type of project- technology measure employed, single/bundled/PoA
- b) Number of sites
- c) Size of the project small scale/large scale
- d) Geographical location of sites
- e) Tools & methodologies rates of our assessors which are in vogue from time to time

The time required to complete a validation/verification will depend on:

- a) Our available resources (FM7.7)
- b) Work in hand
- c) Complexity of project
- d) Availability of information/documents/evidence required to validate/verify any project.

Factors such as consultancy organisation used or financial organisation used for a project function will not play any role in matters of time, price, simplicity/complexity of validation/verification.

1. PURPOSE

To ensure that impartiality is managed with respect to all validations and verifications carried out by Carbon Check. The role of the Impartiality committee in the process is to provide independent oversight.

The management of Carbon Check is responsible for implementing the impartiality process.

2. SCOPE

Impartiality management relates to two levels:

- A. Organisational impartiality management (i.e those impartiality threats that apply to Carbon Check as an organisation) where this procedure and FM6.1 are utilized.
- B. Project specific impartiality management (i.e those impartiality threats that are specific to projects) where this procedure and FM4.2 are utilized, in conjunction with the application review process, Proc 3.0.

This process applies to all validation and verification assessments and to all risks to impartiality which might include the following:

- a) Source of revenue: risks from a client paying for the validation or verification of greenhouse gas (GHG) assertions;
- b) Self-interest: risks from a person or body acting in their own interest, for example financial self-interest;
- c) Self-review: risks from a person or body reviewing their own work; assessing validation or verification activities of a client to whom the validation body or verification body provided consultancy would be a self review risk;
- d) Familiarity (or trust): a risk from a person or body being too familiar or trusting of another person instead of seeking validation or verification evidence is a familiarity risk;
- e) Intimidation: risks from a person or body having a perception of being coerced openly or secretly, such as a risk to be

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replaced or reported to a supervisor.

3. PROCESS OWNER / OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY

The Technical Director and Compliance officer has overall responsibility and authority for ensuring that this procedure is implemented.

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4. PROCESS / PROCEDURE

4.1 Process Inputs

Inputs	Source	Acceptance Criteria
Application forms	Application and Planning Process Proc 3.0	Application form reviewed as per Proc 3.0
Impartiality threats	As above	Refer to FM 6.1 for guidance on risk acceptability

4.2 Process Flow

Not currently applicable to this procedure - refer to section 4.4 for the process/procedure steps.

4.3 Process Outputs

Outputs	Destination/s	Acceptance Criteria
Impartiality risk assessment	Carbon Check Management and public domain	Impartiality risk assessment completed in full
Managed impartiality threats	Client, UNFCCC	Impartiality threats either removed or managed. If not possible - work not carried out by Carbon Check.

4.4 Process/Procedure Steps

Step	Activity	Responsibility & Authority
1	Commitment to impartiality	Management
	- Include the management commitment to impartiality in the Carbon Check quality policy.	
	- Communicate this and ensure it remains publically available ie on the Carbon Check website.	
	- Ensure the impartiality requirements are included in contracts (internal and external assessors and validation or verification role players, as per FM 7.4a and 7.4b. Refer to Proc 7.0)	
	- Immediate action will be taken in response to any threats to impartiality that arise from internal or external parties, including related bodies, subcontractors, or clients. Any conflicts identified will be documented, and appropriate measures will be implemented to safeguard impartiality.	
	- Foster a Culture of Impartiality: Carbon Check is committed to cultivating a professional environment where impartiality is valued and upheld by all personnel. Training, policies, and oversight are in place to ensure that all employees act in a manner that aligns with impartiality principles in their work.	
	-	
	While carrying out the conflict of interest analysis the following risks, but not limited to them, shall be included:	
	(a) Source of revenue : risks from a client paying for the validation or verification/certification work. This risk is significant when Carbon Check has	

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Step	Activit	у			- I	onsibility & uthority	
	ex (c) ass cli se ca ve (d) tru ev th (e)	- Single cl) Self-inter ample finar Self-revi sessing the ent to who if-review ris se of small rification;) Familiarit usting of a idence is a e same proj Intimidati erced open hile carrying Evaluate factors do Identify a activities documen Identify a impartial Disclose a informati parent o personne Article 6. Clearly do Carbon C relationsl (i) Relatic (ii) Share	cous contracts with the same client; ient (i.e.) Legal entity with whom the contract est: risks from a person or an organization acial self-interest; ew: risks from a person or an organization of the carbon Check or its related bodies provise. E.g. use of same person in the V/V team active scale project use of same V/V personel from the carbon instead of seeking validation familiarity risk. E.g. use of same V/V personel ect with the client; and for: risks from a person or an organization have a constructed in the conflict of interest analysis, Carbon Consources of income and assess whether find the conflict of interest analysis, Carbon Consources of income and assess whether find the conflict of interest analysis of actual and potential risk to impart and document its actual/proposed involvem other than validation and/or verification/cet analysis of actual and potential risk to impart and document all related bodies and identify, including potential conflicts arising from a person of activities care organization, entities belonging to the same and subcontractors in general and in particle and subcontractors i	cting in its own interest, for an reviewing its own world in/certification activities of rided consultancy would be and as technical reviewer, if or the validation as well as its action being too familiar or or verification/certification for number of verification of the commercial and a supervisor. Check shall: ancial or other commercial ent in CDM and Article 6. In the commercial ent in CDM and Article 6. In the commercial ent in CDM and carry out an itality; if y actual/potential risks the such relationships; ensive manner the following regarding the CDM and their regarding the CDM and their relationships with the commerce, personnel;	or (; a a a n as or n of al 4 d d o g as s, d d e	- 77	
		(iii) Marketing and payment of commission or other inducement for bringing in business or the referral of new clients, etc.					
2	- En - Co - Re - Re sig	and 0	ical Director Compliance officer				
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Step	Activit	у				-	onsibility & uthority
	Re - En im	ference FM sure that plemented sure record Ensure th with a ma *In cases monitorial impartial managen committe UNFCCC: CCIPL sho	ne Impartiality Committee functions in 6.2 Impartiality Committee Terms of the recommendations regarding in or reviewed in accordance with the is of Impartiality Committee meeting that an Impartiality Committee meeting and atory requirement of 60% attends where the impartiality committee iding or review of the implementation of the implementation of the implementation of the impartiality committee of the each does not follow the advice of the eshall have the right to report the insecretariat.	f Reference impartiality. Terms of I is are retaing is condulance from identifies is of the CCIPL's me impartial instance to	te and Procedures. y management are either Reference FM 6.2. ned. icted at least once a year, the panel members. sues through the L's systems to safeguard nanagement. If the lity committee, this the Board through the	er	
3	 Determine the risks to impartiality and associated mitigation measures- Organizational Use the Risk Assessment form FM 6.1 to determine the risks and mitigation measures. Conduct at least one risk/impartiality review for the whole organization per year, or more often, at any time if there are concerns or threats noted. Ensure the Impartiality Committee reviews and ratifies the risk assessment, FM6.1. The mitigation actions may be through, inter alia: (a) Prohibitions – Certain defined activities should not be carried out; (b) Restrictions – Certain defined activities should be carried out in a restricted manner with clearly defined control points to ensure mitigation; and (c) Disclosures. The mitigation strategies and actions whenever a change in the conflict of interest analysis 						cal Director, mpliance icer, with erence to partiality mmittee
4	Determine the risks to impartiality - Project Specific - Use the same principles, but conduct the risk assessment as part of the Application and Planning process Proc 3.0, and log the outcomes using FM 4.2. All risks to impartiality shall be categorised as either high or medium or low. - If any risks are identified that require mitigatory measures, a mitigation plan shall be defined as per the procedure and associative form. Identified risks are to be referred to the Impartiality Committee for review at the next meeting, or if urgent, distribute to the Committee members for electronic decision; or call an emergency meeting. - Determination of Impartiality risk and mitigation measures shall be conducted prior to the commencement of any verification or validation services. In order to avoid risk to impartiality after the commencement of verification/validation services, non-conflict of interest shall be continually assessed throughout the life time of the project and up to one year after completion.						ty Manager Compliance officer
	Mitigation measures for threats like self interest, familiarity and intimidation: Self Review: Not utilizing same V/V personnel for carrying out V/V process and technical review. In case a V/V team member or the entire team is involved in the						
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Step	Activity	у			-	onsibility & uthority
	> > Specifi	e if e al if e				
	After of immed any por a Composition	commencer iately make otential for oliance Off	ment of offset verification services, Carbon e full disclosure, in writing, to ARB or the Offset a conflict of interest situation that arises set Protocol. This disclosure will include a de mas taken or proposes to take to avoid, neutral	et Project Registry regardin for an offset project usin escription of actions that th	g g e	
	- Ca for pro the wi ve AR	t f t e				
5	Implen - As	with fr Co Office	ical Director assistance om the mpliance r and Quality Janager			
6	Avoida Carbon - - - - NO go an	Compl an N t	iance office d Quality Ianager			
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Step	Activity			-	nsibility & thority
	- NOT cons GHG serv the	offer prostate or easier, factorized a sultancy of data in ices) it is public do	the the review and issuance of the validation or verification statement; which is the review and issuance of the validation or verification statement; which is the validation or verification of a GHG assertion would be simpler, aster or less expensive if a specified GHG consultancy service were used. In an any participating as a trainer is not considered a GHG service, provided that (where the training relates to GHG quantification, monitoring or recording, GHG information system or internal auditing confined to the provision of generic information that is freely available in smain (i.e. the trainer should not provide organization-specific or projective or solutions).		
	-	Carbon validatio and/or v Carbon (CDM and engaged any of the	Check shall not have any direct relationship with its client other than nerification/certification work and third party conformity assessment; Check shall not undertake validation and/or verification/certification of a diad Article 6.4 projects if Carbon Check or any external assessor has been in any function that has been identified as a threat to impartiality, such as the following relating to the CDM and Article 6.4 projects: (a) Identification, development and/or financing of CDM and Article 6.4 PA; (b) Consultancy related to CDM and Article 6.4 PA; (c) Providing of training on CDM and Article 6.4 PA or and other related topics; (d) Marketing and tie-up promotion with CDM and Article 6.4 or consultancy/financing organizations; (e) Offering/payment of commissions or other inducements for promotion or new business; (f) Use of personnel for validation and/or verification/certification of a CDM and Article 6.4 projects activity who were previously associated with the client in their personal capacity or otherwise for any activity such as development, consultancy, training, etc.; and (g) Other organizational considerations such as performance targets in financial terms or in terms of a specific number of CDM and Article 6.4 projects offset project to be validated and/or verified/certified during a period of time. (h) The conditions in Carbon Check contracts with client shall not link Carbon Check payments to the final outcome of the validation or verification/certification activities; (i) Carbon Check personnel involved in validation and/or verification/certification activities shall be bound by Carbon Check		
			impartiality policy and act impartially in their work through contractual or employment conditions and assignment conditions for each		
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Step	validation and/or verification/certification activity; and (j) Carbon Check personnel involved in validation and/or verification/certification activities shall not provide, while making validation or verification/certification regarding a CDM and Article 6.4 projects , any advice, consultancy or recommendation to client on how to address any deficiencies that may be identified in the validation or verification/certification. - Carbon Check shall not outsource validation and/or verification/certification work to a legal entity that is engaged in the development, consultancy or financing of CDM and Article 6.4 projects; - Carbon Check shall not use external validators, verifiers or technical experts in a CDM and Article 6.4 projects if they, or the organization that employs them, have been engaged in the development, consultancy or financing of this CDM and Article 6.4 projects - Carbon Check's activities shall not be marketed or offered as linked with the activities of an organization that provides services in respect of development, financial assistance and consultancy for CDM and Article 6.4 projects. - Carbon Check shall not state or imply that validation and/or verification/certification regarding a CDM and Article 6.4 projects would be simpler, easier, faster or less expensive if a specified consultancy/financing organization is used; - Carbon Check shall not use validation or verification/certification personnel, internal or external, in the validation or verification/certification personnel, internal or external, in the validation or verification/certification personnel, internal or external, in the validation are relationships, other than a third party conformity assessment, with the project participants of this CDM and Article 6.4 projects; croin (ii) They have had any professional relationships, other than a third party conformity assessment) of a CDM and Article 6.4 projects under validation and/or verification/certification was involved in the development of a CDM and Article 6.4 project under v	
	- Carbon Check shall not use for the verification/certification of a CDM and Article 6.4 projects personnel who was involved in the validation team of such CDM and Article 6.4 projects, except in the cases in which a DOE is allowed to conduct both the validation and verification/certification as per CDM and Article 6.4 AS and VVS.	

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	impartiality raised by the activities of such personnel or by the organizations that employ them, and shall not use such personnel, internal or external, unless any potential conflict of interests has been addressed and the measures taken to address these potential conflicts have been documented and implemented. If during the course of validation and/or verification/certification, such instances are known, the concerned personnel shall be removed from those functions immediately; - Carbon Check shall require its personnel, internal and external, to report any situation of influence or pressure from client that may threaten their independence in the course of validation and/or verification/certification of CDM and Article 6.4 projects. Based on such report, Carbon Check shall take appropriate actions to ensure its independence in its validation and/or verification/certification work; - The conditions in the Carbon Check's contracts with client shall not link the Carbon Check's payments to the final outcome of the validation or verification/certification activities; - The Carbon Check's personnel involved in validation and/or verification/certification activities shall be bound by Carbon Check 's impartiality policy and act impartially in their work through contractual or employment conditions and assignment conditions for each validation and/or verification/certification activities shall not provide, while making validation or verification/certification activities shall not provide, while making validation or verification/certification regarding a CDM and Article 6.4 projects, any advice, consultancy or recommendation to client on how to address any deficiencies that may be identified in the validation or verification/certificationship with the Carbon Check's clients and the project participants of the CDM and Article 6.4 projects under validation and/or verification/certification other than validation					
7		ns/compla	erification/certification activities and third part ints regarding impartiality ms/complaints as per the Action/problem mar			ical Director Compliance
		•	ems to the UNFCCC or ARB where applicable		(Officer
8 Management Review - Include any impartiality problems/complaints in the Management Review, Proc 1.6.Management shall review the effectiveness of impartiality management including: - Carbon Check shall analyse and review, at least once a year, all data and information relevant to impartiality, such as the conflict of interest analysis, the mitigation strategies and actions undertaken, any non-conformities (NCs) raised with regard to impartiality and the corrective actions implemented to correct the NCs Based on the data/information referred to above, Carbon Check shall carry out, once a year, an analysis of the process to safeguard impartiality and a review of its						
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	effectiveness. The recommendations of actions resulting from the review of the process of safeguarding impartiality shall be reported to Carbon Check's management as part of MRM input mentioned in Proc 1.6 (clause 3.1) and shall maintain the record of same. Carbon Check shall keep record of this review –management review minutes and any associated updates to FM6.1	
9	 Carbon Check shall ensure impartiality in their operations by, inter alia, through: Having the management's commitment to impartiality in validation and/or verification/certification functions as evidenced through defined policies and procedures, and operation and conduct of its activities (FM 7.5 and FM 7.6); Make publicly available a statement that describes its understanding of the importance of impartiality in validation and/or verification/certification functions, how it manages conflict of interest and how it ensures the objectivity of validation and/or verification/certification functions; Evaluate sources of income and demonstrate that financial or other commercial factors do not compromise impartiality; Take action to respond to any threats to its impartiality arising from the actions of other persons, bodies or organizations; Require personnel, internal and external, to reveal any potential conflict of interest known to them. Carbon Check should use this information as input to identifying threats to impartiality raised by the activities of such personnel or by the organizations that employ them, and shall not use such personnel, internal or external, unless any potential conflict of interests has been addressed and the measures taken to address these potential conflicts have been documented and implemented; and Maintain a professional environment and culture in Carbon Check that supports behaviour of all personnel that is consistent with impartiality. 	Compliance officer

5. PROCESS METRICS

Measure	Responsibility	Frequency	Use of the data	Target
Nature of any impartiality problems/ complaints	Compliance officer	On receipt	To review whether the impartiality management process needs to be modified. To manage the specific problem or complaint	Take action within 1 week
Number of justified impartiality problems/complaints	Compliance Officer	Annual	To review the effectiveness of the impartiality management	Zero justified impartiality complaints per year

6. REFERENCES & ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS/SOFTWARE

6.1 Documentation References

Procedure: Management and Financial Reviews Proc 1.6
Procedure: Application and Planning Process Proc 3.0

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Procedure: Procedure:	Human Resources & Competence Management Complaints, Appeals and Disputes	Proc 7.0 Proc 8.0
Form	Client Application Review & Planning/ Team Impartiality	
	and Risk Review form	FM 4.2
Form	Impartiality Risk Assessment form	FM 6.1
Form	Impartiality Panel Terms of Reference and Procedures	FM 6.2
Form	Response to invitation to become member of impartiality panel	FM 6.3
Form	Impartiality committee: Meeting agenda	FM 6.4 (a)
Form	Impartiality committee: Minutes of Meeting	FM 6.4 (b)
Form	Employee agreement	FM 7.4
Form	Code of Conduct	FM 7.5
Form	Non-disclosure non-circumvention agreements	FM 7.6

7. Records Table

Record type/group	Responsibility	Access control/ Confidentiality	Minimum retention period	Disposal method
Impartiality risk assessment records – including FM6.1	Compliance Officer	Not confidential	1 Year	Discretionary
Impartiality Panel records, including minutes of meeting, acceptance of appointments	Quality Manager	Confidential	1 Year	Discretionary
Records of project impartiality review – FM4.2	As per Proc3.0			
Problems/complaints regarding impartiality	As per Proc 1.1			

8. Revision History

Rev Date	Rev. No.	Brief Details of Changes
Aug 2009	0	New document
Jan 2010	1	Added reference to as per FM 7.4 and 7.5 to Step 1 Added Step 9, to clarify Carbon Check's intention with regard to impartiality management Amended 5. Process Metric to reflect target of zero justified imparity complaints. Added cross references to Proc 8.0 Clarified the frequency of impartiality reviews Added reference to new procedure, Proc 1.6 Step 2 : Added reference to FM 4.2 for project impartiality review recording
October 2010	2	Created and included reference to a separate Impartiality Committee Terms of Reference and Procedures, FM 6.2 (previously part of FM1.11). Removed references to FM 1.11 Added explanation of the two levels of impartiality management to the Scope. Added detail to step 2, 3, 4 and 5. Updated Records Table.

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Oct 2011	3	Added para 166 of the CDM Accreditation Std version 3 under point 6
March 2012	4	Added types of risks – strep 1. Added records of signed non-disclosure circumvention agreements, FM7.6, copies of CVs to
		step 2
		Clarified mitigatory measure options in step 3. Added detail of review of effectiveness of impartiality mitigations to step 8.
		Added forms FM7.8 and FM6.3 under References (6.2)
June 2012	5	Procedure aligned to Accreditation Standard Version 4
July 2012	6	Updating of authorisation and responsibility
Sept 2012	7	Updating responsibility from CEO to Executive director
May 2013	8	Inclusions for ISO 14065 and ARB requirements
Nov 2014	09	Reason of changes:
		Transfer of Accreditation from Carbon Check (Pty) Ltd to Carbon Check (india) Privat Ltd.
		Implementaion of Accreditation Standard version 06.0
		Removal of ANSI (ISO 14065) requirements from the documents.
Nov 2015	10	Revised in response of NC 1 and NC 2 of Regular Surveillance
Sept 2020	11	Revision to update the logo of CCIPL
June 2023	12	Revised the document name
October 2023	13	Revised as per OFI raised from CDM re-accreditation audit
October 2023	14	Revision as per the NC raised from CDM re-accreditation audit
November 2023	15	Revision to reflect changes in organization structure
April 2024	16	Revised in response to incorporate the changes as per A6.4 accreditation standard version 01.0
September 2024	17	Revised based on the Article 6.4 initial accreditation desk review
November 2024	18	Revised in response to the fDRR comments received during the Article 6.4 accreditation application process

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