

PROGRAM NAME: Building Emissions Reduction Standard (BERS)

ORGANIZATION: Ontoly

ASSESSMENT TYPE: Non-CORSIA Program Level Assessment

DATE OF SUBMISSION: July 29, 2026

DOWNLOADED ON: October 26, 2026

STATUS: In Review

Background

Must Read

Please acknowledge that you have reviewed the details provided in the "Background" section.

We have reviewed the Assessment Framework background materials.

Yes

Methodologies for Exclusion

Please list any methodologies (name and URL) that your programme would like to have excluded from Category-level assessment by the ICVCM team.

If none, please enter "None" or N/A.

None.

We currently have one methodology and want it INCLUDED in the assessment: ONTOLY_RETROFIT_EEFS-1.0 Existing Building Methodology Energy Efficiency and Fuel Switching for Buildings An Approved BERS Methodology Version 1.0 | Sectoral Scope: 03 Link: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/69b19b7ce7ffc593789dda89_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.0.pdf

A – Governance

1.1 Effective Governance - CORSIA

CORSIA requirements related to governance framework:

1) Programme Senior Staff / Leadership (e.g., President / CEO, board members) *List the names and titles of programme's senior staff and leadership, including board members.

Programme Senior Staff / Leadership

Ontoly's executive team is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the BERS Program, including Standard development, registry operations, methodology application, and stakeholder engagement.

- Ashley Sarauer, Founder & CEO — Programme development and consensus building with industry, CORSIA and ICVCM engagement, governance oversight, stakeholder relations
- Adam Doran, Chief Technology Officer — Registry architecture, platform development, data infrastructure, security operations
- Pieter Dorsman, Chief Financial Advisor — Advising on financial oversight, insurance, corporate governance, investor relations for long-term financial stability

Board of Directors

The Ontoly Board of Directors assumes overall corporate fiduciary responsibility for Ontoly as a company, operating in accordance with Ontoly's Articles of Association and the British Columbia Business Corporations Act. Ashley Sarauer serves on the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors fulfills Ontoly's corporate fiduciary obligations — financial stewardship, legal compliance, and organizational strategy — while all decisions relating to the BERS Standard, credit issuance, and programme governance rest exclusively with the BERS Independent Governance Board, which has no overlapping membership with the Board of Directors.

Programme Staff

Ontoly's programme staff supports the operational delivery of the BERS Program, including methodology application, project lifecycle management, and platform design.

- Elyse Lindgren, Senior BERS Program Advisor — Programme design, methodology development, stakeholder engagement, quality assurance
- Madison Mackenzie — Programme Communications Specialist
- Laura Castellani, Senior Frontend UI Designer — Registry user interface, portal design, platform user experience

Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)

The Scientific Advisory Board provides independent technical review of BERS Methodologies, as established under the Methodology Development and Review Process. SAB members are licensed Professional Engineers with specializations in building energy performance, measurement and verification, and energy efficiency.

- Riley Beise, P.Eng. BEMP — Scientific Advisory Member
- Menush Akbari, P.Eng. — Scientific Advisory Member
- Mohammad Fakoor, PhD, CEA, P.Eng. — Scientific Advisory Member

BERS Independent Governance Board

The BERS Governance Board is the programme's independent decision-making body, composed of 3–7 members drawn from the real estate and climate finance community with demonstrated experience in voluntary carbon markets, environmental law, climate finance, building engineering, and building decarbonization ([BERS Standard, Section 2.2.1](#)). The Independent Governance Board is structurally and functionally separate from the corporate Board of Directors, with binding authority over the BERS Standard, appeals, and grievances.

BERS Independent Governance Board: Independence from Operations

The Governance Board operates independently from Ontoly's executive team and programme staff. Board members are subject to a strict Conflict of Interest Policy and must have no current financial, commercial, or fiduciary interest in any BERS-registered project, Ontoly itself, or any entity deriving revenue from BERS-related services. No Ontoly staff hold Board seats or voting authority on the BERS Independent Governance Board.

Ashley Sarauer, CEO, serves solely as a non-voting Programme Administrator Observer to the Board and is responsible for bringing operational matters — such as proposed Standard revisions or programme developments — to the Board for their independent consideration and binding approval. She holds no vote and no decision-making power within the Board.

Investor Independence

No investors currently hold seats on the Governance Board, ensuring full structural independence between capital interests and crediting programme oversight.

Decision-Making Authority

The Board holds binding approval authority over all major updates to the BERS Standard and serves as the final authority in the appeals and grievance process. Methodology governance is the responsibility of the Scientific Advisory Board and the processes set out in the Methodology Development and Review Process; the Board's involvement in methodology matters is limited to hearing methodology-related appeals.

Board Terms and Appointments

Board members serve terms of two to three years and are appointed through a formal nomination and confirmation process as established in the BERS Governance Board Document. The Board nominates candidates and Ontoly confirms, ensuring the oversight body is not composed entirely of Ontoly-selected individuals. Term limits, reappointment procedures, and removal processes are defined to ensure regular renewal and sustained independence.

Current Scale and Future Expansion

The current Board composition was selected to support scaling the BERS Program. As the programme expands its reach to additional countries and building markets, Ontoly is committed to growing the Board to include additional members who bring diverse geographic, sectoral, and governance perspectives. Ontoly welcomes ICVCM conducting a follow-up audit to verify how the Board has expanded its membership and strengthened governance procedures in line with programme growth. This staged approach ensures that governance capacity scales proportionally with programme scope while maintaining rigorous independence at every stage.

Current Members of BERS Independent Governance Board:

- Jamie Gray-Donald — Independent Governance Board Member
- Matt Strand — Independent Governance Board Member
- Michael Pohlod — Independent Governance Board Member

All governance body mandates, composition requirements, quorum rules, appointment and removal procedures, conflict of interest management, and grievance procedures are publicly disclosed in the BERS Governance Board Document and the Methodology Development and Review Process, available at www.ontoly.org.

Grievance Mechanism

The BERS Program maintains a formal grievance process as established in [Section 2.4 of the BERS Standard](#). Any stakeholder may submit a grievance related to programme operations, project activities, or crediting decisions. Grievances are received by the programme team and escalated to the Independent Governance Board for independent review and determination. The Board issues binding decisions on grievance outcomes. Non-confidential grievance outcomes determined by the Board are publicly disclosed to ensure transparency and accountability in the resolution process. This mechanism provides an independent channel for addressing concerns without reliance on programme staff who may be party to the matter under dispute.

Program Governance and Oversight

See [Sections 2](#) for Program Governance and Oversight requirements.

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Leadership URL:

<https://www.ontoly.org/about>

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<https://www.ontoly.org/about>

[https://cdn.prod.website-](https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e01473d33591639982e50_Ontoly_BERS_Conflict_of_Interest_Policy_v1.1.pdf)

[files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e01473d33591639982e50_Ontoly_BERS_Conflict_of_Interest_Policy_v1.1.pdf](https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e01473d33591639982e50_Ontoly_BERS_Conflict_of_Interest_Policy_v1.1.pdf)

[https://cdn.prod.website-](https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a813bfd79256ac5c54a6_Ontoly_BERS_Governance_Board_v1.3.pdf)

[files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a813bfd79256ac5c54a6_Ontoly_BERS_Governance_Board_v1.3.pdf](https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a813bfd79256ac5c54a6_Ontoly_BERS_Governance_Board_v1.3.pdf)

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Independence from Operations

The Governance Board operates independently from Ontoly's executive team and programme staff. Board members are subject to a strict Conflict of Interest Policy and must have no current financial, commercial, or fiduciary interest in any BERS-registered project, Ontoly itself, or any entity deriving revenue from BERS-related services. No Ontoly staff hold Board seats or voting authority. Ashley Sarauer, CEO, serves solely as a non-voting Programme Administrator Observer to the Board and is responsible for bringing operational matters — such as proposed Standard revisions or programme developments — to the Board for their independent consideration and binding approval. She holds no vote and no decision-making power within the Board.

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Board Terms and Appointments

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Current Scale and Future Expansion

The current Board composition of three members is sufficient for the scale at which the BERS Program presently operates. As the programme expands its reach to additional countries and building markets, Ontoly is committed to growing the Board to include additional members who bring diverse geographic, sectoral, and governance perspectives. Ontoly welcomes ICVCM conducting a follow-up audit to verify how the Board has expanded its membership and strengthened governance procedures in line with programme growth. This staged approach ensures that governance capacity scales proportionally with programme scope while maintaining rigorous independence at every stage.

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All governance body mandates, composition requirements, quorum rules, appointment and removal procedures, conflict of interest management, and grievance procedures are publicly disclosed in the BERS Governance Board

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Grievance Mechanism

The BERS Program maintains a formal grievance process as established in [Section 2.4 of the BERS Standard](#). Any stakeholder may submit a grievance related to programme operations, project activities, or crediting decisions. Grievances are received by the programme team and escalated to the Independent Governance Board for independent review and determination. The Board issues binding decisions on grievance outcomes. Non-confidential grievance outcomes determined by the Board are publicly disclosed to ensure transparency and accountability in the resolution process. This mechanism provides an independent channel for addressing concerns without reliance on programme staff who may be party to the matter under dispute.

Program Governance and Oversight

See [Sections 2](#) for Program Governance and Oversight requirements.

All governance body mandates, composition requirements, quorum rules, appointment and removal procedures, conflict of interest management, and grievance procedures are publicly disclosed in the BERS Governance Board Document and the Methodology Development and Review Process, available at:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a813bfd79256ac5c54a6_Ontoly_BERS_Governance_Board_v1.3.pdf

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00ffceadf6709f346d96_Ontoly_Methodology_Development_and_Review_Process_v1.1.pdf

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2) Provide an organizational chart that illustrates or otherwise describes the functional relationship a) among the individuals listed in 1; b) among those individuals and programme staff / employees; and c) the functions of each organizational unit and interlinkages with other units.

Organizational Chart URL:

<https://www.ontoly.org/about>

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Ontoly's organizational structure operates across four functionally distinct bodies with clearly defined reporting lines and independence safeguards.

Corporate Governance Layer

The Ontoly Board of Directors sits at the corporate governance level and assumes fiduciary responsibility for Ontoly as a company. Ashley Sarauer reports to the Board of Directors in her capacity as CEO. The Board of Directors has no authority over the BERS Standard, credit issuance, or programme governance decisions. Its function is limited to corporate financial stewardship, legal compliance, and organizational strategy.

Programme Governance Layer (Independent)

The BERS Independent Governance Board operates as a structurally separate body with no reporting line to the Board of Directors or Ontoly's executive team. It holds binding authority over the BERS Standard, appeals, and grievances. Methodology governance is the responsibility of the Scientific Advisory Board and the processes set out in the Methodology Development and Review Process; the Board's involvement in methodology matters is limited to hearing methodology-related appeals. Ashley Sarauer serves as a non-voting Programme Administrator Observer and brings operational matters to the Board for independent deliberation. The relationship is one-directional: the CEO presents matters for consideration, and the Governance Board issues binding determinations that Ontoly must implement. The Governance Board does not receive direction from any Ontoly staff or corporate body.

Executive and Programme Operations Layer

The CEO directs Ontoly's executive team a(CTO, CFO) and programme staff. The executive team is responsible for day-to-day programme administration, registry operations, and stakeholder engagement. Programme staff (Senior BERS Program Advisor, BERS Program Analyst, Senior Frontend UI Designer) report to the executive team and deliver operational functions including methodology application, quantification support, monitoring report review, and platform development. No programme staff hold any role on the Independent Governance Board.

Technical Advisory Layer

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) provides independent technical review of BERS Methodologies. SAB members are licensed Professional Engineers who report their technical findings and recommendations to the programme team for incorporation into methodology development. The SAB operates independently in its technical assessments and holds responsibility for methodology review and oversight under the Methodology Development and Review Process. The Board's involvement in methodology matters is limited to hearing methodology-related appeals under Section 5.3 of the BERS Governance Board Document.

Functional Relationships and Interlinkages

The CEO is the sole interface between programme operations and the Independent Governance Board, functioning as a non-voting Programme Administrator Observer who surfaces matters for Board consideration. Programme staff prepare technical materials, methodology drafts, and monitoring outputs that inform the CEO's presentations to the Board, but have no direct access to or influence over Board deliberations. The Scientific Advisory Board's technical recommendations feed into methodology development conducted by programme staff, with methodology governance handled through the Methodology Development and Review Process. The Board of Directors receives corporate performance reporting from the CEO but is firewalled from all BERS programme governance decisions. Investor interests are structurally excluded from programme governance through the absence of any investor representation on the Independent Governance Board.

An organizational chart illustrating these relationships is available at <https://www.ontoly.org/about>.

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https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a813bfd79256ac5c54a6_Ontoly_BERS_Governance_Board_v1.3.pdf

An organizational chart illustrating these relationships is available at <https://www.ontoly.org/about>

3) Provide a summary description of your programme (300 – 500 words)

Programme Summary URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a813bfd79256ac5c54a6_Ontoly_BERS_Governance_Board_v1.3.pdf

files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Ontoly is a private benefit company headquartered in British Columbia, Canada. Ontoly developed and administers the Building Emissions Reduction Standard (BERS) — the world's first carbon credit certification framework designed specifically for the building retrofit sector — and issues Building Emissions Reduction Units (BERUs), uniquely serialized digital credits where each BERU represents one verified metric tonne of CO₂e emission reductions ([BERS Standard Sections 9.1.2 and 14.1.1](#)).

The BERS Program certifies operational greenhouse gas emission reductions from energy efficiency and fuel-switching retrofit projects in existing large buildings, including multi-unit residential, commercial, and institutional buildings in Canada and the United States. The programme addresses a critical gap in voluntary carbon markets: buildings account for approximately 30% of global energy-related CO₂ emissions, yet no crediting framework previously existed to certify retrofit-driven reductions at scale with sector-specific rigour.

All GHG quantification is centralized and performed by Ontoly using standardized, approved methodologies applied to actual metered utility data submitted by Building Representatives. This eliminates project-level discretion in calculation, ensures methodological consistency across all projects, and provides a verifiable, building-specific evidence base for every BERU issued ([BERS Standard Section 2.1.2](#)).

In addition to GHG quantification and safeguard principles the BERS is built on the core pillars of:

1) Integrity of credits: BERUs are issued exclusively on an ex-post basis following annual independent verification by an ISO 14065-accredited Verification Body contracted and remunerated by Ontoly, not by project proponents. No BERUs may be issued based on projected or modelled estimates.

2) Rigorous additionality: every project must satisfy additionality testing that confirms emission reductions are real, measurable, and would not have occurred in the absence of carbon credit revenue. Projects that pass receive a transparent Investment Analysis Rating on a 1–5 scale based on payback period, publicly disclosed on the Ontoly Registry ([BERS Standard Sections 10.1–10.4](#)).

3) Transparent registry infrastructure: the Ontoly Registry is a publicly accessible database tracking every BERU from issuance through transfer to permanent retirement, with each unit carrying a unique serial number encoding country of origin, vintage year, and batch identifier. The Registry publicly discloses additionality ratings, methodology, verification status, and retirement purpose and beneficiary ([BERS Standard Section 15](#)).

Programme governance is overseen by the BERS Independent Governance Board, which operates separately from Ontoly's corporate Board of Directors and holds binding authority over all Standard revisions, appeals, and grievances. Methodologies are developed by Ontoly's technical team, independently reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Board of licensed Professional Engineers, and subjected to public stakeholder consultation for material revisions, with a minimum five-year review cycle. All programme documents and methodologies are publicly available at:

<https://www.ontoly.org/bers-program>

Existing Building Methodology: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf

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The programme is built on three core pillars:\

•

- First, integrity of credits: BERUs are issued exclusively on an ex-post basis following annual independent verification by an ISO 14065-accredited Verification Body contracted and remunerated by Ontoly, not by project proponents. No BERUs may be issued based on projected or modelled estimates.
- Second, rigorous additionality: every project must satisfy additionality testing that confirms emission reductions are real, measurable, and would not have occurred in the absence of carbon credit revenue. Projects that pass receive a transparent Investment Analysis Rating on a 1–5 scale based on payback period, publicly disclosed on the Ontoly Registry ([BERS Standard Sections 10.1–10.4](#)).
- Third, transparent registry infrastructure: the Ontoly Registry is a publicly accessible database tracking every BERU from issuance through transfer to permanent retirement, with each unit carrying a unique serial number encoding country of origin, vintage year, and batch identifier. The Registry publicly discloses additionality ratings, methodology, verification status, and retirement purpose and beneficiary ([BERS Standard Section 15](#)).

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URLS:

[\(BERS Standard Sections 9.1.2 and 14.1.1\)](#).

[\(BERS Standard Section 2.1.2\)](#).

[BERS Standard Sections 10.1–10.4](#).

[\(BERS Standard Section 15\)](#).

4) Confirm that your programme publicly discloses who is responsible for the administration of the programme

Yes

Administrative oversight provisions URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

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Ontoly publicly discloses its role as sole programme administrator in BERS Standard [Section 2.1](#).

This includes responsibility for maintenance and publication of all programme documents, administration of the Ontoly Registry, contracting and remuneration of ISO 14065-accredited Verification Bodies, centralized GHG quantification using approved methodologies, and management of the full project lifecycle from registration through credit issuance and retirement. The BERS Standard, all approved methodologies, and supporting programme documents are publicly available at <https://www.ontoly.org/bers-program>

The individuals responsible for programme administration — including executive leadership, programme staff, Scientific Advisory Board members, and Independent Governance Board members — are publicly identified on Ontoly's website at www.ontoly.org/about. Their respective roles and responsibilities are described in the BERS Standard, the BERS Governance Board Document, and the Methodology Development and Review Process, all of which are publicly accessible.

The BERS Independent Governance Board, which operates separately from Ontoly's executive team and corporate Board of Directors, provides independent oversight of programme governance and holds binding authority over Standard revisions, appeals, and grievances. Methodology governance is the responsibility of the Scientific Advisory Board and the Methodology Development and Review Process. This governance structure and its membership are publicly disclosed in the [BERS Governance Board Document](#) available at <https://www.ontoly.org/bers-program>

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5) Confirm that your programme publicly discloses how decisions are made

Yes

Decision making process/policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a813bfd79256ac5c54a6_Ontoly_BERS_Governance_Board_v1.3.pdf

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Decision-making across the programme is disclosed in several public documents. Major updates to the BERS Standard require a formal 4-step Board approval process: Ontoly notifies the Board at least 30 days in advance; the Board reviews and may request expert input; the Board votes (simple majority of all members required); and upon approval, Ontoly publishes the updated Standard with the Board's approval referenced in the change log. Ontoly cannot implement a major Standard update the Board has rejected ([BERS Governance Board, Section 5.2](#)). Methodology decisions follow the [Methodology Development and Review Process](#), including mandatory Scientific Advisory Board review and public consultation.

Standard revisions also require stakeholder consultation ([BERS Standard Section 2.3](#)). BERU issuance, suspension, and cancellation are governed by published rules ([BERS Standard Sections 5.7 and 16](#)), reflected in real-time on the public Ontoly Registry.

Decision-making URLs:

BERS Governance Board : https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Methodology Development and Review Process : https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00f6709f346d96_Ontoly_Methodology_Development_and_Review_Process_v1.1.pdf

Decision-making across the programme is disclosed in several public documents. Major updates to the BERS Standard require a formal 4-step Board approval process: Ontoly notifies the Board at least 30 days in advance; the Board reviews and may request expert input; the Board votes (simple majority of all members required); and upon approval, Ontoly publishes the updated Standard with the Board's approval referenced in the change log. Ontoly cannot implement a major Standard update the Board has rejected (https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a813bfd79256ac5c54a6_Ontoly_BERS_Governance_Board_v1.3.pdf). Methodology decisions follow the [Methodology Development and Review Process](#), including mandatory Scientific Advisory Board review and public consultation.

Standard revisions also require stakeholder consultation ([BERS Standard Section 2.3](#)). BERU issuance, suspension, and cancellation are governed by published rules ([BERS Standard Sections 5.7 and 16](#)), reflected in real-time on the public Ontoly Registry.

6) Confirm that your programme can demonstrate that it has been continuously governed for at least the last two years

Yes

Governance tenure URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a813bfd79256ac5c54a6_Ontoly_BERS_Governance_Board_v1.3.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Ontoly was founded in January 2024 and has been continuously governed from then (over two years). The company was formally incorporated as 1483124 B.C. LTD. (operating as "Ontoly"), a British Columbia Benefit Company, on May 27, 2024, with governance structures established in accordance with the Articles of Association and applicable Canadian law.

1483124 B.C. LTD. is the company's registered legal name on the British Columbia corporate register, and is the name against which ICVCM should verify the applicant entity. The company presents publicly under the name "Ontoly", which is the name under which the BERS Program, the Ontoly Registry and the Ontoly Portal operate.

The numbered-company structure was adopted on legal advice because the ONTOLY trademark application was pending at the date of incorporation and is a lengthy process to trademark internationally. Once the trademark is registered in the relevant jurisdictions, the company will apply to change its corporate name to ONTOLY and will notify ICVCM of that change. The change would affect the corporate name only: no change to the legal entity, its governance structure, its officers, or the BERS Program.

The Certificate of Incorporation can be provided.

Ontoly was founded in January 2024 and has been continuously governed from then (over two years). The company was formally incorporated as a British Columbia Benefit Company on May 27, 2024, with governance structures established in accordance with the Articles of Association and applicable Canadian law. The Certificate of Incorporation and Articles of Association can be provided upon request.

7) Confirm that your programme can demonstrate that it has been continuously operational for at least the last two years

Yes

Operational tenure URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a813bfd79256ac5c54a6_Ontoly_BERS_Governance_Board_v1.3.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Ontoly has been continuously operational since January 2024.

Key milestones: operations and stakeholder research commenced January 2024; formal incorporation May 2024; Platform and Registry software launched Q4 2024; Scientific Advisory Board established and BERS Standard and Methodology drafted Q1 2025; [BERS Standard v1.2](#) and [Existing Building Methodology v1.1](#) formally published March 2026; Ontoly Registry and Platform launched publicly March 2026.

Ontoly has been continuously operational since January 2024. Key milestones: operations and stakeholder research commenced January 2024; formal incorporation May 2024; Platform and Registry software launched Q4 2024; Scientific Advisory Board established and BERS Standard and Methodology drafted Q1 2025; BERS Standard v1.0 and Existing Building Methodology v1.0 formally published March 2026; Ontoly Registry and Platform launched publicly March 2026.

8) Confirm that your programme can demonstrate that it has a plan for the long-term administration of multi-decadal programme elements

Yes

Long-term administration provisions URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a03c9d64263159ce77b766c_Ontoly_BERS_Governance_Board_v1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

BERS projects carry crediting periods of up to ten years, with mandatory annual monitoring and reporting obligations binding on Building Representatives and successors in title throughout ([BERS Standard v1.2, Section 10.7.1](#)). Ontoly's long-term organisational plan rests on four documented pillars.

(1) Financial sustainability:

Ontoly's operating revenue derives from programme fees set out in the published [Ontoly Fee Schedule](#). Fee revenue scales with the number of buildings certified, and recurs annually across each project's crediting period of up to ten years, so the revenue base is multi-year and sustainable to cover operational costs.

Ontoly has been capitalised to reach that revenue base. The company closed its first equity round in August 2026, raising \$150,000 from impact investors alongside a \$100,000 grant from Alberta Ecotrust, funding expansion of the team and development of the Ontoly Portal and Registry platform. A second equity round of \$1.2–1.5 million is underway, targeted to close in late 2026, to fund programme expansion to jurisdictions outside Canada and the U.S. Starting in 2027, Ontoly will fund subsequent growth from programme revenue. Detailed financial projections are commercially sensitive and are available to the Secretariat on request.

Ontoly's investors hold no seats on the BERS Independent Governance Board and no role in crediting, validation, verification, or issuance decisions (see Criterion 1.1(a)(1) above).

Financial planning and registry data-retention obligations are aligned with a multi-decade view — superseding the ten-year crediting periods for all registered projects. High-level financial information evidencing solvency is published annually as required by [BERS Standard Section 2.8.1](#) in our [Annual Report](#).

(2) Governance continuity: staggered Board multi-year terms with a maximum of one additional consecutive term, quorum-failure appointment procedures, and the Board/Ontoly shared appointment structure ensure institutional continuity independent of any single party ([BERS Governance Board v1.2, Sections 3.2–3.4](#)); the Scientific Advisory Board provides continuing technical oversight.

(3) Contractual continuity: Pre-Purchase Agreements and Platform Terms of Use create legally binding obligations on Building Representatives and successors for the full crediting period.

(4) Wind-down protection: the published [Wind Down Policy](#) and BERS Program dissolution provisions, including ongoing retention of registry data, ensure that issued units, retirements, and project records remain traceable irrespective of corporate events. The Wind Down policy also sets out a process for transferring authority and data custody to a Successor programme and all governance processes to ensure effective governance in the event of a wind-down execution.

As a British Columbia Benefit Company, Ontoly is additionally bound by a statutory public-benefit purpose — mobilizing climate finance for building decarbonization — which anchors the organisation's long-term strategy in the continued administration and scaling of the BERS Program. Ontoly can share British Columbia Benefit Company annual reports which are filed to the [Government of British Columbia](#) annually upon Secretariat request.

BERS projects carry crediting periods of up to ten years, with mandatory annual monitoring and reporting obligations binding on Building Representatives and successors in title throughout (BERS Standard Section 10.7.1).

Long-term administration rests on: (1) financial sustainability — Ontoly operates on a fee-based revenue model

structured to cover ongoing operational costs; (2) contractual continuity — Pre-Purchase Agreements and Platform Terms of Use create legally binding obligations on Building Representatives and successors for the full crediting period; and (3) governance continuity — staggered SAB membership rotation and the BERS Independent Governance Board ensure institutional continuity ([Methodology Development and Review Process, Section 4.2.3](#)). Governance continuity is also supported by staggered Board member terms (two- to three-year terms, with a maximum of one additional consecutive term) and the Board/Ontoly shared appointment structure that ensures institutional continuity independent of any single party ([BERS Governance Board v1.0, Sections 3.2–3.3](#)). Where the Board consists of four or more members, terms are staggered so that no more than one-third of the Board's membership expires in any given year.

([BERS Governance Board v1.0, Sections 3.2–3.3](#)).

Long-term administration URL: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a03c9d64263159ce77b766c_Ontoly_BERS_Governance_Board_v1.2.pdf;

BERS Standard v1.0, Sections 2.2, 5.4, 10.7: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/69b124a67a4b619631c8cf80_BERS_Standard_v1.0.pdf

9) Confirm that your programme can demonstrate that it has a plan for possible responses to the dissolution of the programme in its current form

Yes

Dissolution plan approach URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a03c821e50b2575a068ccd8_Ontoly_BERS_Wind_Down_Policy_v1.0.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program has comprehensive provisions addressing dissolution risk, codified in Ontoly's publicly available Programme Wind-Down Policy (v1.0, effective May 6, 2026) and supported by structural safeguards in the BERS Standard and Governance Board Document.

[The Wind-Down Policy](#) establishes five trigger events (voluntary dissolution, insolvency, regulatory action, loss of governance quorum, and force majeure) and prescribes a structured wind-down timeline. Within 30 calendar days of a trigger event, Ontoly must notify all Programme Participants — Building Representatives, Buyer Account holders, Verification Bodies, and ICAO/CORSIA — in writing. Public notice follows within 45 days. The BERS Independent Governance Board retains full authority throughout the wind-down process, including approval of any successor programme or data custodian, and its mandate does not terminate until all data custody arrangements are finalized and pending appeals resolved.

At the registry level, [BERS Standard Section 15.3.3](#) requires that all CORSIA-related registry data be retained on an ongoing basis and for at least three years beyond the end of the latest applicable CORSIA compliance period. The Wind-Down Policy extends this by requiring all non-CORSIA registry data to be retained for at least ten years following the last BERU issuance. Within 90 days of the trigger event, Ontoly must execute a data custody arrangement — transfer to a successor programme, escrow with an independent custodian, or publication as a public archive — ensuring that retirement records remain publicly accessible and independently verifiable in perpetuity.

For projects with active crediting periods, the Policy provides for completion of in-progress verification cycles (within 180 days), issuance of final status reports to Building Representatives, and facilitated transfer to a successor programme with the Building Representative's consent. Existing BERUs may continue to be transferred and retired for a transition period of at least 12 months before the Registry enters read-only mode. Prepaid fees for services not yet rendered are refunded pro rata within 90 days.

At the governance level, the BERS Governance Board Document ([Section 3.4.4](#)) establishes that if Board membership falls below quorum, Ontoly is automatically prohibited from implementing any major programme changes until quorum is restored. The Board's independent budget allocation ensures that governance oversight of the wind-down is not dependent on Ontoly's commercial viability.

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10) Confirm your programme has policies and robust procedures in place to prevent the programme staff, board members, and management from having financial, commercial or fiduciary conflicts of interest in the governance or provision of programme services

Yes

Fiduciary conflict of interest provisions and policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e01473d33591639982e50_Ontoly_BERS_Conflict_of_Interest_Policy_v1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Yes.

Ontoly maintains a publicly available Conflict of Interest Policy (v1.0, effective March 11, 2026), the authority for which derives from and is reviewed and approved by the BERS Governance Board (**Conflict of Interest Policy** [Section 1.2, 12.2](#)). The Policy applies to all Covered Persons — defined to include all Ontoly employees, officers, and directors; all BERS Governance Board members; SAB and advisory committee members; contracted Verification Body personnel; and any other individual with decision-making authority over BERS Program matters ([Section 2.1.1](#)). Conflicts are defined broadly to capture actual, potential, and perceived conflicts, and the Policy's scope extends to Close Relations (family up to second degree of consanguinity) and entities controlled or substantially owned by a Covered Person ([Section 2.2](#)).

Prohibited conduct is explicitly defined and includes: using a BERS position to influence outcomes for personal financial benefit; participating in decisions in which the Covered Person or a Close Relation has a Financial Interest; accepting gifts exceeding CAD \$150 / USD \$100 per year from any Programme Participant or Verification Body; and maintaining simultaneous employment or financial relationships with Programme Participants without prior written approval ([Section 5](#)). Post-departure obligations continue for 24 months following cessation of engagement ([Section 2.3](#)).

A designated Compliance Officer administers the Policy day-to-day, maintains the Conflict of Interest Register, conducts risk assessments, and has direct communication rights to the BERS Governance Board ([Section 3.6](#)).

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A designated Compliance Officer administers the Policy day-to-day, maintains the Conflict of Interest Register, conducts risk assessments, and has direct communication rights to the BERS Governance Board ([Section 3.6](#)).

11) Confirm your programme has policies and robust procedures in place to ensure that, conflicts arising from programme staff, board members, and management having financial, commercial or fiduciary conflicts of interest, are appropriately declared, and addressed and isolated

Yes

Procedures to address identified fiduciary conflicts of interest URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e01473d33591639982e50_Ontoly_BERS_Conflict_of_Interest_Policy_v1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Policy establishes a structured three-stage process for managing disclosed conflicts.

Disclosure: All Covered Persons must complete a Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form within 30 days of appointment and an Annual Certification within 30 days of each calendar year. Any new or materially changed conflict must be disclosed within 14 calendar days of discovery. Disclosures are maintained in a confidential Conflict of Interest Register reviewed quarterly by the Compliance Officer and shared with the BERS Governance Board at least semi-annually ([Sections 6.1–6.5](#)).

Risk classification: Upon receipt of a disclosure, the Compliance Officer conducts an initial assessment within 14 business days and classifies the conflict as Low, Medium, High, or Critical Risk based on the financial value involved, the degree of decision-making authority, and the sensitivity of the matter ([Section 7.2](#)).

Management measures: Measures are applied proportionate to risk level and include Monitoring, Restriction, Recusal, Divestiture, or Removal ([Section 7.3](#)). For BERS Governance Board members specifically, conflicts are assessed by the Board excluding the conflicted member, who is recused from all voting and deliberations — including executive sessions — on the relevant matter. A pattern of recusals exceeding 25% of Board voting matters may trigger a review of whether continued Board service is appropriate ([Sections 7.4, 9.2](#)). If recusals reduce the Board below quorum, temporary independent directors may be appointed to permit business to proceed ([Section 9.3](#)). All Board recusals, the nature of the conflict, and the rationale for any continued participation are recorded in Board minutes and retained for a minimum of seven years ([Section 9.4](#)).

Where an undisclosed conflict is discovered after a decision has been made, the Programme conducts a review of all associated decisions; if the conflict could have influenced the outcome, the decision may be revisited, altered, or rescinded, and affected parties notified ([Section 10.2](#)).

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Where an undisclosed conflict is discovered after a decision has been made, the Programme conducts a review of all associated decisions; if the conflict could have influenced the outcome, the decision may be revisited, altered, or rescinded, and affected parties notified ([Section 10.2](#)).

12) Confirm your programme has policies and robust procedures in place to prevent the programme registry administrators from having financial, commercial or fiduciary conflicts of interest in the governance or provision of registry services

Yes

Procedures to address registry services conflicts of interests URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e01473d33591639982e50_Ontoly_BERS_Conflict_of_Interest_Policy_v1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Registry administration is conducted exclusively by Ontoly staff, who are Covered Persons under the Conflict of Interest Policy and subject to all prohibitions and disclosure obligations described in Q10. Registry administrators are specifically prohibited from holding Financial Interests in any BERS Programme Participant, Verification Body, or software vendor providing services to the Programme ([Section 9.1](#)), applied by analogy to all decision-making staff).

An additional structural protection relevant to registry integrity: Ontoly exclusively contracts and remunerates all Verification Bodies — project proponents have no role in VB selection or payment — eliminating a key structural conflict of interest at the point where registry decisions (BERU issuance) are most consequential ([BERS Standard Section 8.2.2](#)).

Validation and Verification Bodies are also bound by the following Conflict of Interest governance measures, set out under Section 5 of the [BERS Validation and Verification Standard Version 1.1](#)

Independence, Conflict of Interest, and Rotation:

5.1 The VVB shall be independent from Ontoly, the Building Owner, the Building Representative, and any entity that has a material financial interest in the outcome of the validation or verification. This independence requirement applies at the organizational, financial, and personnel levels.

5.2 Ontoly contracts and pays the VVB directly. The Building Representative does not select, contract, or remunerate the VVB. This structural separation is a core integrity feature of the BERS Program designed to eliminate financial conflicts between the assessed party and the VVB.

5.3 Prior to the commencement of each validation or verification engagement, the VVB shall complete and submit to Ontoly a signed Conflict of Interest Disclosure, confirming that no member of the validation or verification team: (a) Has provided consulting, design, engineering, or energy advisory services to any Building Owner or Building Representative within the assigned Cohort within the preceding three (3) years; (b) Holds a direct or indirect financial interest in any project within the assigned Cohort; (c) Has a familial, employment, or business relationship with any Building Owner, Building Representative, or Project Proponent within the assigned Cohort; or (d) Has any other relationship or interest that could impair, or could reasonably be perceived to impair, the impartiality of the validation or verification.

5.4 If a conflict of interest is identified at any time during the engagement, the VVB shall immediately notify Ontoly. Ontoly shall determine, at its sole discretion, whether the conflict can be mitigated or whether the Cohort must be reassigned.

5.5 Any organization that has been involved in the development of a project shall not act as the Validation Body or Verification Body for that project. Any organization that has been paid by a Project Proponent or Building Representative to assist in developing any part of a BERS Methodology, or any part of the project's design or documentation, shall not act as the Validation Body or Verification Body for that project.

5.6 Rotation of Validation and Verification Bodies. A project shall not work with a single VVB for longer than five (5) consecutive years, and a given VVB may conduct verification for a project during no more than five (5) out of any seven (7) consecutive years. Ontoly shall implement this rotation requirement through its assignment of Validation Cohorts and Verification Cohorts and shall track VVB tenure for each project. Performance of Validation and of the first Verification within a Combined Engagement under Section 7.7 counts as a single year of tenure.

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13) Confirm your programme has policies and robust procedures in place to ensure that, where conflicts arising from programme registry administrators from having financial, commercial or fiduciary interests in the governance or provision of registry services arise, they are appropriately declared, and addressed and isolated

Yes

Procedures to address identified registry conflicts of interest URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e01473d33591639982e50_Ontoly_BERS_Conflict_of_Interest_Policy_v1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The same disclosure, risk classification, and management framework described in Q11 applies to registry administrators. Where a registry staff member identifies a conflict with respect to a specific project or transaction, they must disclose within 14 days, are subject to Recusal from all decisions relating to that project or transaction, and the matter is escalated to the Compliance Officer and, where appropriate, the BERS Governance Board. All disclosures, management decisions, and any sanctions are recorded in the Conflict of Interest Register and retained for a minimum of seven years ([Policy Section 13.1](#)). The anti-retaliation provision in [Section 10.5](#) ensures staff can report concerns without fear of adverse consequences.

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5.1 The VVB shall be independent from Ontoly, the Building Owner, the Building Representative, and any entity that has a material financial interest in the outcome of the validation or verification. This independence requirement applies at the organizational, financial, and personnel levels.

5.2 Ontoly contracts and pays the VVB directly. The Building Representative does not select, contract, or remunerate the VVB. This structural separation is a core integrity feature of the BERS Program designed to eliminate financial conflicts between the assessed party and the VVB.

5.3 Prior to the commencement of each validation or verification engagement, the VVB shall complete and submit to Ontoly a signed Conflict of Interest Disclosure, confirming that no member of the validation or verification team: (a) Has provided consulting, design, engineering, or energy advisory services to any Building Owner or Building Representative within the assigned Cohort within the preceding three (3) years; (b) Holds a direct or indirect financial interest in any project within the assigned Cohort; (c) Has a familial, employment, or business relationship with any Building Owner, Building Representative, or Project Proponent within the assigned Cohort; or (d) Has any other relationship or interest that could impair, or could reasonably be perceived to impair, the impartiality of the validation or verification.

5.4 If a conflict of interest is identified at any time during the engagement, the VVB shall immediately notify Ontoly. Ontoly shall determine, at its sole discretion, whether the conflict can be mitigated or whether the Cohort must be reassigned.

5.5 Any organization that has been involved in the development of a project shall not act as the Validation Body or Verification Body for that project. Any organization that has been paid by a Project Proponent or Building Representative to assist in developing any part of a BERS Methodology, or any part of the project's design or documentation, shall not act as the Validation Body or Verification Body for that project.

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14) If the program is not directly and currently administered by a public agency, can the program demonstrate up-to-date professional liability insurance policy of at least USD\$5M?

Yes

Professional liability insurance policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Ontoly is a British Columbia Benefit Company and is not directly administered by a public agency.

Ontoly maintains an up-to-date general commercial liability insurance policy of USD \$5M. Currently this policy is sufficient to the scale of our business. Insurance documentation is not publicly disclosed as it contains commercially sensitive information, but proof of coverage can be provided to the ICVCM Secretariat upon request under appropriate confidentiality arrangements.

Ontoly is a private benefit company and is not directly administered by a public agency. Ontoly maintains an up-to-date general commercial liability insurance policy of CAD \$5M. Currently this policy is sufficient to the scale of our business as we have only onboarded a handful of projects, however if ICVCM would like us to up our insurance we are open to that discussion. We have yet to enter the U.S. market and have exclusively onboarded projects in Canada, hence why our insurance is reported in CAD \$. Insurance documentation is not publicly disclosed as it contains commercially sensitive information, but proof of coverage can be provided to the ICVCM Secretariat upon request under appropriate confidentiality arrangements.

1.1 Effective Governance

In addition to CORSIA requirements related to governance framework, confirm that your organisation:

1) has a board comprised of independent board members who assume fiduciary responsibility for the organisation and operate according to robust bylaws.

Yes

Board members URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a813bfd79256ac5c54a6_Ontoly_BERS_Governance_Board_v1.3.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Ontoly Board of Directors assumes overall corporate fiduciary responsibility for Ontoly as a company, operating in accordance with Ontoly's Articles of Association and the British Columbia Business Corporations Act. The Board engages independent advisors including legal counsel and chartered accountants.

The Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form is signed by all Ontoly Board of Directors, which are considered a 'Covered Person' under our Conflict of Interest Policy ([COI Policy, Section 12.2](#)).

Note, the BERS Independent Governance Board is distinct and completely independent from the Ontoly Board of Directors for the is composed of 3–7 members who are fully independent of Ontoly's management and commercial operations. ([BERS Governance Board v1.0, Section 2.3.1](#)). Members certify their independence upon appointment and annually thereafter. The BERS Independent Governance Board is not responsible for fiduciary responsibility of Ontoly.

2) publishes an annual report that contains the organisation's revenues, expenses, and net assets over the past year and provides an overview of the organisation's mission, major programs and activities, and governance.

Yes

Annual report URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a91bee2763efb7fe739b_Ontoly_Annual_Report_FY2025-26.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

In accordance with [BERS Standard Section 2.8.1](#), Ontoly publishes a [publicly accessible](#) Annual Report providing sufficient information to demonstrate financial integrity, operational capacity, and governance oversight. At minimum the report includes: high-level financial information evidencing organizational solvency and fiduciary responsibility; an overview of Ontoly's mission; key programme activities; material operational developments; and governance structure.

Ontoly has noticed that other CCP-Approved programs are not publicly reporting revenue, expenses and net assets (an example being Isometric: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/15f8djbqw6yp-O7UxZvlfSbXnYMPAZfn/view>). Financial performance can be commercially sensitive. We are happy to share our revenue projections with the Secretariat upon request.

3) Has processes in place to ensure corporate social and environmental responsibility.

Yes

Social and Environmental policy(ies) URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Ontoly (legal name 1483124 B.C. LTD., operating as "Ontoly") is incorporated as a British Columbia Benefit Company under the Business Corporations Act (Part 2.2), which requires the company to pursue a stated public benefit purpose and to report publicly on its social and environmental performance on an annual basis. Ontoly's stated public benefit purpose is the mobilization of climate finance for building decarbonization — the BERS Program itself is the primary mechanism through which this purpose is fulfilled.

Programmatically, [BERS Standard Section 2.6.1](#) obliges Ontoly to establish, maintain, and enforce robust internal policies to ensure corporate social and environmental responsibility. Ontoly's Social and Environmental Commitments is one the these essential policies. At the project level, the BERS Program requires all Building Representatives to assess and attest to the environmental and social impacts of their retrofit projects as a mandatory condition of participation through Ontoly's safeguards framework ([BERS Standard Section 13](#)).

Ontoly has also published [Ontoly's Social and Environmental Commitments](#) (v1.0) also set out binding corporate commitments across three domains: environmental integrity (ex-post measurement from metered data, conservative treatment of uncertainty, no certification of activities with material adverse biodiversity impact); social responsibility (labour rights and occupational health and safety in certified retrofit work, occupant information rights, assessment and disclosure of displacement and rent-increase risk, free, prior and informed consultation where Indigenous Peoples' rights or lands are affected, and prioritisation of affordable, social and public-sector housing); and accountability (evidence-based certification decisions insulated from commercial pressure, public reporting of project status, an open grievance channel, and annual review of the Commitments).

Ontoly's social and environmental performance is subject to statutory accountability and is publicly reported in two places. As a Benefit Company under Part 2.2 of the *Business Corporations Act* (British Columbia), Ontoly is legally required to conduct its business in a responsible and sustainable manner and to promote its stated public benefit — the mobilization of climate finance for building decarbonization — and its directors are subject to an annual benefit reporting obligation assessing the company's performance against those commitments. That obligation covers how the company demonstrated commitment to its public benefit during the financial year and any circumstances that hindered those efforts. Ontoly is accountable for this obligation under British Columbia law, and reporting is available to the Secretariat on request.

Ontoly also reports its social and environmental performance in the Ontoly Annual Report, published annually as required by [BERS Standard Section 2.8.1](#), reports programme activity, project outcomes, and governance oversight for the financial year. [Ontoly's Social and Environmental Commitments](#) commit the organisation to publishing certification outcomes — including suspended and cancelled projects and the variance between projected and verified performance — and to reviewing the Commitments annually. Project-level environmental and social performance is published in each project's Project Description Report on the public Ontoly Registry, which includes a social and environmental safeguards summary ([BERS Standard Section 5.3.6\(h\)](#)).

Ontoly's own emissions footprint is small due to the nature of the business: a fully remote team, with no owned or operated facilities. Ontoly's Social and Environmental Commitments nonetheless bind the organization to measure and report its own emissions above 3 tonnes of CO₂e per year, and to disclose any offsets purchased. Ontoly will complete its first corporate GHG inventory, covering Scope 1, Scope 2, and material Scope 3 categories, for the 2027 reporting year, as we are projected to cross the our emissions reporting threshold. We will publish the results in the Ontoly Annual Report.

Social and environmental responsibility provisions URLs:

BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 2 and 13 https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Ontoly Social and Environmental Commitments v1.0: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a91bee2147b80fc3fb601da_Ontoly_Social_and_Environmental_Commitments_v1.0.pdf

Annual Report FY2025-26: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a91bee2763efbff27fe739b_Ontoly_Annual_Report_FY2025-26.pdf

4) Has robust anti-money laundering processes in place.

Yes

Anti-money laundering policy/process URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8dce6741de2a6c583632b2_69f1088451b905343bd9bd8799b19bfe_Know%20Your%20Customer%20Policy.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Ontoly has robust anti-money laundering processes in place. Our Know Your Customer (KYC) policy establishes rigorous due diligence, and ongoing monitoring procedures to prevent money laundering, terrorist financing, and other financial crimes. These processes are applied consistently ensuring the integrity and transparency of every transaction. [View our full KYC Policy](#)

Ontoly maintains a publicly available KYC (Know Your Customer) Policy (v1.0, effective March 11, 2026), reviewed annually by the Compliance Officer and the BERS Governance Board. The Policy aligns with the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act (PCMLTFA) and FINTRAC guidance (Canada), the Bank Secrecy Act and FinCEN regulations (United States), and OFAC sanctions compliance requirements. Where Canadian and US requirements differ, the more stringent standard applies ([KYC Policy, Section 1.3](#)).

The Policy applies to all Supplier Account applicants (Building Representatives), Buyer Account applicants, Verification Bodies, and all BERU transaction counterparties. No party may access the Ontoly Portal or Registry — and therefore no BERU transaction of any kind can occur — without completing Ontoly's KYC procedures ([Section 2](#)). Some controls include:

- Risk-based due diligence: Customers are classified as Standard, Medium, or High Risk. High Risk customers require Enhanced Due Diligence including independent source-of-funds verification, senior management approval before account activation, and enhanced ongoing transaction monitoring ([Section 6](#)).
- Sanctions screening: All customers screened against OFAC SDN, Global Affairs Canada, and UN Security Council sanctions lists at opening and quarterly thereafter. A confirmed sanctions match results in immediate account freeze, escalation to the Compliance Officer and CEO within 24 hours, and reporting to competent authorities ([Sections 8.1–8.5](#))
- Ongoing monitoring: Customer risk profiles are reviewed at intervals proportionate to risk classification (annually for High Risk, every two years for Medium, every three for Standard), with immediate re-assessment triggered by changes in beneficial ownership, adverse media, or suspicious transaction patterns ([Section 9](#)).

Read the entire policy for additional details: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8dce6741de2a6c583632b2_69f1088451b905343bd9bd8799b19bfe_Know%20Your%20Customer%20Policy.pdf

5) follow practices consistent with robust anti-bribery and anti-corruption guidance and regulation.

Yes

Anti-bribery and anti-corruption policy/controls URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a962755c48d33aa98b16_Ontoly_Anti-Bribery_Anti-Corruption_Policy_1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Ontoly maintains a zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption across all BERS Program activities. Our [Anti-Bribery & Anti-Corruption Policy](#) is aligned with applicable legislation including Canada's Corruption of Foreign Public Officials Act (CFPOA), the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), and the UK Bribery Act 2010, applying the more restrictive standard where multiple jurisdictions apply. The policy covers all staff, governance board members, verification bodies, program participants, and third-party intermediaries. It prohibits facilitation payments without exception, establishes strict gift and hospitality thresholds, requires anti-corruption due diligence for all third parties (with enhanced screening for high-risk jurisdictions), and enforces BERU transaction integrity through fair market value pricing and full audit trails. Ontoly provides mandatory anti-corruption training at onboarding with annual refreshers, maintains anonymous whistleblower reporting channels with robust protections against retaliation, and conducts independent anti-corruption risk assessments and audits on a regular cycle.

1.2 Public Engagement, Consultation and Grievances - CORSIA

CORSIA requirements related to public engagement, consultation and grievances:

1) Confirm that your programme publicly discloses what information is captured and made available to different stakeholders.

Yes

Stakeholder disclosure process/policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Ontoly publicly discloses the information available to different stakeholder groups across several programme documents. At the programme level, all normative BERS documents — the BERS Standard, Approved BERS Methodologies, the Methodology Development and Review Process, the Public Parameter List, and the BERS Governance Board document — are publicly available on the Ontoly website and Registry.

At the project level, a Project Listing Report is published on the Ontoly Registry for every registered project, containing: project location, scope, and type; the approved methodology applied; the Financial Additionality Rating; monitoring report summaries; verification statement summaries; current registration and issuance status; and for retired BERUs, the quantity, retiring entity, named beneficiary, and declared purpose of retirement ([BERS Standard Sections 5.3.6, 15.1.1](#)):

15.1.1 The Ontoly Registry shall operate as a public, transparent database of all projects submitted under the BERS Program, including: (a) project description documentation; (b) project location, scope, and type; (c) Financial Additionality Rating; (d) Monitoring Report summaries; (e) Validation Statement summaries and Verification Statement summaries; (f) current registration and issuance status; and (g) specific data tied to BERUs including: issued and retired BERU quantities, serial numbers, date of retirement, unit type, host country, methodology, vintage year, crediting period start date, CORSIA compliance periods (if applicable), retirement account identifier, beneficiary, and retirement purpose;

Commercially sensitive financial data underlying the additionality assessment is not publicly disclosed, but this exclusion is itself publicly documented ([BERS Standard Section 10.5.2](#)).

All public programme documents are available at: <https://www.ontoly.org/bers-program>

2) Confirm that your programme publicly discloses its local stakeholder consultation requirements (if applicable)

Yes

Disclosure of stakeholder consultation requirements URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program's project-level stakeholder requirements are publicly disclosed in [Section 13](#) of the BERS Standard, and are proportionate to the activity type rather than absent. BERS projects are retrofits within a single privately owned building: they do not change land use, displace communities, or restrict access to shared resources, and the people capable of being affected — principally the building's occupants and workers — are identifiable in advance and sit within the Building Owner's existing legal and contractual relationships.

Every project must complete the mandatory Data Quality & Safeguard Attestation Form at project eligibility assessment which contains an attestation and reporting framework for all safeguard requirements under [Section 13](#) of the BERS Program. Where material risks are identified, mitigation measures must be documented and evidenced ([Section 13.3.1](#)).

Further at through the annual monitoring form, Building Representatives must reattest that where tenants, workers, or community stakeholders are reasonably expected to be affected their concerns have been appropriately considered; that free, prior and informed consent processes have been applied where Indigenous Peoples' or Local Communities' rights or interests are affected; and that no building occupant has been forcibly displaced ([Section 13.2.1](#)). Where material risks are identified, mitigation measures must be documented and evidenced ([Section 13.3.1](#)).

All attestations are independently validated (for ex-ante assessments) and verified (for ex-post assessments).

Mandatory validation by the accredited Validation Body expressly includes assessment of the Section 13 safeguard attestations ([Section 6.3.4\(d\)](#)), and no project attains Validated status or issues BERUs without a positive Validation Statement.

A safeguards summary is published in the project's Project Description Report, which follows the Project Listing Report, on the public Registry ([Section 5.3.6\(h\)](#)).

Independently of that route, any stakeholder may raise a grievance concerning any BERS project at any stage, at no fee for Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, or civil-society organisations, determined by the Independent Governance Board rather than programme staff, with non-confidential outcomes publicly reported ([Sections 2.4.1–2.4.3](#)).

3) Confirm that your programme publicly discloses its public comments provisions and requirements, and how they are considered (if applicable).

Yes

Disclosure of public comment provisions and considerations URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Ontoly publicly discloses its public comment provisions in two programme documents. For methodology development and material revisions, the Methodology Development and Review Process ([Section 7](#)) sets out the full consultation procedure.

[Section 5.2](#) sets out the Materiality Threshold- which is the quantitative trigger that determines whether a proposed methodology change constitutes a Material Revision requiring full public consultation and independent expert review.

[Section 5.3](#) sets out consultation requirements for Material Revisions, which undergo the following process: Ontoly publishes a summary of all comments received and a formal response to each material comment documenting whether and how it was incorporated or the rationale for not incorporating it. Further, public stakeholder consultation of at least thirty (30) days, with the proposed changes published on the Ontoly website.

For ongoing programme grievances, the BERS Standard ([Section 2.4](#)) establishes the grievance and appeals mechanism, which is open at any time to any stakeholder, with defined acknowledgment, investigation, appeal, and mediation steps. Both processes are publicly documented.

Public comment provisions URL: *Methodology Development and Review Process v1.0, Section 7:*

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00ffceadf6709f346d96_Ontoly_Methodology_Development_and_Review_Process_v1.1.pdf

BERS Standard v1.0, Section 2.4 https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

4) Confirm that your programme conducts public comment periods relating to methodologies, protocols, or frameworks under development

Yes

Public comment engagement on methodology development process/policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00ffceadf6709f346d96_Ontoly_Methodology_Development_and_Review_Process_v1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Ontoly maintains governance processes to ensure independence between scientific methodology development and stakeholders who financially benefit from their use. New methodologies are developed under Scientific Advisory Board oversight and independent expert review (see Methodology Development and Review Process [Section 4.4.2–4.4.3](#)).

Public consultation is conducted for all Material Revisions to approved BERS Methodologies. A Material Revision is defined as any change that alters applicability or eligibility criteria, modifies title and ownership rules, results in a greater than 1% change in quantified GHG emission reductions, changes baseline determination procedures or emission factors, modifies additionality assessment procedures, or changes monitoring requirements in a way that affects data quality or verifiability ([Methodology Development and Review Process, Section 5.1](#)).

The consultation procedure requires: publication of the draft revised document on the Ontoly website; a minimum 30-day public comment period open to all stakeholders including project developers, building owners, verification bodies, academic researchers, civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and the general public; and publication of a formal comment response document identifying how each material comment was addressed ([Sections 7.1–7.3](#)). The primacy of scientific evidence is maintained — comments that conflict with the scientific evidence base, SAB recommendations, or the conservativeness principle are rejected with published rationale ([Section 7.3](#)).

5) Confirm that your programme conducts public comment periods relating to activities seeking registration or approval

Yes

Public comment engagement on activities process/policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program does not mandate that Building Representatives set up technology systems to complete separate public comment engagements specific to individual project registration. This is because building owners often don't have the means to create public comment portals on their own websites, and Ontoly's approach is to complete the majority of the work to make project listing easier. This is a design choice proportionate to the project size (a single building) and consistent with the ex-post, small-scale nature of the programme. However, Ontoly does have processes where any stakeholder may submit a comment to Ontoly at any time regarding a specific BERS project — including at the point of registration, listing, verification, or BERU issuance — via the grievance and appeals mechanism, which is a format to submit comments to Ontoly. ([BERS Standard Section 2.4.1](#)). Ontoly reserves the right to investigate such comments or grievances and take remedial action depending on the severity of the comment or complaint.

There is no time limit on comments received through Ontoly's comments and grievance mechanism.

Ontoly must acknowledge receipt within 14 business days, investigate substantiated concerns within 30 days, and if unresolved, the complainant may escalate to the BERS Governance Board. No fees are imposed on Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, or civil society organizations for accessing this mechanism ([BERS Standard Section 2.4.3](#)).

6) Confirm that your programme conducts public comment periods relating to operational activities (e.g., ongoing stakeholder feedback)

Yes

Public comment engagement on operational activities process/policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

BERS Standard Section 2.3 sets out the requirement for Stakeholder Consultation relating to operational activities:

2.3.1 Ontoly shall facilitate a robust and transparent stakeholder consultation process for any major revisions to this Standard. Any major revision undergoes a public comment period of at least 30 days, with all draft documents published on the Ontoly website. Following each consultation, Ontoly publishes a summary of comments received and a formal response detailing how feedback was incorporated.

2.3.2 Ontoly's methodologies are developed under scientific advisory oversight and grounded in the best available science. Any major revision undergoes a public comment period of at least 30 days, with all draft documents published on the Ontoly website. Following each consultation, Ontoly publishes a summary of comments received and a formal response detailing how feedback was incorporated.

The grievance and appeals mechanism ([BERS Standard Section 2.4](#)) functions as Ontoly's open, standing channel for ongoing stakeholder feedback on any aspect of BERS Program operations. Submissions are accepted at any time from any stakeholder with no time limit.

In addition, stakeholders may submit a formal request to info@ontoly.org at any time to prioritize the development or revision of a specific methodology, which Ontoly must acknowledge within 14 business days ([Methodology Development and Review Process, Section 4.5.2](#)).

Where a grievance or formal request relates to information alleged to be missing or incomplete on the Ontoly website or Registry, Ontoly is required to review the request and, where eligible, make the information publicly available ([BERS Standard Section 2.4.4](#)). Non-confidential grievance outcomes are documented in publicly available annual reports ([BERS Standard Section 2.4.3](#)).

7) Confirm that your programme conducts public comment periods relating to additions or revisions to programme procedures or rule sets

Yes

Public comment engagement on programme procedures process/policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00ffcead6709f346d96_Ontoly_Methodology_Development_and_Review_Process_v1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

BERS Standard Section 2.3 sets out the requirement for Stakeholder Consultation relating to operational activities:

2.3.1 Ontoly shall facilitate a robust and transparent stakeholder consultation process for any Material Revisions to this Standard. Any Material Revision undergoes a public comment period of at least 30 days, with all draft documents published on the Ontoly website. Following each consultation, Ontoly publishes a summary of comments received and a formal response detailing how feedback was incorporated.

2.3.2 Ontoly's methodologies are developed under scientific advisory oversight and grounded in the best available science. Any Material Revision undergoes a public comment period of at least 30 days, with all draft documents published on the Ontoly website. Following each consultation, Ontoly publishes a summary of comments received and a formal response detailing how feedback was incorporated.

2.3.3 A Material Revision, of this Standard or any BERS Methodology is defined as any change that meets one or more of the following criteria: • Changes to applicability or eligibility criteria that expand or restrict the scope of eligible projects. • Changes to title and ownership rules or representative authorization requirements. • Any change that results in a greater than one percent (1%) change in the Materiality Threshold for GHG quantification, as defined in Methodology Development and Review Process (v1.1). • Changes to baseline determination procedures, emission factors, or default values that materially affect quantification outcomes. • Changes to additionality assessment procedures (to the extent these are methodology specific rather than governed by the BERS Standard). • Changes to monitoring requirements that affect data quality or the ability to verify emission reductions.

Material Revisions to the BERS Standard also require a formal 4-step approval process involving the BERS Governance Board, including a minimum 30-day advance notification period during which the Board reviews proposed changes and may request additional information or expert input before voting ([BERS Governance Board, Section 5.2.4](#)).

All Material Revisions to approved BERS Methodologies undergo the public consultation process described in Q4 above. Administrative revisions and methodology clarifications — defined as changes that do not materially affect the substance of existing provisions or quantification outcomes — do not require public consultation, but Ontoly must notify the Governance Board of all such changes ([BERS Governance Board, Section 5.2.3](#); [Methodology Development and Review Process, Section 5.1](#)).

Programme procedures public comment URL: BERS Governance Board v1.0, Section 5.2: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a813bfd79256ac5c54a6_Ontoly_BERS_Governance_Board_v1.3.pdf Methodology Development and Review Process v1.0, Section 7: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00fcead6709f346d96_Ontoly_Methodology_Development_and_Review_Process_v1.1.pdf

8) Summarize the level at which activities are allowed under the programme (e.g., project based, programme of activities, jurisdiction-scale). Provide evidence of the programme information defining this and confirm it is made availability to the public.

Summary of programme activities URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a04ba7b00c27dc827b6b2f9_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program operates exclusively at the project level. A Project as "A building energy retrofit activity registered under the BERS Program, comprising one or more eligible retrofit measures implemented within a single building or Aggregated Building Project. A Project is defined by its Project Boundary, Project Start Date, Project End Date, and Crediting Period, and is the unit to which BERUs are attributed following monitoring and verification." ([BERS Standard Section 3 Definitions](#)).

An Aggregated Building Project is a defined collection of up to five buildings treated as a single project boundary, subject to three cumulative conditions: all buildings are located within the same property boundary; all buildings are owned by the same Building Owner; and energy consumption and performance data are reported on an aggregated basis through shared utility accounts or equivalent metered systems ([BERS Standard Section 4.5.2](#); [Existing Building Methodology, Section 2.1.5](#)). This aggregation provision exists solely to accommodate buildings that share utility metering and cannot be individually disaggregated — it does not constitute a programme of activities. Each aggregated project is registered, monitored, verified, and issued BERUs as a single unit under a single project boundary, with a single Building Owner accountable for all compliance obligations. Programme-of-activities and jurisdiction-scale crediting are not permitted under Version 1.0.

Project-specific information — including the Project Description Report, Financial Additionality Rating, methodology applied, verification outcomes, and BERU issuance and retirement records — is publicly disclosed on the Ontoly Registry for every registered project ([BERS Standard Section 15.1.1](#)).

Programme activities URL: BERS Standard, Sections 3 and 4.5: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf Existing Building Methodology, Section 2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf

9) Summarize the eligibility criteria for each type of offset activity (e.g., which sectors, project types, and geographic locations are covered). Provide evidence of the Programme information defining this and confirm its availability to the public.

Public comment engagement on eligibility criteria for types of offset activity approach URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program's eligibility criteria are publicly documented in the BERS Standard and the [Existing Building Methodology v1.1](#).

Activity types: Energy efficiency measures (e.g., HVAC system replacement, building envelope insulation, LED lighting, building automation upgrades, variable frequency drives) and fuel-switching measures (e.g., natural gas to electric heating) in existing buildings.

Excluded activities: New construction, embodied carbon, behavioral-only programs, industrial process emissions, and projects already registered under another carbon crediting program or compliance market (see [BERS Standard Section 4.6](#) for list).

Building types: Large existing buildings — including multi-unit residential, commercial, and institutional buildings — with at least 12 consecutive months of operational and energy consumption data prior to project start ([Existing Building Methodology v1.1, Sections 2.1.1–2.1.2](#)).

Geographic scope: Canada and the United States of America only under Version 1.2 ([BERS Standard Section 4.2.1](#)). Expansion to other geographies projected for 2027.

Additionality: Projects must satisfy additionality testing including the NPV Financial Additionality Test ([BERS Standard Sections 10.1–10.4](#)).

Project start date: Projects may be retroactively certified if the Project End Date falls within the 24-month period immediately preceding the date a Preliminary Ex-Ante BERU Assessment Report is requested ([BERS Standard Section 4.4.2](#)).

All eligibility criteria are publicly available on the Ontoly website and Registry.

Eligibility criteria URL: BERS Standard v1.0, Sections 4 and 10: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Existing Building Methodology v1.0, Section 2: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf

1.2 Public Engagement, Consultation and Grievances

In addition to CORSIA requirements related to public engagement, consultation and grievances, confirm your organisation has processes for:

1) robust and transparent local and global stakeholder consultation processes, which provide for public comment and issue resolution.

Yes

Stakeholder consultation policy/controls URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Ontoly's stakeholder consultation framework operates at two levels.

At the programme level, all Material Revisions to BERS Methodologies and major updates to the BERS Standard are subject to formal public consultation open to all stakeholders globally — including project developers, building owners, verification bodies, academic researchers, civil society organizations, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Draft documents are published on the Ontoly website with a minimum 30-day comment period, and Ontoly is required to publish a formal response to every material comment received, documenting how it was addressed ([Methodology Development and Review Process, Section 7.2; BERS Standard Section 2.3.2](#)). The BERS Governance Board's non-voting Stakeholder Observer provision further embeds a civil society or public interest perspective directly within programme governance ([BERS Governance Board v1.2, Section 2.2A](#)).

At the project level, the proportionate approach described in Q2 above applies: attestation-based safeguards require Building Representatives to confirm that where tenants, workers, or community stakeholders are reasonably expected to be affected, their concerns have been considered ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1](#)). For projects where Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities may be directly or indirectly impacted, the safeguard framework explicitly requires that FPIC processes have been applied where relevant to circumstances ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1](#)).

Issue resolution is provided through the standing grievance and appeals mechanism ([BERS Standard Section 2.4](#)), which is open at any time, has no filing fee for Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, or civil society organizations, and escalates to the BERS Governance Board as the final binding authority on appeals.

Stakeholder consultation URL: *Methodology Development and Review Process, Section 7:*
https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00ffcead6709f346d96_Ontoly_Methodology_Development_and_Review_Process_v1.1.pdf

BERS Standard, Sections 2.3–2.4: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

2) addressing grievances. The process shall be clear and transparent, ensure impartiality and where appropriate confidentiality, in the filing and resolution of grievances. Any applicable fees shall not impede legitimate access to the grievance process by civil society organisations or IPs & LCs.

Yes

Stakeholder grievances policy/controls URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Programme's grievance and appeals mechanism is established in [BERS Standard Section 2.4](#) and administered by the BERS Governance Board as the final authority under BERS [Governance Board v1.2, Section 5.3](#). The mechanism meets each element of this criterion:

Accessibility: Any stakeholder may submit a grievance at any time via info+grievances@ontoly.org with no time limit. No fees are imposed on Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, or civil society organizations ([BERS Standard Section 2.4.3](#)).

Transparency: Ontoly must acknowledge receipt within 14 business days. Where a breach is substantiated and the Governance Board votes in favour, a formal investigation and proposed resolution must be provided within 30 days. All non-confidential grievance outcomes are published in Ontoly's publicly available annual report ([BERS Standard Section 2.4.3; BERS Governance Board v1.2, Section 13.1](#)).

Impartiality: Unresolved grievances escalate to the BERS Governance Board — an independent body structurally separate from Ontoly's operations — whose determination is final and binding on Ontoly ([BERS Governance Board v1.2, Section 5.3](#)). Governance Board members are subject to mandatory conflict of interest recusal in relation to any grievance where they have a relevant interest ([Conflict of Interest Policy, Section 9.2](#)).

Confidentiality: The grievance process maintains appropriate confidentiality for commercially sensitive information. Where information alleged to be missing from the Registry is requested, Ontoly reviews and discloses where eligible, subject to applicable confidentiality, privacy, and data protection obligations ([BERS](#)

[Standard Section 2.4.4\).](#)

Mediation: If a grievance remains disputed following the Board’s investigation, an independent third-party mediator may be engaged ([BERS Standard Section 2.4.2](#)).

Appeals from corrective actions: Building Representatives, Building Owners, and Verification Bodies subject to corrective action findings may additionally appeal to the BERS Governance Board within 30 calendar days of Ontoly’s determination, with the Board required to render a written decision within 60 business days ([Corrective Actions Policy, Sections 10.1–10.4](#)).

Grievances policy URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 2.4: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf;

BERS Governance Board v1.2, Section 5.3: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a813bfd79256ac5c54a6_Ontoly_BERS_Governance_Board_v1.3.pdf

Corrective Actions Policy, Section 10: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a73578ca1355d232c815e7d_Corrective%20Actions%20Policy.pdf

2.1 Effective Registries (Retirement and Addressing Erroneous Issuance) - CORSIA

CORSIA requirements related to carbon credits in your carbon-crediting program registry:

1) Confirm that your programme defines and ensures the underlying attributes of a unit

Yes

Definition of underlying attributes policy/provisions URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The attributes of a BERU are defined in BERS Standard [Section 14.1.1](#) and the Definitions section ([Section 3](#)):

A BERU is a unique, serialized, and transferable digital unit issued exclusively by Ontoly, representing one metric tonne of certified tCO₂e emission reductions achieved by a registered BERS Project and verified in accordance with the BERS Standard.

Each issued BERU carries the following defined attributes publicly disclosed on the Ontoly Registry: host country, methodology applied, vintage year (the calendar year in which the emission reduction occurred), crediting period start date, CORSIA compliance period eligibility (if applicable), issuing registry identifier ("ONT"), and unique batch identifier. BERUs may also carry optional CCP, CORSIA, Article 6, Share of Proceeds, or SDG labels where applicable requirements are met ([BERS Standard Sections 14.1.3, 15.1.1, 15.4](#)).

Underlying attributes URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 3, 14.1, and 15.1.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

2) Confirm that your programme defines and ensures the underlying property aspects of a unit

Yes

Definition of underlying property aspects policy/provisions URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Ontoly establishes governance processes to ensure clear legal title through the Building Owner Attestation and Representative Authorization process — a legally binding declaration establishing the Building Owner's ownership of the building and associated GHG emission reductions and delegating authority to the Building Representative ([BERS Standard Sections 2.7](#)):

2.7 Title, Ownership, and Representative Authorization

2.7.1 The Building Owner shall be the legal entity that holds title to the building and the associated GHG emission reductions. The Building Owner is the ultimate beneficiary and rightsholder of any BERUs generated by the project and must provide all necessary legal authorizations.

2.7.2 A Building Owner may authorize a Building Representative (e.g., consulting firm, retrofit contractor, or other representative) to manage the BERS project submission and monitoring process on their behalf.

2.7.3 To formalize this relationship, the Building Representative must obtain a fully executed Building Owner Attestation & Representative Authorization from the Building Owner prior to submitting a project to Ontoly.

2.7.4 The Building Owner Attestation & Representative Authorization shall, at a minimum, contain the following: The legal name and contact information for both the Building Owner and the designated Building Representative. • A clear declaration from the Building Owner confirming legal ownership of the GHG emission reductions generated by the project activity. • A clear delegation of authority to the Building Representative to act on behalf of the Building Owner for all communications with Ontoly, submitting project data, and managing the project within the Ontoly Portal. • A legal attestation signed by a duly authorized signatory of the Building Owner confirming the accuracy of the information provided and the granting of authority to the Building Representative.

2.7.5 Ontoly may, at its sole discretion, accept alternative forms of legally binding evidence in lieu of or in supplement to the standard Building Owner Attestation & Representative Authorization form, provided such evidence satisfactorily demonstrates: (a) the Building Owner's legal ownership of the building and associated GHG emission reductions; and (b) the authorization of the Building Representative to act on the Building Owner's behalf. Acceptable alternative evidence may include, but is not limited to, executed contracts, power-of-attorney instruments, corporate resolutions, or other legally binding agreements that confer equivalent rights and obligations.

2.7.6 Ontoly shall not proceed with the review or registration of any project until valid and complete evidence of Building Owner authorization has been received.

2.7.7 Where a Building Owner does not designate a secondary party, the Building Owner shall also serve as the

Building Representative and shall be responsible for all associated duties outlined in this Standard.

This ensures unambiguous title at the point of issuance. BERUs may be transferred, traded, or assigned through the Ontoly Portal or through an approved off-portal transfer subject to the Ontoly Platform Terms of Use ([BERS Standard Section 5.7.4](#)).

Legal title is also tracked on the Ontoly Portal. Title transfers are legally effective only upon recording in the Ontoly Portal; retirement is legally effective only upon execution through the Ontoly Portal. The Ontoly Registry reflects current status for public transparency, but the Portal serves as the authoritative record of legal ownership ([BERS Standard Section 14.1.4](#)).

Underlying property aspects URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 2.7 and 14.1.4: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

See also Ontoly Platform Terms & Conditions: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a9050f4ca6a9d4c6af276cb_Ontoly_Platform_Terms_and_Conditions.pdf

3) Confirm that your programme utilises an electronic registry or registries

Yes

Programme registry URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Ontoly Registry is an electronic database operated by Ontoly as the official system of record for all BERS projects and BERUs, tracking every BERU from issuance through transfer to permanent retirement. Project-level information is publicly disclosed on the Registry and accessible via the Ontoly website without login credentials.

The Registry publishes projects at two stages. A project that has completed Listing is posted at **Unvalidated (Listed)** status together with a public Project Listing Report, accessible to any member of the public at no cost and without login credentials or registration of any kind ([BERS Standard Section 5.2A.2](#)). That report states the project's position in the lifecycle, the self-reported information provided by the Building Representative, the requirements still outstanding, and — prominently — that Listing confers no validation, certification, eligibility determination, or assurance of any kind ([Section 5.2A.3](#)).

A project attains **Validated** status only where the Preliminary Ex-Ante BERU Assessment is complete, the Eligible Engineering Documentation prepared by a licensed Professional Engineer has been accepted, and an accredited independent Validation Body contracted by Ontoly has issued a positive Validation Statement that Ontoly has accepted ([Sections 6.1.1, 6.4.3, 15.2.1](#)). At that point Ontoly generates and publishes the Project Description Report and a summary of the Validation Statement ([Sections 5.3.6, 6.4.4](#)). Subsequent statuses — Issuance in Progress (Verified) and Issued — follow ex-post verification.

This structure gives the public early visibility of project pipeline, with the assurance status of each project stated on its transparently, while reserving the Project Description Report and its quantification, additionality determination, and safeguards summary for projects that have passed independent validation.

Applicable reports are available publicly on the Ontoly Registry as projects proceed through the Listed > Validated > Verified > Issued > Retired pipeline.

The Ontoly Portal is a separate, authenticated, account-level platform through which all programme Account Holder operations are conducted — including account creation, project submission, project intake form completion, monitoring data upload, BERU issuance, transfer, and retirement. The Portal is the authoritative record of legal ownership; the Registry is the public-facing transparency interface that is synced with the Ontoly Portal ([BERS Standard Sections 3, 15.1.1, 15.3.1](#)).

Access to the Ontoly Portal is by invitation following a formal account opening process with the Ontoly Team.

Prospective participants sign up for a demonstration call through the public Ontoly website, Ontoly reviews the submission and conducts KYC screening, and upon approval provides the applicant with Portal access. This controlled onboarding model ensures that all account holders are verified legal persons who have met the programme's identity and integrity requirements prior to participation ([KYC Policy](#), [Section 4](#); [BERS Standard Section 5.2](#)).

Read-only public access to Registry data does not require an Ontoly Portal account.

Programme registry URL: <https://registry.ontoly.org/>

BERS Standard v1.2, Section 15: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

KYC Policy v1.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8dce6741de2a6c583632b2_69f1088451b905343bd9bd8799b19bfe_Know%20Your%20Customer%20Policy.pdf

4) Confirm that your programme has procedures in place to ensure that the programme registry or registries have the capability to transparently identify emissions units that are deemed CCP-approved, in all account types

Yes

CCP-identification of emissions units policy/procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

[BERS Standard Section 15.2.2](#) explicitly requires that the Ontoly Registry indicate ICVCM Core Carbon Principles (CCP) approval status — alongside Article 6, CORSIA, and any other applicable labels — for any recognized and eligible BERU.

Where the BERS Program receives CCP-Eligible status from the ICVCM, this designation will be applied as a publicly visible, searchable, and filterable label on the Registry, visible across all account types. The CORSIA Label, which serves as a direct analogue, is already designed to be visible in all registry account types and on the public registry interface, searchable and filterable, and maintained throughout the BERU's lifecycle including after retirement or cancellation ([BERS Standard Section 15.4.3](#)).

CCP identification URL: [BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 15.2.2 and 15.4.3](#) https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

5) Confirm that your programme has procedures in place to ensure that the programme registry or registries identify, and facilitate tracking and transfer of, unit ownership/holding from issuance to cancellation/retirement

Yes

Tracking of units policy/procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a04ba13ce02f57ff34d1672_BERS_Standard_Version_1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Yes, the Ontoly Registry and Ontoly Portal facilitate tracking and transfer of, unit ownership and holding from issuance to cancellation/retirement. Every project and its associated BERUs are assigned a publicly visible issuance, retirement and cancellation statuses on the Ontoly Registry at all times. The defined status categories are ([BERS Standard Section 15.2.1](#)).

Ontoly is happy to offer the ICVCM a live demonstration of the software infrastructure that powers the Ontoly Portal and Ontoly Registry. This demonstration will showcase additional functionality related to tracking and transferring unit ownership and holding from issuance through cancellation or retirement.

Where applicable, the Ontoly Registry shall indicate ICVCM Core Carbon Principles (CCP) approval status, Article 6, CORSIA, or any other applicable label for any recognized BERU ([Section 15.2.2](#)).

Unit status URL: [BERS Standard v1.2, Section 15.2.1](#): https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

6) Confirm that your programme has procedures in place to ensure that the programme registry or registries identify unit status, including retirement / cancellation, and issuance status

Yes

Emissions units status identification procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a04ba13ce02f57ff34d1672_BERS_Standard_Version_1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Yes. Every project and its associated BERUs are assigned a publicly visible issuance, retirement and cancellation statuses on the Ontoly Registry at all times. The defined status categories are ([BERS Standard Section 15.2.1](#)). Retirement and issuance status will become visible on the Ontoly Registry as project proceed to this stage.

Ontoly is happy to offer the ICVCM a live demonstration of the software infrastructure that powers the Ontoly Portal and Ontoly Registry. This demonstration will showcase additional functionality related to tracking and transferring unit ownership and holding from issuance through cancellation or retirement.

Where applicable, the Ontoly Registry shall indicate ICVCM Core Carbon Principles (CCP) approval status, Article 6, CORSIA, or any other applicable label for any recognized BERU ([Section 15.2.2](#)).

Emissions units status identification procedures URL: [BERS Standard v1.2, Section 15.2.1](#): https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

7) Confirm that your programme has procedures in place to ensure that the programme registry or registries assigns unique serial numbers to issued units

Yes

Assigning unique serial number to issued emission units procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a04ba13ce02f57ff34d1672_BERS_Standard_Version_1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Each BERU is assigned a unique serial number at the point of issuance, encoding: the country of origin, the vintage year, the issuing registry identifier ("ONT"), and a unique batch identifier ([BERS Standard Section 14.1.3](#)). Serial numbers are publicly disclosed on the Ontoly Registry and maintained throughout the BERU's lifecycle — including after retirement or cancellation. This serialization ensures that each tonne of emission reductions can be unambiguously identified, tracked, and audited at any point in the BERU's lifecycle.

Ontoly is happy to offer the ICVCM a live demonstration of the software infrastructure that powers the Ontoly Portal and Ontoly Registry. This demonstration will showcase additional functionality related to tracking and transferring unit ownership and holding from issuance through cancellation or retirement.

Serial number URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 14.1.3: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

8) Confirm that your programme has procedures in place to ensure that the programme registry or registries identify in serialization, or designate on a public platform, each unique unit's country and sector of origin, vintage, and original (and, if relevant, revised) project registration date

Identification of emission unit origin, vintage, and project registration date procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Each BERU's serial number encodes country of origin, crediting start year, and registry identifier at the unit level ([BERS Standard Section 14.1.3](#)). The Ontoly Registry additionally discloses for every BERU: host country, sector, vintage year, crediting period start year, crediting period length and other information about the project. This information is publicly available on the Registry without login credentials ([BERS Standard Sections 15.1.1, 15.4.3](#)).

Ontoly is happy to offer the ICVCM a live demonstration of the software infrastructure that powers the Ontoly Portal and Ontoly Registry. This demonstration will showcase additional functionality.

Unit origin and vintage URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 14.1.3 and 15.1.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

9) Confirm that your programme has procedures in place to ensure that the programme registry or registries are secure (i.e. that robust security provisions are in place)

Yes

Registry security policy/procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Ontoly Registry is the official system of record for issuance, holding, transfer, cancellation, and retirement of all BERUs and is subject to periodic independent security assessments ([BERS Standard Section 15.3.1](#)). Access to the Ontoly Portal — through which all BERU transfers affecting the Registry are executed — is restricted to accounts that have completed Ontoly's KYC procedures, including government-issued identity verification, beneficial ownership determination, PEP and sanctions screening, and a mandatory onboarding call ([KYC Policy, Sections 4–7; BERS Standard Section 5.2](#)). BERU transfers and retirements are executable only by duly authorized account holders, and legal title transfers are effective only upon recording in the Portal ([BERS Standard Section 14.1.4](#)).

In the event of a security breach affecting a CORSIA participant account holder, the Registry is required to notify affected account holders within 72 hours of breach confirmation and inform the ICAO Secretariat ([BERS Standard Section 15.3.2](#)).

Ontoly is happy to offer the ICVCM a live demonstration of the software infrastructure that powers the Ontoly Portal and Ontoly Registry. This demonstration will showcase security functionality.

Registry security URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 15.3.1–15.3.2: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

KYC

Policy

v1.0: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8dce6741de2a6c583632b2_69f1088451b905343bd9bd8799b19bfe_Know%20Your%20Customer%20Policy.pdf

10) Confirm that your programme's registry(ies) conform to international data exchange standards

Yes

International data exchange standards URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Ontoly Registry is designed to support interoperability and standardized data exchange as the programme scales. The Registry is aligned with CORSIA registry requirements. Current and planned conformance includes:

Current capabilities:

- **Structured data export:** The Ontoly Registry supports machine-readable data export in CSV and XLSX formats for BERU retirement records, available at no cost and without login credentials required ([BERS Standard Section 15.1.2\(b\)](#)). Retirement data is searchable by field, enabling standardized programmatic access to unit-level records including serial number, vintage, project identifier, retirement date, and beneficiary.
- **Unique serialization:** Every BERU is assigned a globally unique serial number at issuance, conforming to a structured format that encodes project jurisdiction, vintage year, and unit sequence. This supports deduplication and cross-registry identification consistent with practices adopted by established registries (e.g., Verra, Gold Standard, ACR).
- **Public accessibility:** All issued BERU data — including unit status, project details, and retirement records — is publicly accessible on the Ontoly Registry without authentication, consistent with ICVCM transparency requirements and the open-access principles underpinning the Climate Action Data Trust (CAD Trust).
- **RESTful architecture:** The Ontoly Registry is built on a RESTful API architecture using standard JSON data formats, enabling future integration with meta-registries, aggregators, and third-party platforms through well-documented endpoints.

Planned (scoping phase):

- **Climate Action Data Trust (CAD Trust) integration:** Ontoly is scoping participation in the CAD Trust or its successor framework to enable cross-registry deduplication and interoperability with other crediting programmes. Ontoly's data architecture has been designed with CAD Trust field mappings in mind.
- **API documentation and programmatic access:** Ontoly is scoping a publicly documented API that would allow authorized platforms, buyers, and compliance systems to query unit status, project data, and retirement records programmatically, consistent with emerging best practices across voluntary carbon market registries.

Ontoly recognizes that no single named international data exchange standard currently governs voluntary carbon market registries universally. The programme is actively monitoring developments from ICVCM, ICAO, and the CAD Trust to ensure timely conformance as standards are formalized. Ashley Sarauer, CEO, can be contacted at info@ontoly.org for further information on Ontoly's data architecture and interoperability roadmap.

Data exchange URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 15.1.2: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

11) Confirm that your programme has provisions in place to ensure the screening of requests for registry accounts

Yes

New registry account screening policy/procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

All requests for Supplier Accounts (Building Representatives) and Buyer Accounts are subject to Ontoly's KYC Policy before account activation. Accounts additionally require a mandatory onboarding call with Ontoly to confirm project eligibility and verify authorized users before access is granted ([BERS Standard Section 5.2: KYC Policy, Sections 4–8](#)). Accounts are not available for public self-registration.

Account screening URL: KYC Policy v1.0, Sections 4–8: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8dce6741de2a6c583632b2_69f1088451b905343bd9bd8799b19bfe_Know%20Your%20Customer%20Policy.pdf
BERS Standard v1.2, Section 5.2: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

12) Confirm that your programme has provisions in place to restrict the programme registry (or registries) accounts to registered businesses and individuals

Yes

New registry account screening policy/procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8dce6741de2a6c583632b2_69f1088451b905343bd9bd8799b19bfe_Know%20Your%20Customer%20Policy.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Access to the Ontoly Portal and Registry is restricted to verified legal persons — registered businesses or identified individuals — who have successfully completed the KYC onboarding process. Ontoly may refuse account access where a PEP or sanctions match cannot be resolved, or where there are reasonable grounds to suspect financial crime ([KYC Policy, Section 11](#)). Accounts with confirmed sanctions matches are permanently closed. Ontoly is not required to provide reasons for account refusal, protecting the integrity of its risk assessment procedures ([KYC Policy, Section 11.3](#)).

Account restriction URL: KYC Policy v1.0, Section 11: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8dce6741de2a6c583632b2_69f1088451b905343bd9bd8799b19bfe_Know%20Your%20Customer%20Policy.pdf

13) Confirm that your programme has provisions in place to ensure the periodic audit or evaluation of registry compliance with security provisions

Yes

Registry compliance with security provisions approach/procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Standard requires the Ontoly Registry to be subject to periodic independent security assessments ([Section 15.3.1](#)). The KYC Policy additionally requires the Compliance Officer to conduct an annual independent review of the KYC/AML program's effectiveness and report findings to the BERS Governance Board, which provides ongoing oversight of the programme's integrity controls ([KYC Policy, Section 14.2](#)).

The Ontoly Portal and Ontoly Registry has complete a in-depth independent third-party security audit.

SOC 2 audits are also in progress. Upon completion, audit results will be made available to the ICVCM Secretariat upon request. Ontoly is committed to maintaining registry security standards consistent with best practice for carbon credit registry operations and will update its programme documentation to reflect completed audit milestones.

BERS Standard v1.2, Section 15.3.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

KYC Policy v1.0, Section 14.2: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8dce6741de2a6c583632b2_69f1088451b905343bd9bd8799b19bfe_Know%20Your%20Customer%20Policy.pdf

2.1 Effective Registries (Retirement and Addressing Erroneous Issuance)

In addition to CORSIA requirements related to carbon credits in your carbon-crediting program registry, confirm that your organisation:

1) requires identification of the entity on whose behalf the carbon credit was retired

Yes

Retirement entity identification policy/process URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Retirement of BERUs is a mandatory, documented process that requires disclosure of the final beneficiary. All retirement actions must include identification of the final beneficiary and the intended retirement purpose, executed through the Ontoly Portal by a registered Buyer Account holder ([BERS Standard Sections 5.9.2, 5.9.3](#)).

The Ontoly Registry publicly discloses for every retired BERU batch: the quantity retired, the retiring entity, the named beneficiary, and the declared purpose of retirement ([BERS Standard Section 12.3.1](#)). Where inseting is applicable — a Building Representative retiring BERUs for its own internal emissions accounting — a separate Buyer Account is not required, but the beneficiary is still identified ([BERS Standard Section 5.9.3](#)).

Ontoly is happy to offer the ICVCM a live demonstration of the software infrastructure that powers the Ontoly Portal and Ontoly Registry. This demonstration will showcase how we collect retirement details as credits are retired through the Ontoly Portal. Functionality is available for both inset and offset retirement flows.

2) requires the identification of the purpose of retirement

Yes

Retirement purpose identification policy/process URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The purpose of retirement must be declared by the retiring party at the point of retirement execution in the Ontoly Portal. This information is publicly disclosed on the Ontoly Registry for every retired BERU batch alongside the quantity, retiring entity, and named beneficiary ([BERS Standard Sections 5.9.2, 12.3.1](#)). Retirement is permanent and irreversible: a retired BERU cannot be re-issued or re-credited, and registry controls prevent any further transfer or re-activation of retired BERUs ([BERS Standard Sections 5.9.4, 12.2.1](#)).

A single, narrow exception applies to clerical error. Within seven business days of a retirement request, Ontoly may at its sole discretion correct retirement quantities, beneficiary details, or other elements of that request where the Building Representative or Buyer Account holder has made an error ([Section 5.9.4](#)). The window exists so that a mistake in a retirement instruction — a wrong beneficiary name, a mistyped quantity — can be put right promptly rather than leaving the public record permanently inaccurate. It is exercised at Ontoly's discretion and not on demand, it is available only to correct error and not to reverse a validly executed retirement, and it closes seven business days after the retirement request. Any correction is reflected on the public Ontoly Registry, so the retirement record visible to the market is the corrected record.

Ontoly is happy to offer the ICVCM a live demonstration of the software infrastructure that powers the Ontoly Portal and Ontoly Registry. This demonstration will showcase how we collect retirement details as credits are retired through the Ontoly Portal.

3) has procedures to address erroneous issuance of carbon credits that identify remedial measures (e.g., cancellation, compensation through replacement) and the entities responsible for implementing these.

Yes

Erroneous issuance policy/process URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Ontoly maintains a comprehensive erroneous issuance framework across the BERS Standard and the Corrective Actions Policy.

Where BERUs are identified as having been issued on the basis of fraudulent, materially inaccurate, or knowingly misrepresented data, Ontoly reserves the right to void or cancel those BERUs regardless of whether they have been sold, transferred, or reserved under contract ([BERS Standard Section 16.3.1](#)). Cancelled BERUs are transferred to a designated Cancellation Account in the Ontoly Registry and the cancellation and its rationale are publicly disclosed to preserve market integrity ([Corrective Actions Policy, Section 12.1](#)). All legal, financial, and contractual consequences — including replacement obligations or damages owed to third-party buyers — rest solely with the Building Representative; Ontoly bears no liability for commercial losses arising from cancellation.

(BERS Standard Section 16.3.1).

The Corrective Actions Policy establishes a three-tier non-conformance classification system — Minor, Major, and Critical — with defined remedial measures, timelines, and responsible entities for each tier. Critical non-conformances (including falsification of utility data, manipulation of GHG calculations, or fabrication of engineering reports) trigger immediate project suspension and BERU freeze, may result in permanent cancellation of all BERUs for the affected project and permanent removal from the Registry, and are referred to law enforcement where conduct constitutes fraud (Corrective Actions Policy, Sections 4.3, 6.3). Building Representatives bear full financial responsibility for compensating buyers of cancelled BERUs and for the costs of any independent assessments (Section 6.3(f)). Critical non-conformances are publicly disclosed on the Ontoly Registry (Section 12.1). Appeals against corrective action findings may be made to the BERS Governance Board within 30 days (Section 10.1).

Erroneous issuance URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 16.3 https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Corrective Actions Policy, Sections 4.3, 6.3, and 12 https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a73578ca1355d232c815e7d_Corrective%20Actions%20Policy.pdf

Ontoly is happy to offer the ICVCM a live demonstration of the software infrastructure that powers the Ontoly Portal and Ontoly Registry. This demonstration will showcase functionality for how the Ontoly Portal backend functionality implements corrective measures for erroneous issuance.

3.1 Information - CORSIA

Please respond to each question below.

CORSIA requirements related to transparency:

1) Confirm that your programme has the procedures in place to ensure that the results of validation and verification are made publicly available

Yes

Public disclosure of validation and verification results policy/procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1_1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Ontoly makes validation and verification outcomes publicly available through two mechanisms:

1) For validation: every project undergoes independent third-party Validation by an accredited Validation Body contracted by Ontoly ([BERS Standard v1.2, Section 6](#)). Upon the outcome a positive Validation Statement complete by an independent VVB, the project attains Validated status and a summary of the Validation Statement is published on the Ontoly Registry together with the public Project Description Report ([BERS Standard Section 6.4.4](#); [BERS Validation and Verification Standard v1.1, Section 7.8.3](#)).

2) For verification: Upon the outcome a positive Verification Statement complete by an independent VVB, the project attains Verified status and a summary of the Verification Statement is published on the Ontoly Registry Ontoly Registry publicly, alongside the BERU Issuance Report ([BERS Standard Section 15.1.1](#)). Where a Validation Body or Verification Body is suspended or terminated, Ontoly publicly discloses the suspension and its rationale ([BERS Standard Sections 6.3.8 and 8.2.5](#)).

Note, Project Description Report also includes a non-technical summary, a building-level baseline and intervention summary, the assigned methodology, information on how the methodology has been applied to determine the baseline, demonstrate additionality, and quantify GHG emission reductions, and a social and environmental safeguards summary (Section 5.3.6). Commercially sensitive information is excluded subject to confidentiality, privacy, and data-protection obligations.

Two projects are currently published on the public Ontoly Registry at Unvalidated (Listed) status, each with a public Project Listing Report accessible at no cost and without login credentials or registration of any kind ([BERS Standard Section 5.2A.2](#)). This satisfies the initial-screening conditions in ICVCM's FAQs for Applicant Carbon-Crediting Programs — at least one project that has requested registration, and an operational registry where project-specific documentation is publicly accessible without requiring login credentials. Ontoly Registry: <https://registry.ontoly.org>

Public disclosure of validation and verification URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 5.3.6, 6.4.4, and 15.1.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf
BERS Validation and Verification Standard v1.1, Section 7.8: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1_1.pdf
Ontoly Registry: <https://registry.ontoly.org/>

3.1 Information

Please respond to each question below.

a) In addition to CORSIA requirements, confirm that your organisation ensures that in relation to each mitigation activity that requests registration or that is registered, all relevant documentation relating to the mitigation activity is made publicly available (subject to confidentiality and proprietary, privacy and data protection restrictions) including:

1) all necessary information, such as spreadsheets used for calculations, to enable third parties to assess the social and environmental impacts of the mitigation activity and to replicate the GHG emission reduction or removal calculations (including baseline quantification), and assessment of additionality.

Yes

Information disclosure policy/process URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program operates a centralized quantification model in which all GHG calculations are performed by Ontoly — not by Building Representatives — using standardized, approved methodologies applied to metered utility bill data ([BERS Standard Section 2.1.2](#)). This design eliminates project-level discretion in calculation and ensures methodological consistency across all projects. Ontoly's centralized quantification models are independently verified by a third-party verification body to ensure conformance with voluntary market best practices.

The full information set necessary for a third party to assess and replicate the quantification logic is publicly available across four programme documents:

The Existing Building Methodology v1.1 sets out all quantification formulas, baseline determination procedures, weather and occupancy normalization approaches, emission factor sources, conservativeness provisions, and uncertainty treatment in full — including the complete equation set for electricity savings, fuel savings, and fuel switching calculations.

The Public Parameter List v1.1 discloses all standardized inputs used across every project: GWP values (IPCC AR6), discount rate, energy price escalation rates by fuel type and jurisdiction, equipment useful life values by technology type, and sensitivity analysis parameters with rationale and references.

The Methodology Development and Review Process v1.0 documents the scientific basis and governance process for all methodology decisions, including how emission factors are sourced, maintained, and updated.

The Project Description Report, published on the Ontoly Registry for every project that has achieved Validated status, discloses project-specific inputs including the building-level baseline summary, intervention technology description, assigned methodology, and information on how additionality was assessed and the baseline determined ([BERS Standard Section 5.3.6](#)).

Taken together, these documents ensure each project listed on the Ontoly Registry has all relevant documentation to enable third parties to assess the social and environmental impacts of the mitigation activity, replicate the GHG emission reduction or removal calculations (including baseline quantification), and assessment of additionality. These documents are made publicly available (subject to confidentiality and proprietary, privacy and data protection restrictions).

Note, request for commercially sensitive information can be made according to [BERS Standard Section 10.5](#). Commercially Sensitive Information is defined in [BERS Standard Section 3](#).

Further Ontoly is bound to privacy and data protection laws. For example, the specific financial data inputs underlying the NPV Financial Additionality Test — capital cost, energy savings estimates, incentive amounts, and O&M costs — are confidential and not publicly disclosed at the individual project level, as they constitute commercially sensitive business information provided by Building Representatives (BERS Standard Section 10.5.2). Only the pass/fail result and the Investment Analysis Rating are publicly disclosed. This boundary is itself publicly documented. All financial inputs are subject to independent third-party verification annually by the contracted Verification Body ([BERS Standard Section 10.3.5](#)).

Regarding social and environmental impacts: Building Representatives complete a mandatory Data Quality and Safeguard Attestation Form covering all ICVCM safeguard categories. The Form requires assessment of the risks of negative environmental and social impacts across every safeguard category in Section 13.2.1(b). A safeguards summary is published in the Project Description Report on the Registry ([BERS Standard Section 5.3.6\(h\)](#)). Where material risks are identified, mitigation measures are documented in each Monitoring Report ([BERS Standard Section 13.3.1](#)). The attestation underlying the summary is assessed by the third-party Validation and Verification Bodies.

Information disclosure URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 2.1.2, 5.3.6, 10.5.2, and 13: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

2) a mitigation activity design document that includes:

- i. a non-technical summary.
- ii. detailed information on the mitigation activity, including its location and proponents.
- iii. a description of the technology or practices applied.
- iv. the environmental and social impacts.
- v. the methodology used.
- vi. information on how the methodology is and has been applied for the purpose of determining the baseline, demonstrating additionality and quantifying GHG emission reductions or removals.

Yes

Mitigation activity design document provisions URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Project Description Report, generated by Ontoly and published on the Ontoly Registry for every project that has achieved Validated status ([BERS Standard Section 5.3.6](#)), constitutes the mitigation activity design document and addresses each required element:

i. Non-technical summary — Included as a mandatory element of every Project Description Report ([Section 5.3.6\(a\)](#)).

ii. Detailed information on the mitigation activity including location and proponents — Project Description Reports include proponent details and project location to the first three digits of the postal code or ZIP code, in accordance with applicable privacy laws ([Section 5.3.6\(c\)](#)).

iii. Description of the technology or practices applied — A description of the project technology is a mandatory element of every Project Description Report ([Section 5.3.6\(b\)](#)).

iv. Environmental and social impacts — A social and environmental safeguards summary drawn from the Building Representative's mandatory Safeguard Attestation Form is included in every Project Description Report ([Section 5.3.6\(h\)](#)). The Form requires assessments of the risks of negative environmental and social impacts across every safeguard category in [Section 13.2.1\(b\)](#) of the BERS. This includes, legal and regulatory compliance, labour rights and working conditions, land acquisition and involuntary resettlement, sustainable management of natural resources, Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and cultural heritage, fair treatment and non-discrimination, resource efficiency and pollution prevention, gender equality, and stakeholder consideration. Where material risks are identified, mitigation measures are documented in ongoing Monitoring Reports ([Section 13.3.1](#)). Furthermore, the attestation underlying that summary is assessed by the accredited Validation Body as part of mandatory validation of the project design ([Section 6.3.4\(d\)](#)); no project attains Validated status, and no BERUs may be issued, without a positive Validation Statement. The Project Description Report is published on the public Ontoly Registry on attainment of Validated status — that is, before any BERU issuance. The Project Description Report template, including the Section 8 safeguards summary, is provided in our submission.

v. The methodology used — The assigned methodology is identified in every Project Description Report ([Section 5.3.6\(d\)](#)) and the full methodology is publicly available on the Ontoly website.

How the methodology is applied to determine the baseline, additionality assessment, and quantify GHG emission reductions are mandatory elements of every Project Description Report ([Section 5.3.6\(j\)](#)), and the building-level baseline and intervention summary is also included ([Section 5.3.6\(e\)](#)).

Mitigation activity design document URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 5.3.6: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

3) For Categories listed in 9.1 b) 1, information relating to the monitoring and compensation period.

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Under BERS Standard Version 1.2, only GHG emission reductions from building retrofit activities are certified — carbon removals are explicitly excluded (BERS Standard Section 11.1.1). Because the BERS Program certifies reductions rather than removals, there is no risk of non-permanence or reversal of sequestered carbon, and no buffer pool, compensation mechanism, or permanence monitoring period is required.

This is confirmed in BERS Standard [Section 11.1.1](#): "Under Version 1.0, only GHG emission reductions are certified and carbon removals are excluded. The risk of non-permanence for BERUs does not apply to emission reductions."

Accordingly, the disclosure requirements for monitoring and compensation periods applicable to permanence categories under Criterion 9 are not applicable to the BERS Program.

Permanence provisions URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 11: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

b) Confirm that your organisation shall ensure all relevant program documents are publicly available and has processes to ensure that where requests are made in relation to information that is missing from your website and/or registry, that information is provided (subject to confidentiality and proprietary, privacy and data protection restrictions) and made public alongside other relevant public information.

Yes

Information request policy/process URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

All normative BERS Programme documents are publicly available on the Ontoly website (www.ontoly.org) and referenced on the BERS Program page. The complete set of published programme documents includes: the BERS Standard v1.2; the Existing Building Methodology v1.1; the Methodology Development and Review Process v1.0; the Public Parameter List v1.1; the BERS Governance Board — Composition, Roles, and Responsibilities v1.2; the Conflict of Interest Policy; the KYC Policy; the Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Policy; the Corrective Actions Policy; and the Programme [Wind-Down Policy v1.0](#). New versions and amendments are published on the Ontoly website with version control and change logs ([BERS Standard Section 1.1.7](#)).

Where a stakeholder makes a request relating to information alleged to be missing or incomplete on the Ontoly website or Registry, Ontoly is required to review the request and, where the information is eligible for public disclosure, make it publicly available alongside other relevant public information — subject to applicable confidentiality, proprietary, privacy, and data-protection obligations ([BERS Standard Section 2.4.4](#)). This obligation is reinforced by the BERS Governance Board, which has information rights over all programme matters and the authority to require Ontoly to make information public where appropriate ([BERS Governance Board v1.2, Section 10](#)).

Requests relating to information on the website or Registry may be submitted via the grievance mechanism at info+grievances@ontoly.org or via the general contact at info@ontoly.org.

Information request URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 1.1.7 and 2.4.4: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

BERS Governance Board v1.2, Section 10: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a813bfd79256ac5c54a6_Ontoly_BERS_Governance_Board_v1.3.pdf

4.1 Robust Independent Third-Party Validation and Verification - CORSIA

CORSIA requirements related to robust independent third-party validation and verification:

1) Confirm that your programme has standards, requirements, and procedures in place for the validation of activities

Yes

Validation of activities policy/procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Every project under the BERS Program must undergo independent third-party validation conducted by an accredited Validation Body contracted and remunerated solely by Ontoly, in accordance with [BERS Standard v1.2, Section 6](#), and the [BERS Validation and Verification Standard v1.1 \(the "V&V Standard"\), Section 7](#). Validation is an ex-ante assessment of the project and must be conducted by a validation and verification body (VVB) that is accredited by the current edition of ISO 14065 and ISO 14066. Validation covers at minimum: project eligibility under the BERS Standard and the applicable Approved BERS Methodology; the baseline scenario and supporting data; additionality, including the Regulatory Surplus Assessment and all elements of the Financial Additionality Assessment including the sensitivity analysis; environmental and social safeguard attestations; the monitoring plan; and Ontoly's ex-ante quantification ([BERS Standard Section 6.3.4; V&V Standard Section 7.1.2](#)). Additional requirements are outlined in [BERS Validation and Verification Standard v1.1 \(the "V&V Standard"\), Section 7](#).

Validation is structured in two required layers ([BERS Standard Section 6.1.1](#)):

- Layer one — Eligible Engineering Documentation: professional engineering documentation (an IPMVP-adherent report, an IREE report, or equivalent) prepared and signed by a licensed Professional Engineer ([Section 6.2](#)). IPMVP — the International Performance Measurement and Verification Protocol — is the globally recognized industry standard for measuring and verifying building energy performance improvements, and these engineering assessments (this report typically costs \$40,000–\$70,000 per project and provides deep, sector-specific professional review of forecasted energy savings, baseline determination, and technology selection). This documentation constitutes required engineering input evidence to Validation; its acceptance by Ontoly does not itself constitute Validation ([Section 6.2.3](#)).

- Layer two — Ontoly hires an accredited validation and verification body (VVB) to complete independent third-party validation, which reviews the Eligible Engineering Documentation for completeness, internal consistency, professional sign-off, and conformance with the applicable industry standard; as well as validates the project design as a whole against BERS Standard requirements. A project attains Validated status on the Ontoly Registry only upon receiving a positive Validation Statement from the validation and verification body (VVB) ([Section 6.4.3](#)).

Validation may occur before, or at the same time as, the project's first verification: where Ontoly and the Project Proponent agree, a single combined engagement may be commissioned in which the contracted VVB performs Validation concurrently with the first verification ([BERS Standard Section 6.3.9; V&V Standard Section 7.7](#)).

BERUs are only issued ex-post, following a full annual monitoring period and a positive Verification Statement ([Section 5.7.1](#)). The exclusively ex-post issuance model is another safeguard: no BERUs are issued based on ex-ante estimates ([BERS Standard Sections 5.7.1, 14.1.2](#)). Building Representatives may elect to sell only a portion of projected BERUs and implement buffers against underperformance ([Section 5.4](#)), and buyers are transparently informed that projected BERUs are estimates until ex-post verification completes.

The V&V Standard outlines the validation process end to end: Validation Body accreditation requirements ([Sections 4–6, 7.2](#)); evidence-gathering and level of assurance requirements ([Section 7.3](#)); cohorts and timeline requirements ([Section 7.4](#)); findings classification and resolution requirements— Material Non-Conformity, Minor Non-Conformity, Clarification Request, and Forward Action Request, with Forward Action Requests assessed at first verification ([Section 7.5](#)); validation outcomes ([Section 7.6](#)); reporting on the BERS Validation Report Template with public summaries ([Section 7.8](#)); and a per-project Validation Checklist ([Appendix C](#)). Conformance is evidenced on a per-project basis. The Validation Body completes the Validation Checklist at [Appendix C](#) of the V&V Standard, administering each of the V&V Standard requirements, and the completed checklist forms part of the Validation Report. A positive validation conclusion may be issued only after all material non-conformities and clarification requests have been resolved to the Validation Body's satisfaction ([V&V Standard Section 7.5.2](#)). The BERS Validation Report Template is provide in this submissions.

VVB engagement and operational readiness: As of August 2026 Ontoly has contracted and interviewed five prospective VVB partners accredited to the current edition of ISO 14065 and ISO 14066, with sectoral scopes covering energy demand, energy efficiency, and fuel switching in buildings. The engagement is scoped against [Section 7](#) of the V&V Standard and covers validation of project design in accordance with [BERS Standard Section 6.3.4](#). The VVB will be contracted and remunerated solely by Ontoly; project proponents have no role in its selection or payment. Evidence of current accreditation — accreditation body, identification number, scope, and expiry — has been obtained in accordance with [V&V Standard Section 4.1.3](#), and the conflict-of-interest disclosure required under [Section 5](#) will also be completed. Ontoly had previously postponed the selection of a VVB partner due to requesting validation requirement clarification from ICVCM in our 2026 CCP application cycle. Since receiving clarification we have since move forward with execution. Execution of engagement documentation is available to the Secretariat on request. All forms and processes for an operational complete and public on the BERS Program Page:

[BERS Validation & Verification Standard v1.1](#) — Verification procedure, independence requirements, accreditation, and level of assurance.

[BERS Validation Report Template v1.0](#)

[BERS Verification Report Template v1.0](#)

[Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form v1.1](#)

Project staging: Consistent with the initial-screening conditions in ICVCM's FAQs for Applicant Carbon-Crediting Programs ("at least one registered project or at least one project that has requested registration") — as of August 2026 — no projects are currently listed on the Ontoly Registry are at the initial listing phase. Under the BERS Standard, neither project has yet reached the stage at which Validation or verification falls due. Validation is required before a project attains Validated status ([Section 6.1.1](#)) or, at the latest, concurrently with its first verification ([Section 6.3.9](#)), and no BERUs may be issued for any project absent Ontoly's acceptance of a positive Validation Statement and successful ex-post verification. Ontoly explained this project staging to the Secretariat during the first Completeness Check recorded call on 24 June 2026 with the Secretariat's technical staff — ICVCM had expressed that these steps were sufficient to move forward with further assessment.

Validation procedures URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 6: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf
BERS Validation and Verification Standard v1.1, Section 7: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a6a9d8bc4ccee04bf71c84d_BERS_Verification_Standard_v1.pdf

BERS Validation Report Template v1.0: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a6ad130eaab1133e8fb5943_BERS_Validation_Report_Template_v1_0.docx

2) Confirm that your programme has standards, requirements, and procedures in place for the verification of emissions reductions

Yes

Verification of emission reductions policy/procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Validation and Verification Standard v1.1 establishes comprehensive mandatory requirements, procedures, and expectations for independent third-party ex-post verification of GHG emission reductions under the BERS Program. Verification is structured as a two-part annual assessment conducted simultaneously ([V&V Standard Section 1.4](#)):

Part 1 — Building-Level Data Input Verification (reasonable assurance): A sampling-based audit of utility data, metered performance data, and occupancy records submitted by Building Representatives. Procedures include source document cross-checking against original utility bills, independent recalculation of GHG emission reductions, baseline data review, occupancy and normalization assessment, and data completeness checks.

Part 2 — Program-Level Model and Parameter Verification (limited assurance): An assessment of Ontoly's standardized quantification models, parameters, emission factors, and calculation processes for conformance with the BERS Standard and approved Methodology, including review of the Jurisdictional Regulatory Model and Financial Additionality Assessment calculations. Recalculations are also complete on a sample basis.

The verification process follows a defined seven-stage procedure: Engagement Initiation, Verification Planning, Data Request and Review, Detailed Assessment, Findings Management, Reporting, and Issuance and Closure ([V&V Standard, Section 8](#)). A 5% materiality threshold applies at the Cohort level ([Section 11.1](#)). Verification opinions are classified as Positive (Unqualified), Qualified, or Adverse, with defined consequences for each ([Section 15.1](#)).

Read all details for the requirements and procedures:

[BERS Validation & Verification Standard v1.1](#) — Verification procedure, independence requirements, accreditation, and level of assurance.

[BERS Validation Report Template v1.0](#)

[BERS Verification Report Template v1.0](#)

[Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form v1.1](#)

Verification procedures URL: BERS Validation and Verification Standard v1.1, Sections 1 and 8–16: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1_1.pdf

BERS Standard v1.2, Section 8: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

3) Confirm that your programme has standards, requirements, and procedures in place for the accreditation of validators

Yes

Accreditation of validators policy/procedures URL

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Validation Bodies are subject to the identical accreditation requirements applied to Verification Bodies. A

II Validation Bodies must:

(a) be accredited to the current edition of ISO 14065 and ISO 14066 by an accreditation body that is a full member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF); (b) conduct validations in accordance with ISO 14064-3; (c) have experience and training in the relevant sectoral scopes (energy demand, energy efficiency, and fuel switching in buildings); and (d) comply with the BERS Validation and Verification Standard, including its team, independence, conflict-of-interest, and rotation requirements ([BERS Standard v1.2, Section 6.3.2; V&V Standard, Section 4](#)). The same organization may be approved to perform both validation and verification services for a project, subject to the independence, personnel, and conflict-of-interest requirements of the V&V Standard and the Conflict of Interest Policy ([BERS Standard Section 6.3.3](#)). Where a single body performs both functions, the assessments are separately planned, documented, and concluded, and separate Validation and Verification Statements are issued ([V&V Standard Section 7.7.2\(b\)](#)); each engagement is staffed with distinct role assignments — a Lead Validator for validation and a Lead Verifier for verification ([Section 6.1.1](#)); the Conflict of Interest Disclosure covers both components ([Section 7.7.2\(a\)](#)); and performance of both counts as a single year of VVB tenure for the purposes of the five-year rotation limit, so dual-scope engagement shortens rather than extends the period before rotation is required ([Section 5.6](#)). Evidence of current accreditation — accreditation body, identification number, scope, and expiry — is required as part of the contracting process ([V&V Standard Section 4.1.3](#)).

In addition, the Eligible Engineering Documentation that serves as required engineering input evidence to Validation must be prepared and signed by a licensed Professional Engineer ([BERS Standard Section 6.2](#)). Professional Engineers operate under professional licensing frameworks in Canada and the United States that impose mandatory education, examination, experience, and continuing professional development requirements as conditions of licensure, and are legally and professionally accountable for their reports, with professional indemnity obligations under applicable provincial and state law. This professional assurance is additional to — not a substitute for — validation by the accredited Validation Body.

Validator accreditation URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 6.2–6.3: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

BERS Validation and Verification Standard v1.1, Section 4: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1_1.pdf

[BERS Validation & Verification Standard v1.1](#) — Verification procedure, independence requirements, accreditation, and level of assurance.

[BERS Validation Report Template v1.0](#)

[BERS Verification Report Template v1.0](#)

[Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form v1.1](#)

4) Confirm that your programme has standards, requirements, and procedures in place for the accreditation of verifiers

Yes

Accreditation of verifiers policy/procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS [Validation and Verification Standard v1.1, Section 4](#), establishes mandatory accreditation requirements for all Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs). All VBs must hold current accreditation to the following standards, issued by a national accreditation body that is a full member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF):

- ISO 14065: General principles and requirements for bodies validating and verifying environmental information
- ISO 14066: Competence requirements for greenhouse gas validation teams and verification teams
- ISO 14064-3: Specification with guidance for the verification and validation of greenhouse gas statements (where applicable)

Accreditation must specifically include the sectoral scopes relevant to the BERS Program: energy demand-side management, energy efficiency, and fuel switching in buildings ([Verification Standard Section 4.1.2](#)). VBs must provide evidence of current accreditation — including accreditation body name, identification number, scope, and expiry date — as part of the annual contracting process with Ontoly ([Section 4.1.3](#)). If a VB's accreditation expires, is suspended, or is revoked during an active engagement, the VB must notify Ontoly within five business days and Ontoly may reassign the Cohort ([Section 4.1.4](#)).

VBs must additionally be legal entities with professional indemnity insurance covering their BERS verification scope, and must maintain documented quality management systems ([Section 4.2](#)). Identical accreditation requirements apply to Validation Bodies ([BERS Standard v1.2, Section 6.3.2](#)).

Verifier accreditation URL: BERS Validation and Verification Standard v1.1, Section 4: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1.1.pdf

BERS Validation & Verification Standard v1.1 — Verification procedure, independence requirements, accreditation, and level of assurance.

[BERS Verification Report Template v1.0](#)

[Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form v1.1](#)

5) Confirm that your program has procedures in place to ensure that validation occurs prior to or in tandem with verification

Yes

Validation timing policy/procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a04ba13ce02f57ff34d1672_BERS_Standard_Version_1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Validation by the accredited Validation Body occurs before, or at the same time as, the project's first verification. Default pathway: validation before registration. A project attains Validated status on the public Registry, and becomes eligible for Pre-Purchase Agreements, only upon Ontoly's acceptance of a positive Validation Statement (BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 6.1.1 and 6.4.3). Validation may be performed concurrently with the first verification in a single combined engagement (BERS Standard Section 6.3.9; V&V Standard Section 7.7), with separately documented assessments and separate Validation and Verification Statements; Ontoly's acceptance of a positive Validation Statement is a precondition to acceptance of the first Verification Statement and to any BERU issuance.

In all cases no BERUs may be issued for any project that has not received a positive Validation Statement, and BERU issuance additionally requires successful ex-post verification. This sequencing is binding and not subject to override.

This sequencing provides transparency at every stage: project documentation is independently assessed before the project achieves Validated status on the public Registry; buyers can review the Project Description Report and understand the projected savings basis; and no credits are issued until real utility performance data is collected and independently verified. Buyers are never exposed to credits that have not passed through both independent third-party validation of project design and independent third-party verification of actual performance.

Validation timing URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 6.1, 6.3.9, and 6.4: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a6ab857e27bb0574e400851_BERS_Standard_Version_1.1.pdf
BERS Validation and Verification Standard v1.1, Section 7.7: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a6a9d8bc4ccee04bf71c84d_BERS_Verification_Standard_v1.pdf

6) Confirm that your program has procedures in place to ensure that mitigation is measured and verified by an accredited and independent third-party verification entity

Yes

Measurement and verification requirements using independent third-party entities URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Annual independent ex-post verification by an ISO 14065-accredited Verification Body is a mandatory prerequisite for BERU issuance. No BERUs may be issued for any GHG emission reductions that have not been successfully verified ([BERS Standard Section 8.1.2](#); [Verification Standard Section 1.2](#)).

A critical structural feature ensures independence that goes beyond most carbon crediting programs: Ontoly exclusively contracts and remunerates all Verification Bodies — Building Representatives and Building Owners

have no role in VB selection, contracting, or payment ([BERS Standard Section 8.2.2](#); [Verification Standard Section 1.5](#)). This structural separation severs the financial link between the verified party and the verifier, eliminating the most common source of VVB conflicts of interest in the voluntary carbon market.

Third-party measurement and verification URL: *BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 8.1–8.2* https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

BERS Validation and Verification Standard v1.1, Sections 1.5 and 5 https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1.1.pdf

7) Confirm that your programme has procedures in place to ensure that ex-post verification of mitigation is required in advance of issuance of emissions units

Yes

Verification and issuance of emission units policy/procedures URL

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

BERUs are issued exclusively on an ex-post basis following successful verification. This is an absolute requirement of the BERS Program with no exceptions: BERS Standard [Section 8.1.2](#) states that Ontoly shall not issue BERUs for any GHG emission reductions that have not been successfully verified by an accredited Verification Body, and [Section 14.1.2](#) states that BERUs shall only be issued on an ex-post basis. The Validation and Verification Standard ([Section 1.2](#)) confirms that verification provides an independent ex-post assessment of actual, monitored outcomes. No ex-ante BERU issuance occurs under the BERS Program.

This design reflects Ontoly's conviction that credit quality in the buildings sector is best assured by waiting for real data. Building utility bills provide an unambiguous, metered record of actual energy consumption — and by requiring that all data inputs come from real utility bills and real meters before any credits are issued, the BERS Program eliminates the estimation risk that plagues programmes issuing credits on projected or modelled performance. The combination of real measured data, independent third-party verification by an ISO-accredited VB, and Ontoly's centralized quantification model means that every issued BERU represents a verified, actual emission reduction — not a forecast.

Ex-post verification URL: *BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 5.71, 8.1.2, and 14.1.2* https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

8) Confirm that your programme has provisions in place to manage and/or prevent conflicts of interest between accredited third-party(ies) performing the validation and/or verification procedures, and the programme and the activities it supports

Yes

Third-party verification entity conflict of interest policy/procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/69b12733b954f0a2d453e5dd_Ontoly_BERS_Conflict_of_Interest_Policy_v1.0.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program employs a multi-layer conflict of interest framework for all Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs), addressed in the V&V Standard (Section 5), the Conflict of Interest Policy, and the Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Policy. Prior to each validation, verification, or combined engagement, the VVB must complete and submit the signed [VVB Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form v1.1](#), confirming that no member of the team has: provided consulting, design, engineering, or energy advisory services to any Building Owner or Building Representative within the assigned Cohort in the preceding three years; a direct or indirect financial interest in any project within the Cohort; a familial, employment, or business relationship with any Building Owner, Building Representative, or Project Proponent in the Cohort; or any other relationship that could impair or be perceived to impair impartiality ([V&V Standard Section 5.3](#)). For combined engagements, the disclosure covers both the validation and verification components. If a conflict is identified at any point during the engagement, the VVB must immediately notify Ontoly, which determines whether the conflict can be mitigated or the engagement must be reassigned ([Section 5.4](#)).

Two structural bars apply: any organization that has been involved in the development of a project, or that has been paid to assist in developing any part of a BERS Methodology or of the project's design or documentation, may not act as the Validation Body or Verification Body for that project ([BERS Standard Section 6.3.1](#); [V&V Standard Section 5.5](#)). Mandatory rotation prevents conflicts from developing over time: a project may not work with a single VVB for longer than five consecutive years, and a given VVB may conduct verification for a project during no more than five out of any seven consecutive years ([V&V Standard Section 5.6](#)); in addition, under the Conflict of Interest Policy, the same personnel may not verify the same building for more than three consecutive verification cycles ([COI Policy Section 8.3](#)) — where the two rotation provisions differ, the stricter applies. VVBs are additionally prohibited from accepting gifts, hospitality, or other benefits from Building Representatives or Owners in projects being assessed, and may not provide advisory services to the same entities they validate or verify ([Anti-Bribery Policy Section 8](#)).

COI provisions URL: BERS Validation and Verification Standard v1.1, Section 5: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/69b12733b954f0a2d453e5dd_Ontoly_BERS_Conflict_of_Interest_Policy_v1.0.pdf

[files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1_1.pdf](https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1_1.pdf)

VVB Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form v1.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a92034697f9fb3d3e3bde93_Ontoly_COI_Disclosure_Form_v1.0.pdf

Conflict of Interest Policy v1.0, Section 8: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e01473d33591639982e50_Ontoly_BERS_Conflict_of_Interest_Policy_v1.1.pdf

Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Policy, Section 8: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a962755c48d33aa98b16_Ontoly_Anti-Bribery_Anti-Corruption_Policy_1.1.pdf

BERS Validation & Verification Standard v1.1 — Verification procedure, independence requirements, accreditation, and level of assurance.

9) Confirm that your programme has provisions in place requiring accredited third-party(ies) to disclose whether they or any of their family members are dealing in, promoting, or otherwise have a fiduciary relationship with anyone promoting or dealing in, the offset credits being evaluated

Yes

Fiduciary disclosure for verifiers policy/procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1_1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Conflict of Interest Disclosure completed by the Verification Body before each engagement requires disclosure of any direct or indirect financial interest held by the firm, its personnel, or their Close Relations (defined to include family members up to second degree of consanguinity — spouses, children, parents, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren) in any project within the assigned Cohort ([V&V Section 5.3\(b\)](#); [COI Policy Sections 3.2, 5.2](#)). This captures the full scope of fiduciary and dealing relationships the ICVCM criterion contemplates — including personnel who are dealing in, promoting, or otherwise have a financial relationship with the BERUs being evaluated. VB personnel who have verified the same building for three consecutive cycles must be rotated to prevent excessive familiarity developing into implicit conflicts ([COI Policy Section 7.5](#)). Post-departure obligations continue for 24 months following cessation of engagement ([COI Policy Section 2.3](#)).

Fiduciary disclosure URL: BERS Validation and Verification Standard v1.1, Section 5.3: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1_1.pdf

Conflict of Interest Policy v1.0, Sections 3.2, 5.2, 7.5: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e01473d33591639982e50_Ontoly_BERS_Conflict_of_Interest_Policy_v1.1.pdf

10) Confirm that your programme has provisions in place to address and isolate such conflicts, should they arise

Yes

Resolution of fiduciary conflicts for verifiers policy/procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1_1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Where a conflict is identified at any point during a verification engagement, the Verification Body must immediately notify Ontoly in writing ([Verification Standard Section 5.4](#)). Ontoly determines, at its sole discretion, whether the conflict can be mitigated through team restructuring or partial reassignment, or whether the Cohort must be reassigned to a different Verification Body entirely. Conflicts identified at the individual verifier level trigger automatic refusal from all aspects of the affected project's verification; conflicts at the organizational level may trigger full Cohort reassignment.

For all Covered Persons under the Conflict of Interest Policy (including VB personnel), disclosed conflicts are risk-classified as Low, Medium, High, or Critical, with management measures ranging from Monitoring through Restriction, Recusal, Divestiture, and Removal ([COI Policy Section 7.3](#)). Critical conflicts — defined as those involving material decision-making authority over verification outcomes — are escalated to the BERS Governance Board ([COI Policy Section 8.3, 8.4](#)). A VB found to have conducted verification in violation of independence requirements may be suspended from new assignments pending investigation and permanently removed from the BERS verification panel for material violations ([Anti-Bribery Policy Section 8.4](#); [Corrective Actions Policy Section 9.4](#)).

Conflict resolution URL: BERS Validation and Verification Standard v1.1, Section 5.4: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a6a9d8bc4ccee04bf71c84d_BERS_Verification_Standard_v1.pdf

Conflict of Interest Policy v1.0, Section 7: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e01473d33591639982e50_Ontoly_BERS_Conflict_of_Interest_Policy_v1.1.pdf

11) Confirm that your programme has procedures in place requiring that the renewal of any activity at the end of its crediting period includes a re-evaluation of its baselines, and procedures and assumptions for quantifying, monitoring, and verifying mitigation, including the baseline scenario

Yes

Renewal of mitigation activities requirements/procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

BERS Standard Version 1.2 does not currently allow crediting period renewal ([BERS Standard Section 10.7.1](#)). This is a deliberate design decision appropriate to the nature of building retrofit projects. A building energy retrofit is a one-time capital investment made at a specific point in time: equipment is installed, baseline performance is measured against the preceding 12–36 months of actual utility data, and the retrofit's performance is then monitored annually against that fixed baseline for a standard crediting period of up to ten years. The baseline and additionality determination are fixed at project registration and do not require periodic re-evaluation during the crediting period because the fundamental conditions of the investment decision do not change ([BERS Standard Section 10.7.3](#)).

The ten-year crediting period is proportionate and sufficient to capture the full financial and emissions benefit of a typical building retrofit, given equipment useful lives ranging from 15–25 years (as set out in the Public Parameter List). Requiring a renewal mechanism would add complexity and administrative burden without integrity benefit in a programme where the baseline is empirically established from actual historical utility data.

Future versions of the BERS may introduce crediting period renewal provisions as the programme evolves, with appropriate reassessment procedures at that time. This limitation is publicly documented in the BERS Standard.

Crediting period URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 10.7: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

12) Confirm that your programme has procedures in place requiring that the same procedures apply to activities that wish to undergo verification but have not done so within the programme's allowable number of years between verification events. *If yes, provide evidence, including identifying the allowable number of years between verification events.

Yes

Verification of mitigation activities outside of the allowable number of years between verification events requirements/procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program requires annual verification — there is a maximum allowable gap of one calendar year between verification events ([BERS Standard Section 5.8.1](#); [V&V Standard Section 2.2](#)). Projects that fail to submit the Annual Monitoring Report by March 31 of the following year may be suspended at Ontoly's discretion ([BERS Standard Section 5.5.6](#)).

Projects that are inactive for two or more consecutive monitoring periods without a Monitoring Report submission may have their eligibility for future BERU issuance suspended ([Section 5.8.2](#)).

BERS Section 3 defines 'Suspended': Project has been temporarily halted due to non-conformance identified during verification or monitoring. BERU issuance is paused pending completion of corrective action by the Building Representative in accordance with the procedures set out in this Standard.

Late submissions may be permitted at Ontoly's sole discretion, but no BERU issuance occurs for any period that has not been successfully verified.

Verification timing URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 5.5.6, 5.8: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

13) Carbon credits that are issued ex-ante are not CCP eligible. If your organisation supports both ex-ante and ex-post issuance, confirm it has procedures in place to transparently identify units that are issued ex-post and are thus eligible under the ICVCM.

Yes

Ex-ante and ex-post credit identification procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program issues BERUs exclusively on an ex-post basis. No ex-ante BERU issuance is permitted under any circumstances ([BERS Standard Sections 5.7.1, 14.1.2](#)). Accordingly, all BERUs in the Ontoly Registry are by

definition ex-post and CCP-eligible from an issuance-basis perspective. The distinction between ex-ante and ex-post units does not arise and no identification mechanism is required. The exclusively ex-post nature of BERU issuance is publicly disclosed in the BERS Standard, the Verification Standard, and the Ontoly Registry.

To reinforce this point: while the BERS Program does provide for Pre-Purchase Agreements ([BERS Standard Section 5.4](#)) that allow buyers to contractually reserve projected BERUs, these agreements are explicitly structured as forward reservations and all risk is held between the buyer and Building Representative. A Pre-Purchase Agreements does not guarantee issuances. No BERUs are issued, transferred, or made available for retirement until ex-post verification of actual building monitored performance is complete. Buyers entering Pre-Purchase Agreements are transparently informed that projected BERUs are estimates and that issuance is contingent on verified actual data. This ensures full market transparency for all parties.

Ex-post issuance URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 5.7.1 and 14.1.2: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

4.1 Robust Independent Third-Party Validation and Verification

In addition to CORSIA requirements, in relation to validation of mitigation activities and verification of GHG emission reductions and removals, confirm your organisation:

1) requires VVBs to be accredited by a recognised international accreditation standard (e.g., according to the current edition of ISO 14065 and ISO 14066, or per rules relating to the UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol Clean Development Mechanism or Paris Agreement Article 6, paragraph 4 Supervisory Body).

Yes

VVB accreditation requirements URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

All VVBs — Validation Bodies and Verification Bodies — performing validation or verification services under the BERS Program must hold current accreditation to ISO 14065, ISO 14066, and ISO 14064-3 (where applicable to the sectoral scope), issued by a national accreditation body that is a full member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), with sectoral scopes covering energy demand-side management, energy efficiency, and fuel switching in buildings ([BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 6.3.2 and 8.2.1](#); [V&V Standard, Section 4.1](#)). Identical accreditation requirements apply to the validation and verification functions. Evidence of current accreditation is required as part of the contracting process ([V&V Standard Section 4.1.3](#)).

VVB accreditation URL: BERS Validation and Verification Standard v1.1, Section 4.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1.1.pdf

[BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 6.3.2 and 8.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf](#)

2) has a process for managing VVB performance, including systematic review of validation and verification activities, reports and remedial measures to address performance issues including measures to ensure that poor VVB performance is reported to the relevant accreditation body, and provisions to suspend or revoke the participation of a VVB in the program.

Yes

VVB management policy/process URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a04ba13ce02f57ff34d1672_BERS_Standard_Version_1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Ontoly operates a formal VVB performance-management process covering both validation and verification activities, across the BERS Standard, the V&V Standard, and the Corrective Actions Policy.

Systematic review: Ontoly monitors all VVBs on an ongoing basis, evaluating quality and timeliness of Validation Reports and Verification Reports, consistency and rigor of findings, adherence to the V&V Standard, responsiveness to queries and corrective action requests, and systematic review of validation and verification activities, reports, and opinions ([V&V Standard Section 17.1](#); [BERS Standard Sections 6.3.8\(a\) and 8.2.4\(a\)](#)).

Remedial measures: Where deficiencies are identified, Ontoly issues corrective action requests to the VVB with defined remediation requirements ([V&V Standard Section 17.2](#); [Corrective Actions Policy Section 9](#)). Minor non-conformances (e.g., minor report deficiencies, late submission) are addressed with a 30-day corrective action request. Major non-conformances (e.g., incomplete scope, failure to follow the BERS Methodology) result in a formal warning letter, enhanced oversight of subsequent cycles, and potential re-assessment of affected projects at the VVB's expense. Critical non-conformances (e.g., issuance of a false statement, acceptance of prohibited benefits) result in suspension or permanent removal ([Corrective Actions Policy Sections 9.2–9.4](#)).

Reporting to accreditation body: Ontoly shall report significant and/or repeated VVB performance concerns, including any suspension or termination, to the relevant accreditation body ([BERS Standard Sections 6.3.8\(d\) and 8.2.4\(d\)](#); [V&V Standard Section 17.4](#)).

Suspension and revocation: Material breaches or repeated non-conformance may result in suspension or revocation of a VVB's participation in the BERS Program. All VVB suspensions and removals are publicly disclosed on the Ontoly Registry, including the effective date and the nature of the non-conformance ([BERS Standard Sections 6.3.8\(c\) and 8.2.5](#); [V&V Standard Sections 17.2–17.3](#); [Corrective Actions Policy Section 12.4](#)).

VVB performance management URL: BERS Validation and Verification Standard v1.1, Section 17: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1.1.pdf

[BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 6.3.8 and 8.2.4–8.2.5: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf](#)

[Corrective Actions Policy, Section 9: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a73578ca1355d232c815e7d_Corrective%20Actions%20Policy.pdf](https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a73578ca1355d232c815e7d_Corrective%20Actions%20Policy.pdf)

B – Emissions Impact

5.1 Methodology Approval Process - CORSIA

CORSIA requirements related to Clear Methodologies and Protocols and their Development Process:

1) Confirm that your programme has qualification, quantification methodologies, and protocols in place, available for use, and are publicly disclosed.

Yes

Qualification, quantification, and protocol disclosure URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program's first approved quantification methodology — ONTOLY_RETROFIT_EEFS-1.2, the Existing Building Methodology for Energy Efficiency and Fuel Switching in Buildings (Version 1.2) — entered into force on March 11, 2026, and is publicly available on the Ontoly website. The methodology was developed with reference to the Clean Development Mechanism AMS-II.E and adapted to meet the requirements of the BERS Standard, the ICVCM Core Carbon Principles, and applicable ISO standards ([Existing Building Methodology Section 1.2](#)).

Methodology disclosure URL: Existing Building Methodology v1.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf

BERS Standard v1.2, Section 1.2: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

2) Summarize the programme's process for developing further methodologies and protocols, including the timing and process for revision of existing methodologies.

Summary of development of methodologies and protocols approach URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00ffcead6709f346d96_Ontoly_Methodology_Development_and_Review_Process_v1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Ontoly's methodology development and revision process is governed exclusively by the publicly available Methodology Development and Review Process v1.0. The process operates as follows:

New methodology development follows a six-stage workflow: (1) Scoping — Ontoly's internal technical team defines the methodology scope and objectives; (2) Drafting — Ontoly drafts the methodology, drawing on internal expertise in building science, energy systems, and GHG accounting; (3) SAB Review — the independent Scientific Advisory Board reviews the draft and may issue a Formal Objection by majority vote where it determines a provision is scientifically unsound; (4) Independent Expert Consultation — Ontoly engages at least one independent subject-matter expert, external to Ontoly, to review the draft; (5) Final Approval by Ontoly, considering SAB findings and expert feedback; (6) Publication — the approved methodology is published on the Ontoly website and enters into force 30 days after publication.

Note: public stakeholder consultation is not required for the initial version of a new methodology, which is developed under SAB and independent expert oversight. Public consultation is mandatory for all Material Revisions to approved methodologies ([Section 4.4.2](#)).

Revision of existing methodologies is classified into three types. A Material Revision is any change that alters applicability or eligibility criteria, modifies title and ownership rules, exceeds the 1% Materiality Threshold for GHG quantification, changes baseline procedures or emission factors, modifies additionality procedures, or changes monitoring requirements in ways affecting data quality ([Section 5.1](#)). Material Revisions must undergo the full seven-step process: preparation, SAB review, independent expert review, minimum 30-day public consultation, formal response to comments, final approval, and publication. An Administrative Revision is a minor change — such as correcting a typographical error or clarifying existing language without altering requirements — documented in a change log without public consultation ([Section 5.2](#)). A Methodology Clarification provides guidance on the application of an existing methodology without amending the methodology itself ([Section 11](#)).

Periodic review: All approved BERS Methodologies are reviewed at a minimum of every five years, assessing conservativeness, eligibility criteria, monitoring requirements, and baseline procedures against current scientific evidence, regulations, and verified project performance data ([Section 8](#)).

Affected projects are notified at least 60 days before a revised methodology's effective date and may elect to adopt the new version or continue under the prior version for the remainder of their crediting period ([Section 6](#)).

3) Provide evidence of the public availability of the programme's process for developing further methodologies and protocols.

Development of methodologies and protocols process URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00ffcead6709f346d96_Ontoly_Methodology_Development_and_Review_Process_v1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Methodology Development and Review Process v1.0 is a normative, publicly available BERS Program document published on the Ontoly website. The document is listed in the BERS Standard Section 18 Programme Document List and is directly accessible at the URL below. All approved methodologies, summaries of public consultations, Ontoly's formal responses to comments, and any SAB Formal Objections are also published on the Ontoly website, enabling full external scrutiny of the development process.

Process public availability URL: *Methodology Development and Review Process v1.0* https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00ffceadf6709f346d96_Ontoly_Methodology_Development_and_Review_Process_v1.1.pdf

4) Confirm that procedures are in place to ensure that emissions units are based on accurate measurements and valid quantification methods/protocols.

Yes

Emissions units based on accurate measurements and valid quantification methods/protocols URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00b84714c43811713540_Ontoly_Public_Parameter_List_v1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Multiple interlocking mechanisms ensure BERU issuance is based only on accurate measurements and valid quantification:

Centralized quantification: Ontoly conducts all GHG emission reduction calculations centrally using standardized, approved methodology formulas applied to actual metered utility data — eliminating project-level discretion and ensuring identical application across all projects ([BERS Standard Section 2.1.2: Methodology Development and Review Process, Section 10.2](#)).

Metered data requirement: All quantification is based exclusively on actual metered utility bill data submitted by Building Representatives. Modelled or estimated consumption data is not accepted as the basis for quantification ([BERS Standard Section 5.5.2: Existing Building Methodology, Section 5](#)).

Independent verification: Annual ex-post verification by an ISO 14065-accredited Verification Body confirms that data inputs are accurate and complete and that GHG calculations have been correctly performed in accordance with the approved methodology ([BERS Standard Section 8: V&V Standard, Section 1.2](#)).

Publicly verified parameters: All standardized parameters — GWP values, discount rates, emission factors, energy price escalation rates, and equipment useful lives — are published in the Public Parameter List and independently verified annually by the contracted Verification Body ([Public Parameter List, Section 1: BERS Standard Section 10.3.5](#)).

No deviations permitted: No project developer or third party may submit external methodologies or deviate from the approved calculation procedures. Where edge cases arise, the Methodology Clarification process resolves them formally without altering the methodology ([Methodology Development and Review Process, Sections 11.1–11.2](#)).

Quantification accuracy URL: *BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 2.1.2, 8, 9:* https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Existing Building Methodology v1.1, Sections 5–6: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf

Public Parameter List v1.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00b84714c43811713540_Ontoly_Public_Parameter_List_v1.1.pdf

5) Confirm that procedures are in place to ensure that monitoring, measuring, and reporting of both activities and the resulting mitigation is conducted at specified intervals throughout the duration of the crediting period.

Yes

Procedures for monitoring, measuring, and reporting of both activities and the resulting mitigation URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Annual monitoring and reporting is a mandatory condition of BERU issuance for the full duration of the crediting period. Key provisions:

Building Representatives must submit an Annual Monitoring Report to Ontoly no later than March 31 of the calendar year immediately following each monitoring year, covering the full calendar year (January 1–December 31) on an ongoing basis ([BERS Standard Section 5.5.1, 7.3.1](#)). Monitoring data must consist solely of actual metered performance data without adjustment by the Building Representative — all normalizations are applied by Ontoly using standardized methodology ([Section 5.5.2](#)). Projects imported from other programmes must meet identical monitoring requirements ([Section 5.5.3](#)).

Projects that fail to submit by March 31 may be suspended. Projects inactive for two or more consecutive

monitoring periods may have their eligibility for future BERU issuance terminated ([Sections 5.5.6, 5.8.2](#)). No BERUs may be issued for any monitoring period without a complete, verified monitoring submission ([Section 8.1.2](#)). The Existing Building Methodology ([Section 8](#)) defines all monitoring parameters, data sources, measurement procedures, mandatory attestations, and evidence retention requirements.

Monitoring and reporting URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 5.5, 7, and 8: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Existing Building Methodology v1.1, Section 8: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf

5.1 Methodology Approval Process

In addition to CORSIA requirements related to Clear Methodologies and Protocols and their Development Process:

a) Please confirm that your organisation has a process for developing and adopting updates to existing quantification methodologies.

Yes

Quantification methodology update policy/process URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00ffceadf6709f346d96_Ontoly_Methodology_Development_and_Review_Process_v1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Methodology Development and Review Process v1.0 establishes a comprehensive, publicly documented framework for developing and adopting updates to existing quantification methodologies, as summarized in Q2 above. The framework distinguishes between Material Revisions (full SAB review, independent expert review, minimum 30-day public consultation, formal comment response — mandatory for all substantive changes); Administrative Revisions (change log documentation only, no consultation); and Methodology Clarifications (guidance without amendment). Periodic review of all approved methodologies occurs at a minimum of every five years ([Section 8](#)).

Methodology update URL: Methodology Development and Review Process v1.0, Sections 5 and 8: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00ffceadf6709f346d96_Ontoly_Methodology_Development_and_Review_Process_v1.1.pdf

b) Confirm your organisation's approved methodologies or general carbon-crediting program provisions address the following essential components:

1) applicability or eligibility criteria. 2) determination of the accounting boundary. 3) determination of additionality (to the extent this is not covered in other general carbon crediting program provisions). 4) establishing the baseline scenario. 5) quantification of GHG emission reductions or removals. 6) monitoring practices.

Yes

Methodology provisions URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Standard ([Section 1.2.1](#)) and [Methodology Development and Review Process \(Section 3\)](#) both require that all approved BERS Methodologies address, at minimum, the following six essential components. The Existing Building Methodology v1.1 addresses each:

1. Applicability or eligibility criteria — [Section 2](#) of the Existing Building Methodology defines the full scope of eligible activities, building types, geographic constraints (Canada and U.S.), technology requirements, and project conditions including the minimum 12-month operational data requirement and the prohibition on new construction.

2. Determination of the accounting boundary — [Section 3](#) of the Existing Building Methodology establishes the project boundary (the building or Aggregated Building Project), defines included and excluded GHG sources (CO₂, CH₄, N₂O included; HFCs excluded with documented rationale), and specifies the treatment of fuel switching across all applicable fuel types.

3. Determination of additionality — [Section 4](#) of the Existing Building Methodology sets out the two-gate additionality framework: the Regulatory Surplus Likelihood Assessment conducted via the Jurisdictional Regulatory Model, and the NPV Financial Additionality Test with sensitivity analysis, cross-referencing the standardized parameters in the Public Parameter List. The Investment Analysis Rating framework is also defined here.

4. Establishing the baseline scenario — [Section 5](#) of the Existing Building Methodology defines the baseline using 12–36 months of actual, historical, metered pre-retrofit utility data, including conditions for fixed vs. adjusted baseline parameters, weather and occupancy normalization procedures, and alternative baseline data provisions.

5. Quantification of GHG emission reductions — [Section 6](#) of the Existing Building Methodology defines the complete quantification equation set for electricity savings, fuel savings, and fuel switching, including all emission factors, GWP values, normalization variables, and unit conversion requirements. All emission factor sources and update protocols are disclosed in the Public Parameter List.

6. Monitoring practices — [Section 8](#) of the Existing Building Methodology prescribes all data collection, measurement, reporting, and attestation requirements for the full crediting period, including mandatory attestations for leakage prevention, permanence, change of ownership, no double counting, and occupancy/use changes, along with evidence retention obligations and handling of monitoring gaps.

c) Confirm that your organisation requires that, prior to approval, new methodologies and major revisions of existing methodologies undergo review by a group of independent experts and a public stakeholder consultation.

Yes

Methodology approval policy/process URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00fceedf6709f346d96_Ontoly_Methodology_Development_and_Review_Process_v1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

All Material Revisions to approved BERS Methodologies undergo a mandatory seven-step process that includes SAB review, independent expert review, a minimum 30-day public stakeholder consultation open to all stakeholders globally, and publication of a formal response to all material comments received before the revised methodology is approved ([Methodology Development and Review Process, Section 5.3](#)). The primacy of scientific evidence is maintained throughout — stakeholder feedback cannot override the scientific judgment of the SAB.

For the initial version of a new methodology, public stakeholder consultation is not required prior to first approval. Instead, the initial version is developed under the oversight of the SAB and independent subject-matter experts, whose collective review provides the independent technical assurance required prior to approval. Ontoly's documented position, set out in the Methodology Development and Review Process ([Section 4.4.2–4.4.3](#)), is that independent expert review combined with mandatory public consultation for all subsequent revisions provides equivalent integrity assurance to pre-approval consultation, while allowing first-of-kind methodologies to be developed with the rigor and speed required.

Where contentious issues arise during Material Revisions, an Independent Review Vote among SAB members and additional independent experts may be convened. The outcome is advisory; Ontoly retains final authority but must publicly disclose the vote outcome and, where departing from the majority, publish detailed scientific rationale ([Section 5.5](#)).

Methodology approval URL: *Methodology Development and Review Process v1.0, Sections 4.4, 5.3, 5.5, and 7*
: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00fceedf6709f346d96_Ontoly_Methodology_Development_and_Review_Process_v1.1.pdf

d) Confirm that your organisation has procedures to review, suspend and/or withdraw the use of methodologies where the carbon-crediting program has determined, based on evidence, that GHG emission reductions or removals are being overestimated or that additionality might not be ensured.

Yes

Methodology review/suspension policy/process URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00fceedf6709f346d96_Ontoly_Methodology_Development_and_Review_Process_v1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

[Section 9](#) of the Methodology Development and Review Process establishes explicit procedures for methodology suspension and withdrawal. Ontoly shall review and may suspend or withdraw any methodology where evidence demonstrates that: GHG emission reductions are being systematically overestimated; additionality might not be ensured for projects applying the methodology; the methodology is no longer aligned with current scientific understanding or best practice; or regulatory or market conditions have changed such that the methodology's assumptions are no longer valid.

Upon suspension, no new projects may be registered under that methodology. Existing projects registered under the suspended methodology may continue under the previously approved version for their current monitoring period, unless Ontoly determines — based on specific documented evidence — that continued use would result in material overestimation. Any such determination must be published with supporting rationale ([Section 9.2](#)).

Upon withdrawal, the methodology is permanently retired and no further projects may be registered under it. Ontoly publishes the rationale for any suspension or withdrawal decision ([Section 9.3](#)).

Where a project cannot conform to the calculation requirements of an approved methodology, it is ineligible for BERU issuance until the methodology is formally revised, a Methodology Clarification resolves the issue, or an alternative approved methodology is available ([Section 9.4](#)).

Suspension and withdrawal decisions are subject to appeal to the BERS Governance Board by any stakeholder

who believes the decision is inconsistent with the scientific evidence base or the procedures in this document ([Methodology Development and Review Process, Section 12; BERS Governance Board v1.2, Section 5.3](#)).

Methodology review/suspension URL: *Methodology Development and Review Process v1.0, Section 9*
https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00fceedf6709f346d96_Ontoly_Methodology_Development_and_Review_Process_v1.1.pdf

5.2 Requirements for Quantifying GHG Emission Reductions or Removals - CORSIA

Please respond to each question below.

1) Confirm that procedures are in place to issue carbon credits against realistic, defensible, and conservative baseline estimations of emissions.

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program establishes the baseline using 12–36 months of actual, historical, metered utility data from the period immediately preceding the Project Start Date — the most direct and defensible possible basis for a baseline, grounded in the building's own operational reality rather than modelled estimates or benchmarks (BERS Standard Section 3 Definitions; Existing Building Methodology Section 5.1.1). The baseline is established conservatively: where adjustments are required due to occupancy or weather conditions, standardized normalization procedures aligned with ASHRAE Guideline 14 and IPMVP Option C are applied with conservative assumptions (Existing Building Methodology Section 7.1).

Baseline URL: Existing Building Methodology v1.1, Section 5: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf

BERS Standard v1.2, Section 3: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

2) Confirm that procedures are in place to publicly disclose baselines and underlying assumptions.

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Project-specific baseline disclosures are made through two public mechanisms. The Project Description Report, published on the Ontoly Registry for every project that has achieved Validated status, includes a building-level baseline and intervention summary and information on how the methodology has been applied to determine the baseline (BERS Standard Section 5.3.6(e) and (j)). The standardized assumptions and parameters underlying all baseline calculations — emission factors, GWP values, energy price escalation rates, and discount rates — are published in the Public Parameter List v1.1, which is itself publicly available on the Ontoly website.

Baseline disclosure URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 5.3.6 https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Public Parameter List v1.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00b84714c43811713540_Ontoly_Public_Parameter_List_v1.1.pdf

3) Confirm that procedures are in place to ensure that methods of developing baselines, including modelling, benchmarking or the use of historical data, use assumptions, methodologies, and values do not over-estimate mitigation from an activity.

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Existing Building Methodology (Section 7.1) sets out a systematic approach to conservativeness applied across all baseline determinations. Key provisions that guard against overestimation include: the baseline is derived from actual metered historical utility data, not estimates or models; where fuel consumption cannot be monitored separately by type, the fuel source with the lowest CO₂e emission factor is applied (conservative by design); weather and occupancy normalization uses regression-based procedures with conservative assumptions aligned with ASHRAE Guideline 14 and IPMVP Option C; and where monitoring data is incomplete or unreliable, the most conservative available data is applied.

The Methodology Development and Review Process (Section 10.1) requires all approved BERS Methodologies to use conservative assumptions in light of uncertainty, and use comparable quantification approaches for both baseline and project activity emissions — preventing asymmetric treatment of the two scenarios. The SAB's formal objection mechanism provides an independent scientific check on any methodology provision that it determines fails to meet the conservativeness principle.

Conservative baseline URL: Existing Building Methodology v1.1, Sections 5.1.3 and 7.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf

Methodology Development and Review Process v1.0, Section 10.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00ffceadf6709f346d96_Ontoly_Methodology_Development_and_Review_Process_v1.1.pdf

4) Confirm that procedures are in place for activities to respond, as appropriate, to changing baseline conditions that were not expected at the time of registration.

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program addresses changing baseline conditions through two mechanisms. First, where occupancy or weather conditions during the monitoring period deviate from baseline conditions by more than defined thresholds, Ontoly automatically applies standardized normalization adjustments to the baseline parameters using the procedures in Existing Building Methodology [Appendix 2 and Section 5.4](#). Building Representatives are required to attest annually to occupancy and use changes through the Monitoring Report ([Section 7.4.1](#)).

Second, where a material change in building circumstances occurs — including a change of ownership, significant operational change, or installation of additional retrofit measures — the Building Representative must notify Ontoly through the Ontoly Portal ([BERS Standard Sections 7.6, 10.7.2](#)). Ontoly adjusts baselines and verifies actual building performance to ensure no double counting where subsequent retrofit projects are implemented within the same building during the crediting period ([BERS Standard Section 5.3.7](#)).

Changing baseline URL: Existing Building Methodology v1.1, Sections 5.4–5.5 and 7.4.3: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf

BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 5.3.7 and 7.6: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

5) List all emissions sectors (if possible, activity types) supported by your program that present a potential risk of material emissions leakage:

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program supports a single activity type: energy efficiency and fuel-switching retrofits in existing buildings (Sectoral Scope 03). The programme's analysis of leakage risk by type is set out in BERS Standard [Section 11](#) and Existing Building Methodology [Section 7.1](#):

- Equipment displacement leakage — the only material leakage risk identified under Version 1.0. If displaced retrofit equipment (e.g., a replaced gas boiler) is resold or redeployed at another facility rather than retired, GHG emissions would shift outside the project boundary without corresponding reduction credit. This risk is directly addressed through mandatory attestation of no resale (see Q7 below).
- Activity-shifting leakage — assessed as inherently captured. Because BERUs are issued based on actual metered utility performance at the project boundary, any shift of energy-consuming activities beyond the boundary would be reflected in the monitored data, reducing or eliminating BERU issuance for that period ([BERS Standard Section 11.1.6](#)).
- Market leakage — assessed as not applicable. There is no evidence that building retrofits displace economic activity to other locations or reduce the supply of a traded commodity, unlike forestry or land-use projects ([Section 11.1.7](#)).
- Ecological leakage — assessed as not applicable. Building retrofits involve no land-use changes, deforestation, or ecosystem disturbance ([Section 11.1.8](#)).

Scope 3 emissions — excluded from the project boundary as a conservative design choice. Lifecycle emissions associated with retrofit equipment manufacture and disposal are excluded; this exclusion does not result in overestimation of credited reductions ([Section 11.1.5](#)).

Leakage risk URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 11: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

6) Confirm that measures are in place to assess incidences of material leakage of emissions that may result from the implementation of a mitigation activity.

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

[files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a04ba7b00c27dc827b6b2f9_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.1.pdf](https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a04ba7b00c27dc827b6b2f9_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.1.pdf)

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Equipment displacement leakage — the only material leakage risk identified — is assessed through mandatory attestation. Building Representatives must attest in each Annual Monitoring Report that all equipment replaced or displaced by the retrofit has been permanently retired or disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner and has not been resold, relocated, or redeployed for continued operational use at another facility ([BERS Standard Section 11.1.4](#); [Existing Building Methodology Section 8.3.1](#)).

Activity-shifting leakage is assessed automatically through the metered data monitoring framework — any shift in consumption outside the project boundary is captured in the building's utility data ([BERS Standard Section 11.1.6](#)).

Leakage assessment URL: *BERS Standard v1.2, Section 11.1.4:* https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Existing Building Methodology v1.1, Section 8.3.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf

7) Confirm that provisions are in place to mitigate the risk of material leakage from activities that pose a risk of leakage when implemented at the project, national, or on an interim basis on a subnational level.

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Equipment displacement leakage risk is mitigated through the mandatory leakage prevention attestation described in Q6 — the legal obligation on Building Representatives to permanently retire displaced equipment, combined with Ontoly's right to request disposal evidence and impose corrective action for non-compliance ([BERS Standard Section 11.1.4](#)). The BERS Standard explicitly prohibits reversals of physical retrofit measures ([Section 11.1.2](#)). Where a measure is reversed, the change in utility performance would be detected through annual metered monitoring, resulting in reduced or zero BERU issuance for the affected period.

Market and ecological leakage are not applicable to building retrofit projects ([Sections 11.1.7–11.1.8](#)). Activity-shifting leakage is inherently mitigated by the metered performance-based quantification framework ([Section 11.1.6](#)). Scope 3 emissions from equipment manufacture are excluded from the project boundary as a conservative design choice ([Section 11.1.5](#)).

Leakage mitigation URL: *BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 11.1.2–11.1.8:* https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

8) Confirm that procedures are in place requiring activities to monitor identified material leakage.

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Equipment displacement leakage is monitored through the annual mandatory leakage prevention attestation included in every Annual Monitoring Report ([BERS Standard Section 7.4.1](#); [Existing Building Methodology Section 8.3.1](#)). This attestation must be made for every monitoring period throughout the full crediting period. Activity-shifting leakage is monitored continuously through the annual metered utility data submission, which inherently captures any shifts in energy consumption within and around the project boundary.

Leakage monitoring URL: *BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 7.4.1 and 11:* https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Existing Building Methodology v1.1, Section 8.3.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf

9) Confirm that procedures are in place requiring activities to deduct emissions from any identified material leakage that reduces mitigation benefits.

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Where equipment displacement leakage is identified — through attestation failure, evidence of resale, or Verification Body findings — Ontoly may apply corrective action including denial of BERU issuance for the affected monitoring period and cancellation of previously issued BERUs where material misrepresentation is involved ([BERS Standard Section 16: Corrective Actions Policy Sections 4.3, 6.3](#)). Because the BERS Program issues BERUs based on actual measured performance, activity-shifting leakage is automatically deducted — any energy consumption that shifts outside the building boundary results in lower measured savings and therefore fewer BERUs issued.

Leakage deduction URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 11.1.3, 11.1.6, and 16: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Corrective Actions Policy, Section 6.3: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a73578ca1355d232c815e7d_Corrective%20Actions%20Policy.pdf

5.2 Requirements for Quantifying GHG Emission Reductions or Removals

a) In addition to CORSIA requirements*, confirm that your organisation does:

*CORSIA "Eligibility Criterion", "Carbon offset credits must be based on a realistic and credible baseline" and "Carbon offset credits must be quantified, monitored, reported and verified"

1) clearly define a carbon credit as one metric tonne of CO₂ equivalent of GHG emission reductions or removals.

Yes

Carbon Credit definition URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

A BERU is defined in BERS Standard [Section 14.11](#) as a unique, serialized, and transferable digital unit representing one metric tonne of certified tCO₂e emission reductions achieved by a registered BERS Project and verified in accordance with the BERS Standard. This definition is repeated in the BERS Program's public-facing Definitions ([Section 3](#)) and is the foundational unit of the programme. Each BERU is quantified using 100-year GWP values from the latest IPCC Assessment Report to convert all GHG species to CO₂ equivalence.

Carbon credit definition URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 3 and 9.1.2: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

2) disclose the global warming potential (GWP) values used to calculate the CO₂ equivalence.

Yes

GWP values used URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00b84714c43811713540_Ontoly_Public_Parameter_List_v1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

GWP values are publicly disclosed in the Ontoly Public Parameter List v1.1 ([Section 3](#)). The BERS Program uses 100-year GWP values (GWP-100) from the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), Working Group I, Chapter 7, Table 7.15, consistent with UNFCCC reporting guidelines and CORSIA Emissions Unit Eligibility Criteria. Current values: CO₂ = 1; CH₄ = 29.8; N₂O = 273 ([Public Parameter List, Section 3.2](#)). GWP values are subject to annual review by the contracted Verification Body and will be updated within twelve months of a new IPCC Assessment Report.

GWP disclosure URL: Public Parameter List v1.1, Section 3: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00b84714c43811713540_Ontoly_Public_Parameter_List_v1.1.pdf
BERS Standard v1.2, Section 9.1.3: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

3) define the length of crediting periods, including the total length of combined crediting periods.

Yes

Definition for length of crediting periods URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The standard crediting period for a BERS project is a maximum of ten years, commencing on the Project End Date (the date all retrofit measures are complete and fully operational) ([BERS Standard Section 10.7.1](#); [Public Parameter List Section 6](#)). Version 1.0 does not provide for crediting period renewal, meaning the maximum total crediting period per project is ten years. Where a building implements more than one project within a ten-year period, net crediting is restricted to the crediting period of the first registered project unless the subsequent project establishes a new, independently verified baseline ([BERS Standard Section 5.3.7](#)).

Crediting period URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 10.7: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Public Parameter List v1.1, Section 6: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00b84714c43811713540_Ontoly_Public_Parameter_List_v1.1.pdf

4) provide guidance on steps and requirements for renewal of the crediting periods. Any renewal of the crediting period shall include a reassessment of the baseline scenario, including whether the conditions and barriers at the start of the mitigation activity still prevail, and an update of relevant parameters used to calculate emissions reductions and removals.

Yes

Guidance on crediting period renewal URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

As documented in [BERS Standard Section 10.71](#) and the [Public Parameter List Section 6](#), Version 1.0 does not provide for crediting period renewal. The rationale is consistent with that described in Criterion 4.1 Q11: a building energy retrofit is a one-time capital investment with a fixed baseline established from actual historical utility data. The ten-year crediting period is proportionate to typical equipment useful lives (15–25 years per the Public Parameter List) and sufficient to capture the full GHG benefits of the retrofit without requiring baseline reassessment.

Crediting period URL: [BERS Standard v1.2, Section 10.71: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf](#)

5) assess the overall uncertainty of emission reductions or removals associated with an activity type and/or require that the mitigation activity proponent assess the overall uncertainty in accordance with an approved methodology. In estimating overall uncertainty all causes of uncertainty shall be considered, including assumptions (e.g., baseline scenario), estimation equations or models, parameters (e.g., representativeness of default values), and measurements (e.g., the accuracy of measurement methods). The overall uncertainty shall be assessed as the combined uncertainty from individual causes.

Yes

Assessment of uncertainty URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The [Existing Building Methodology Section 7.2](#) establishes the overall uncertainty assessment framework, aligned with ICVCM requirements. Overall uncertainty is assessed considering all causes: (a) assumptions including the baseline scenario; (b) estimation equations or models; (c) parameters such as representativeness of default values; and (d) measurements such as accuracy of utility metering. The overall uncertainty is assessed as the combined uncertainty from individual causes ([Section 7.2.1](#)).

The methodology's assessment concludes that quantified emission reductions from BERS projects are not likely to be overestimated taking into account overall uncertainty, and that very significant overestimation is very unlikely — consistent with ICVCM quantification requirements ([Section 7.2.2](#)). This assessment is supported by three structural features that reduce uncertainty: (1) quantification is based on actual metered utility data rather than models or estimates; (2) all calculations are performed centrally by Ontoly using standardized formulas; and (3) conservative assumptions are applied systematically throughout.

In addition, Ontoly assigns a Data Quality Score (1–3) to each project based on the quality and completeness of input data: Score 3 (Actual Data, equivalent to PCAF Score 1) for projects with full metered utility bills; Score 2 (Partially Estimated) where minor data gaps exist; and Score 1 (Primarily Estimated) where significant estimation is required. This scoring provides transparent, project-level data quality disclosure and is published on the Ontoly Registry for every project that has achieved Validated status.

Uncertainty assessment URL: [Existing Building Methodology v1.1, Section 7.2: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf](#)

6) have a systematic approach to ensuring the conservativeness of quantification methodologies it approves for use.

Yes

Conservativeness provisions/processes URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program applies a systematic, multi-layer conservativeness framework documented across the Existing Building Methodology ([Section 7.1](#)), [BERS Standard \(Section 1.3.1\)](#), and [Methodology Development and Review Process \(Section 10\)](#):

- Conservative emission factors: Where fuel consumption cannot be monitored by type separately, the lowest CO₂e emission factor is applied.
- Conservative baseline: Derived from actual metered historical data; normalization adjustments use conservative assumptions.
- Weather and occupancy normalization: ASHRAE Guideline 14 and IPMVP Option C regression-based approach isolates retrofit impacts from external variability.
- Fixed grid emission factors: The electricity grid emission factor is fixed at baseline registration, preventing any credit for grid decarbonization ([BERS Standard Section 12.1.4](#)).
- Conservative rounding: Where fractional BERUs result, values are rounded down (truncated) in accordance with the conservativeness principle ([V&V Standard Section 10.5.2](#)).
- Conservative data gap treatment: Where monitoring data is incomplete or unreliable, the most conservative available data is applied or credited emission reductions are reduced proportionally ([Existing Building Methodology Section 7.4.3](#)).

- Comparable quantification approaches: Identical approaches are applied to both baseline and project emissions — asymmetric treatment of the two scenarios is prohibited (Methodology Development and Review Process Section 10.1). SAB oversight: The Scientific Advisory Board may issue Formal Objections to any methodology provision determined to fail the conservativeness principle, creating an independent scientific check ([Methodology Development and Review Process Section 4.2.5](#)).

Conservativeness URL: Existing Building Methodology v1.1, Section 7.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf

Methodology Development and Review Process v1.0, Section 10: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00ffceadf6709f346d96_Ontoly_Methodology_Development_and_Review_Process_v1.1.pdf

BERS Standard v1.2, Section 1.3.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

7) require in its program documents that existing government policies and legal requirements that lower GHG emissions (e.g., feed-in tariffs for renewable energy, minimum product efficiency standards, air quality requirements, or carbon taxes) be included when determining the baseline emissions. Your organisation may have provisions to consider the level of enforcement of such policies and legal requirements as well as any associated grace periods.

Yes

Policy and legal provisions URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Existing government policies and legal requirements are addressed through the Regulatory Surplus Assessment ([BERS Standard Section 10.1](#)) and the baseline establishment methodology. The Regulatory Surplus Assessment, conducted using Ontoly's Jurisdictional Regulatory Model, evaluates all legally binding building codes, minimum efficiency standards, building performance standards, and climate regulations applicable to the project jurisdiction — ensuring that only emission reductions beyond existing regulatory requirements are eligible for crediting. The Regulatory Surplus Assessment screens applicable regulations to confirm it is very unlikely the project's reductions are required by law as of the assessment date — a binary pass/fail test. Identified regulatory risks are flagged, disclosed on the Registry, and monitored over time without affecting BERUs.

For the baseline itself, the Existing Building Methodology ([Section 5.1.3](#)) requires the baseline to be established in a conservative manner, explicitly including existing government policies and legal requirements in determining the baseline scenario. This aligns with ICVCM requirements. The regulatory surplus evaluation is conducted once, fixed to legislation legally binding as of January 1 of the year the Preliminary Ex-Ante BERU Assessment Report is requested; the baseline and crediting period similarly reflect conditions prevailing at the Project Start Date.

5.3 Ex-Post Determination of Emission Reductions or Removals

Please respond to each question below.

a) Carbon credits that are issued ex-ante are not CCP eligible. If your organisation supports both ex-ante and ex-post issuance, confirm it has procedures in place to transparently identify units that are issued ex-post and are thus eligible under the ICVCM.

Yes

Ex-ante and ex-post credit identification procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a04ba13ce02f57ff34d1672_BERS_Standard_Version_1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program issues BERUs exclusively on an ex-post basis following successful independent verification — no ex-ante BERU issuance is permitted under any circumstances ([BERS Standard Sections 5.71 and 14.1.2](#)). All BERUs in the Ontoly Registry are therefore by definition ex-post and CCP-eligible from an issuance-basis perspective. This identification mechanism is not required as the distinction between ex-ante and ex-post units does not arise in the BERS Program. The exclusively ex-post nature of the programme is a foundational design principle.

Ex-post issuance URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 5.71 and 14.1.2: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

6.1 No Double Issuance (Double Registration)

a) Confirm your organisation has provisions in place to:

1) prevent the registration of any mitigation activity that has been registered under another carbon-crediting program and is still active under that program; and

Yes

No double registration procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program prohibits dual registration through two interlocking mechanisms.

First, projects that are already registered or claiming reductions under another carbon-crediting program or compliance market are explicitly excluded from BERS eligibility under Version 1.0 ([BERS Standard Section 4.6 — Excluded Project Activities](#)). This categorical exclusion prevents dual registration at the point of project intake.

Second, Ontoly screens all project submissions against publicly available carbon credit registries at the time of registration to identify potential overlapping claims. Where Ontoly identifies that a project's GHG accounting boundary overlaps with another project registered under the same or another carbon-crediting program, Ontoly shall not register the project or issue BERUs for the overlapping emission reductions unless the Building Representative provides evidence that credits issued under the other program have been cancelled ([BERS Standard Section 12.1.5](#)).

The Building Representative is additionally required to attest at registration — and reconfirm annually in each Monitoring Report — that the project does not and will not issue carbon credits for GHG emission reductions where another program has issued credits for the same reductions and has not cancelled those credits ([BERS Standard Section 12.1.2](#)). This ongoing attestation obligation ensures that dual registration that may arise after initial registration is also captured and prohibited throughout the crediting period.

No double registration URL: *BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 4.6, 12.1.2, and 12.1.5*; https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

2) ensure that it does not issue carbon credits for GHG emission reductions or removals where another program has issued credits to the same mitigation activity and/or for the same GHG emission reductions or removals and has not cancelled those credits for the purpose of avoiding double issuance.

Yes

No double issuance procedures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

This is addressed through the combination of provisions described in a.1 above, together with three additional mechanisms covering the full scope of double issuance risk.

The Building Representative's attestation ([BERS Standard Section 12.1.2](#)) explicitly covers the scenario where another program has issued credits for the same reductions: the attestation requires confirmation that no other program has issued credits for the same GHG emission reductions unless those credits have been cancelled. This attestation is made at registration and reconfirmed annually for the full crediting period.

The Building Representative must also attest, to the best of their knowledge, that no utility provider, government agency, or other program is claiming credit for the same operational GHG emission reductions generated by the retrofit activity ([BERS Standard Section 12.1.3](#)). This extends the double issuance prohibition beyond formal carbon credit programs to include utility green programs, government reporting schemes, and other frameworks that might claim the same reductions.

BERUs are additionally prohibited from being issued where units related to the same climate impacts are traded in other environmental markets or accounting frameworks — including Renewable Energy Certificates. Where RECs are generated by the same project activity, BERUs may only be issued for the portion of GHG emission reductions not already claimed through those RECs ([BERS Standard Section 12.4.1](#)). BERUs shall not simultaneously receive credit under any other carbon-crediting program, renewable energy certificate program, or compliance scheme for the same GHG emission reductions ([Section 12.4.2](#)).

No double issuance URL: *BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 12.1.1–12.1.5 and 12.4.1*; https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

6.2 No Double Use

Please respond to each question below.

a) Confirm your organisation has registry provisions that prevent the further transfer, retirement or cancellation of a carbon credit once it has been cancelled or retired.

Yes

No Double Use provisions URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Cancellation and retirement of a BERU is permanent, final, and irreversible. Retirement finalises the status of the unit: the tonne it represents cannot be used again by the account holder, the beneficiary, or any other party. The same applies on cancellation.

BERS Section 15.2.1 defines registry statuses and defines:

- 'Cancelled': "Project has been permanently removed from BERS Program eligibility. Any previously issued BERUs may be subject to cancellation at Ontoly's sole discretion. Cancelled projects shall not be reinstated."
- 'Retired': All BERUs associated with this project have been permanently and irreversibly removed from circulation by a registered Buyer Account Holder through the Ontoly Portal. Retirement is the sole mechanism through which a beneficiary may make environmental claims associated with the underlying emission reductions. Retired BERUs cannot be reversed, re-issued, or re-credited.

Retired BERUs are assigned the status "Retired" in the Ontoly Registry and cannot be reversed, re-issued, or re-credited (**BERS Standard Section 5.9.4**); the Registry includes controls preventing any further transfer, retirement, or cancellation once a BERU has been cancelled or retired (**Section 12.2.1**). Cancelled BERUs are moved to the programme's cancellation account and are no longer tradable (**Corrective Actions Policy Section 12.1**).

Finality of retirement is enforced structurally through our software restrictions via the Ontoly Portal. Transfer and retirement operations can only be complete for verified, issued BERU credits with an active status. When a retirement action occurs the new account balance is computed by subtracting the quantity from the active credit pool, thus a retired BERU is no longer part of the eligible active pool for any subsequent transaction; the Registry contains no un-retire, edit, or delete function; and the transaction ledger is auditable the entire way through. This ensures that action requests cannot be edited or deleted.

Every BERU carries a unique serial number within its issuance batch, and each retirement permanently records the exact serial range retired together with the beneficiary, purpose, country, and date. Retirements are displayed publicly on the Ontoly Registry (Section 12.3.1), so any retired BERU can be uniquely identified and traced back to the project against which it was issued.

Further detail on these registry controls is available to the Secretariat on request. **We are happy to offer a demo of BERU retirement functionality via the Ontoly Portal to clarify and demystify any of this functionality.**

No double use URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 5.9.4, 12.2.1, and 12.3.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Corrective Actions Policy, Section 12.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a73578ca1355d232c815e7d_Corrective%20Actions%20Policy.pdf

C - Sustainable Development

7.1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks - CORSIA

CORSIA requirements related to Safeguards System and Sustainable Development criteria

1) Confirm that your programme has safeguards in place to address:

- environmental risks
- social risks

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program applies a mandatory compliance with all BERS Standard safeguard requirements established in BERS Standard [Section 13](#).

Further, the programme mandates an safeguard attestation process, established in BERS Standard [Section 13](#), that addresses both environmental and social risks associated with building retrofit projects. Building Representatives must complete and submit the Data Quality & Safeguard Attestation Form at registration and with each annual Monitoring Report, declaring that the project complies with all applicable laws and regulations and has assessed and, where applicable, mitigated risks across all defined safeguard categories: labour rights, resource efficiency, pollution prevention, land acquisition and involuntary resettlement, biodiversity, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, human rights, gender equality, stakeholder consideration, and cultural heritage protection ([BERS Standard Sections 13.2.1–13.3.1](#)).

Where material risks are identified, Building Representatives must upload supporting documentation and describe mitigation measures commensurate with the severity of identified risks in each Monitoring Report ([BERS Standard Section 13.3.1](#)). Where no risks are triggered, attestation alone is sufficient. This framework is proportionate to the low-risk profile of building retrofit projects on private property, where the potential for adverse public environmental or social impacts is substantially lower than in sectors involving land-use change, community displacement, or large-scale industrial activity.

Safeguards URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

2) Confirm that your program uses sustainable development criteria

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program incorporates sustainable development criteria at both the project level and the programme level. At the project level, every project is required to report its contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals ([BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.4.1](#)): SDG 13 (Taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) automatically applies to all projects, as by definition they are reducing emissions in order to apply for eligibility under our program. All other SDGs the Building Representative must report contributions — describing consistency with the SDG objectives and national sustainable development priorities of the host country — or affirmatively state that no other SDGs apply.

Projects may additionally disclose how monetary project benefits are shared with building owners, building tenants, or other stakeholders (BERS Standard [Section 13.4.1](#)).

At the programme level, BERS Standard [Section 13.5](#) requires all new or revised methodologies to include an assessment of the project's compatibility with the net zero transition by reference to the host country's net zero objectives. The inherent SDG contributions of building energy retrofits — reduced energy consumption (SDG 7), improved occupant health and comfort (SDG 3), and climate action (SDG 13) — are documented in BERS Standard [Section 15.4.3.4](#).

SDG criteria URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 13.4–13.5 and 15.4.3.4: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

3) Confirm that your program has provisions for monitoring, reporting and verification in accordance with these criteria

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Safeguard compliance is monitored, reported, and verified on an annual basis through the following mechanisms. The mandatory Data Quality & Safeguard Attestation Form must be completed and submitted at registration and with every Annual Monitoring Report, providing annual monitoring of safeguard compliance throughout the crediting period ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1](#)).

Where material risks are identified, mitigation measures must be reported in each Monitoring Report with supporting documentation ([Section 13.3.1](#)). A safeguard summary drawn from the attestation is publicly disclosed in the Project Description Report on the Ontoly Registry for every project that has achieved Validated status ([Section 5.3.6\(h\)](#)). The contracted Validation and Verification Body reviews safeguard attestations as part of mandatory validation of the project design and its annual verification scope ([Validation and Verification Standard, 10.2.1](#)).

Safeguard monitoring URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 5.3.6(h), 13.2.1, and 13.3.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

BERS Validation and Verification Standard v1.1, Section 10.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1.1.pdf

7.1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks

Please respond to each question below.

a) In addition to CORSIA requirements relating to Safeguards System and Sustainable Development Criteria, confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to:

1) abide by national and local laws, objectives, programs and regulations and where relevant, international conventions and agreements.

- https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf
- <https://www.ohchr.org/en/what-are-human-rights/international-bill-human-rights>

Yes

Provisions to abide by national and local laws URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The mandatory Safeguard Attestation Form requires Building Representatives to declare that the project complies with all applicable local, provincial/state, national, and international laws and conventions ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1\(a\)](#)). This obligation covers compliance with applicable international human rights instruments including the International Bill of Human Rights and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples where relevant to circumstances. This declaration is made at registration and reconfirmed annually in each Monitoring Report.

Legal compliance URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.2.1(a): https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Note: The BERS Program's "validated design documents" include: (a) the Data Quality & Safeguard Attestation Form, a legally binding declaration completed by the Building Representative at registration and reconfirmed annually; (b) the Project Description Report, generated by Ontoly and published on the Ontoly Registry for every project that has achieved Validated status ([BERS Standard Section 5.3.6](#)) contains the attestation result. Together, these documents, in conjunction with BERS Standard requirements, confirm safeguard compliance in a documented, verifiable form prior to the point of credit issuance.

2) assess associated risks of negative environmental and social impacts with regard to the safeguards contained in criteria 7.2 to 7.8 (inclusive), taking into account the scope and scale of the mitigation activity.

Yes

Assessment of negative environmental and social impacts policy/processes URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Safeguard Attestation Form requires Building Representatives to assess risks of negative environmental and social impacts across all safeguard categories defined in BERS Standard [Section 13.2.1\(b\)](#) — which map directly to Criteria 7.2–7.8. This assessment is required at project registration via the Ontoly Portal and annually throughout the crediting period.

Ontoly has completed a consultation and engaged industry professionals who have confirmed that this Safeguard Attestation framework is proportionate to the scope and scale of the activities that Ontoly certifies. This is because building retrofit projects located on private property carry lower risk for environmental or social harms.

Risk assessment URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 13.2.1 and 13.3.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

3) ensures FPIC processes for IPs and LCs, where applicable; and conduct stakeholder consultations, including local stakeholders as part of project design and implementation in a manner that is inclusive, culturally appropriate, and respectful of local knowledge, take these consultations into account and respond to local stakeholders' views.

Yes

FPIC IPs and LCs provisions URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Where a building retrofit project directly or indirectly impacts Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, the Safeguard Attestation Form requires the Building Representative to confirm that the project has, where relevant to circumstances, applied the Free, Prior and Informed Consent process; has identified rights-holders possibly affected, including customary rights holders; and has not forced eviction or displacement of IPs & LCs (BERS Standard Section 13.2.1 — IPs & LCs safeguard). The "where relevant to circumstances" qualifier is proportionate: the vast majority of BERS projects — energy retrofits within existing buildings on private property in urban and suburban settings — do not impact Indigenous territories or local community resources.

FPIC and stakeholder consultation URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

b) Where, pursuant to 7.1 a) 2), the mitigation activity proponents have assessed that the mitigation activity poses risks of negative environmental and/or social impacts with regard to any of criteria 7.2 - 7.8 (inclusive) confirm your organisation requires the mitigation activity proponents to:

1) include measures, commensurate with the identified risks, to minimise and address such negative environmental and/or social impacts, in validated design documents prior to registration.

Yes

Assessment of mitigation requirements URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Where the Building Representative's safeguard assessment identifies material risks, the Data Quality & Safeguard Attestation Form requires disclosure of those risks and of the measures implemented to address them, commensurate with the severity of the risks, together with supporting documentation (BERS Standard Sections 13.2.1 and 13.3.1). The Form is completed at project intake, to be assessed at validation, and resubmitted with each Annual Monitoring Report thereafter.

These disclosures are independently assessed rather than accepted as filed. Validation of the project design expressly includes the environmental and social safeguard attestations (BERS Standard Section 6.3.4(d); V&V Standard Section 7.1.2), and a positive validation conclusion may be issued only after all material non-conformities and clarification requests have been resolved to the Validation Body's satisfaction (V&V Standard Section 7.5.2). At each annual verification, the Verification Body must confirm that the Attestation Form has been completed and that any disclosed risks have corresponding mitigation measures (V&V Standard Section 10.2.1).

The Project Description Report — the public BERS mitigation activity design document — is generated and published on the Ontoly Registry on attainment of Validated status, and includes a safeguards summary drawn from the attestation recording identified risks and the mitigation measures applied (Section 5.3.6(h)).

As set out in the note on validated design documents above, a project cannot enter a Pre-Purchase Agreement before attaining Validated status (Section 5.4.1). Issuance is a separate and later gate — BERUs are issued exclusively ex-post, following a full annual monitoring period and a positive Verification Statement from an accredited Verification Body (Section 5.7.1). Risks and mitigation measures are therefore documented and independently assessed prior to registration and published at the point of registration, and re-confirmed at each verification cycle before any credit is issued.

Mitigation measures URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 5.3.6(h) and 13.3.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

2) include information on the measures implemented pursuant to 1), commensurate with the identified risks in the monitoring report.

Yes

Measures implemented commensurate with identified risks URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Where material risks were identified at registration, the Building Representative must include information on the measures implemented to address those risks through project intake documentation requested by Ontoly. This same process is complete for each subsequent Annual Monitoring Report for the duration of the crediting period ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1](#)). The annual Safeguard Attestation reconfirms compliance with all safeguard categories and flags any new or changed materials risks. This ongoing monitoring obligation ensures that safeguard compliance is not a one-time assessment but a continuous requirement verified throughout the project's life.

Monitoring measures URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

7.2 Labour Rights and Working Conditions

Please respond to each question below.

a) Confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity:
1) provides safe and healthy working conditions for employees.

Yes

Health & safety policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The mandatory Safeguard Attestation Form requires Building Representatives to confirm that the project provides safe and healthy working conditions for all employees involved in the retrofit activity, in compliance with applicable occupational health and safety laws ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1 — Labour Rights and Working Conditions safeguard, item \(1\)](#)).

Health and safety URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

2) provides fair treatment of all employees, avoiding discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities.

Yes

Fair treatment policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Safeguard Attestation Form requires Building Representatives to confirm that the project provides fair treatment of all employees, avoids discrimination, and ensures equal opportunities in the context of employment ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1 — Labour Rights and Working Conditions safeguard, item \(2\)](#)).

Fair treatment URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

3) prohibits the use of forced labour, child labour, or trafficked persons, and protects contracted workers employed by third parties.

Yes

Measured to protect against forced/child/trafficked labour URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Safeguard Attestation Form requires Building Representatives to confirm that the project prohibits the use of forced labour, child labour, or trafficked persons, and protects contracted workers employed by third parties engaged in the retrofit activity ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1 — Labour Rights and Working Conditions safeguard, item \(3\)](#)).

Forced/child/trafficked labour URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

b) Confirm your organisation requires that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents that the mitigation activity adheres to the above safeguards or that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1).

Yes

Adherence to safeguards provisions URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

As established in Criterion 7.1, Ontoly's equivalent of a validated design document is the Safeguard Attestation Form combined with the Project Description Report. The Attestation Form is completed at registration — the design and listing stage — and includes confirmation of all three labour rights safeguard elements above as mandatory declarations. Where material labour rights risks are identified, the Building Representative must describe mitigation measures commensurate with the severity of those risks. The safeguard summary is publicly disclosed in the Project Description Report on the Ontoly Registry for every project that has achieved Validated status ([BERS Standard Section 5.3.6\(h\)](#)).

Safeguard adherence URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 5.3.6(h) and 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

7.3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention

Please respond to each question below.

a) Your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity minimises:

1. pollutant emissions to air
2. pollutant discharges to water, noise and vibration
3. generation of waste and release of hazardous materials, chemical pesticides and fertilisers

Yes

Pollution and hazardous materials policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Safeguard Attestation Form requires Building Representatives to confirm that the project minimises: (1) pollutant emissions to air; (2) pollutant discharges to water, noise, and vibration; and (3) generation of waste and release of hazardous materials and chemicals. Note: chemical pesticides and fertilisers are not applicable to building retrofit projects. The attestation covers the relevant elements — waste minimisation and hazardous material management during construction and equipment installation phases ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1](#)).

Pollution and hazardous materials policy URL: *BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.2.1* https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

b) Confirm your organisation requires that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents:

1. whether the mitigation activity results in pollutant emissions to air, pollutant discharges to water, noise and vibration, the generation of waste, the release of hazardous materials, chemical pesticides and fertilisers.
2. where the mitigation activity results in any of the impacts listed in 1) above, that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1).

Yes

Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Safeguard Attestation Form completed at registration requires confirmation of (1) whether pollution and resource efficiency risks exist and (2) where they do, that mitigation measures commensurate with the identified risks have been implemented ([BERS Standard Section 13.3.1](#)). As noted in Criterion 7.1, Ontoly's equivalent of a validated design document is the Safeguard Attestation Form combined with the Project Description Report. The safeguard summary is publicly disclosed in the Project Description Report on the Ontoly Registry for every project that has achieved Validated status ([BERS Standard Section 5.3.6\(h\)](#)).

Resource efficiency and pollution prevention URL: *BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 5.3.6(h), 13.2.1, and 13.3.1* https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

7.4 Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement

Please respond to each question below.

a) Confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity avoids, or where this is not feasible, minimises forced physical and/or economic displacement.

Yes

Avoidance of forced physical and/or economic displacement policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Safeguard Attestation Form requires Building Representatives to confirm that the project avoids, or where not feasible minimises, forced physical and/or economic displacement ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1 — Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement safeguard](#)). In practice, building retrofit projects are carried out within the physical envelope of existing buildings on private property owned by the Building Owner and do not involve land acquisition, community displacement, or restriction of access to public resources. The risk of involuntary resettlement or economic displacement is structurally negligible for this activity type.

Avoidance of displacement URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

b) Confirm your organisation requires that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents:

- whether the mitigation activity results in forced physical and/or economic displacement;
- where the mitigation activity results in the impacts listed in 1) above, that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1)

Yes

Physical and Economic Displacement policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Safeguard Attestation Form completed at registration requires confirmation of (1) whether the project results in any forced physical or economic displacement and (2) where it does, that mitigation measures have been put in place ([BERS Standard Section 13.3.1](#)). The safeguard summary is publicly disclosed in the Project Description Report on the Ontoly Registry for every project that has achieved Validated status ([BERS Standard Section 5.3.6\(h\)](#)).

Physical and economic displacement URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 5.3.6(h), 13.2.1, and 13.3.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

7.5 Biodiversity Conservation

Please respond to each question below.

a) Confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity:
1) avoids, or where this is not feasible, minimises negative impacts on terrestrial and marine biodiversity and ecosystems.

Yes

Terrestrial and marine biodiversity mitigation policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Safeguard Attestation Form requires Building Representatives to confirm compliance with the Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources safeguard. Building retrofits within existing buildings on private urban or suburban property do not involve land-use change, habitat disturbance, or engagement with natural ecosystems — terrestrial or marine biodiversity risks are structurally absent from this activity type. Attestation is proportionate to this near-zero risk profile ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1](#)).

Biodiversity URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

2) protects the habitats of rare, threatened, and endangered species, including areas needed for habitat connectivity.

Yes

Endangered species policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Safeguard Attestation Form requires confirmation that the project has no adverse effect on cultural or heritage assets, and the broader safeguard framework covers impacts on living natural resources ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1](#)). For building retrofit projects, threats to species habitats are not a foreseeable risk given the confined, built-environment scope of activities. Where an atypical project circumstance exists, the attestation-based risk identification mechanism would capture it.

Endangered species URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

3) does not convert natural forests, grasslands, wetlands, or high conservation value habitats.

Yes

Preservation of high conservation value habitats policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

BERS projects are by definition retrofits of existing buildings — no land conversion, deforestation, or habitat change is involved in or permitted by the programme. BERS Standard [Section 4.1.1](#) limits eligible activities to retrofit projects in existing large buildings, and [Section 2.1.4](#) of the Existing Building Methodology explicitly requires that the incumbent technology be retired — not that land be converted. Habitat conversion is structurally impossible under the BERS activity type.

Habitat conversion URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 4.1.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

4) minimises soil degradation and soil erosion.

Yes

Soil degradation and soil erosion policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Building retrofit projects are confined to the interior and building envelope of existing structures. No soil excavation, grading, or land disturbance is involved in or required by eligible BERS activities. Where any minor construction activity is associated with a specific project, the Safeguard Attestation Form's pollution prevention safeguard covers waste and hazardous material management. Soil degradation and erosion risks are structurally negligible for this activity type.

Soil degradation URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

5) minimises water consumption and stress in the mitigation activity.

Yes

Water conservation policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Safeguard Attestation Form requires Building Representatives to confirm that the project minimises water consumption and stress through the project activity ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1 — Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources safeguard](#)). Building energy retrofits frequently include water conservation measures as part of their scope and inherently reduce the overall resource burden on building systems.

Water conservation URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

b) Confirm your organisation requires that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents:

1. whether the mitigation activity has negative impacts on terrestrial and marine biodiversity and ecosystems, on habitats of rare, threatened, and endangered species, on soil degradation and soil erosion, and on water consumption and water stress.
2. where the mitigation activity results in any of the impacts listed in 1) above, that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1).

Yes

Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

1) The Safeguard Attestation Form requires Building Representatives to confirm compliance with the Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources safeguard. Building retrofits within existing buildings on private urban or suburban property do not involve land-use change, habitat disturbance, or engagement with natural ecosystems — terrestrial or marine biodiversity risks are structurally absent from this activity type. Attestation is proportionate to this near-zero risk profile ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1](#)).

2) The Safeguard Attestation Form requires confirmation that the project has no adverse effect on cultural or heritage assets, and the broader safeguard framework covers impacts on living natural resources ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1](#)). For building retrofit projects, threats to species habitats are not a foreseeable risk given the confined, built-environment scope of activities. Where an atypical project circumstance exists, the attestation-based risk identification mechanism would capture it.

7.6 Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and Cultural Heritage

Please respond to each question below.

a) Where the mitigation activity directly or indirectly impacts IPs & LCs, including livelihoods, ancestral knowledge and cultural heritage, confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity:

1) recognises, respects and promotes the protection of the rights of IPs & LCs in line with applicable international human rights law, and the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) and ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.

Yes

Protection of rights of IPs & LCs URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Where the project directly or indirectly impacts IPs & LCs, the Safeguard Attestation Form requires confirmation that the project recognises, respects, and promotes the protection of the rights of IPs & LCs in line with applicable international human rights law, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1 — IPs & LCs safeguard, item \(1\)](#)).

IPs & LCs rights URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

2) identifies the rights-holders possibly affected by the mitigation activity (including customary rights of local rights holders).

Yes

Identification of rights-holders provisions URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Where the project directly or indirectly impacts IPs & LCs, the Safeguard Attestation Form requires confirmation that the project has identified rights-holders possibly affected by the project, including customary rights of local rights holders ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1 — IPs & LCs safeguard, item \(2\)](#)).

Rights-holder identification URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

3) when relevant to circumstances, has applied the FPIC process.

Yes

FPIC process/policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Where relevant to circumstances, the Safeguard Attestation Form requires confirmation that the FPIC process has been applied ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1 — IPs & LCs safeguard, item \(3\)](#)). For the vast majority of BERS projects — energy retrofits within existing buildings on private property in urban and suburban settings — FPIC is not applicable because the projects do not affect Indigenous territories, ancestral knowledge, or community resources. Where FPIC is relevant, it is required.

FPIC URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

4) does not force eviction or any physical or economic displacement of IPs & LCs, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, or resources, unless agreed upon with IPs & LCs during the FPIC process.

Yes

Prevention of eviction or economic displacement provisions URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Safeguard Attestation Form requires confirmation that the project does not force eviction or any physical or economic displacement of IPs & LCs, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, or resources, unless agreed upon with IPs & LCs during the FPIC process ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1 — IPs & LCs safeguard, item \(4\)](#)).

Anti-eviction URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

5) preserves and protects cultural heritage consistent with IPs & LCs protocols/rules/plans on the management of cultural heritage or UNESCO Cultural Heritage conventions.

Yes

Preservation of culture heritage provisions URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Safeguard Attestation Form requires confirmation that the project preserves and protects cultural heritage consistent with IPs & LCs protocols, rules, and plans on the management of cultural heritage, or UNESCO Cultural Heritage conventions ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1 — IPs & LCs safeguard, item \(5\): Cultural Heritage Protection safeguard](#)).

Cultural heritage URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

b) Where the mitigation activity directly or indirectly impacts IPs & LCs, including livelihoods, ancestral knowledge and cultural heritage, confirm your organisation requires that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents that the mitigation activity adheres to the above safeguards or that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1).

Yes

IPs & LCs provisions in design documents URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Safeguard Attestation Form completed at registration includes confirmation of all IPs & LCs safeguard elements where applicable. The safeguard summary is disclosed in the Project Description Report on the Ontoly Registry for every project that has achieved Validated status ([BERS Standard Section 5.3.6\(h\)](#)).

IPs & LCs design documents URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 5.3.6(h) and 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

7.7 Respect for Human Rights, Stakeholder Engagement

Please respond to each question below.

- a) Confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity:
1) avoids discrimination and respects human rights.

Yes

Discrimination & human rights policy/provisions URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Safeguard Attestation Form requires Building Representatives to confirm that the project avoids discrimination and respects human rights ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1 – Fair Treatment and Non-Discrimination safeguard, item \(1\)](#)).

Human rights URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

- 2) abides by the [International Bill of Human Rights](#) and universal instruments ratified by the host country.

Yes

International Bill of Human Rights and host country provisions policy URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Safeguard Attestation Form requires Building Representatives to confirm that the project abides by the International Bill of Human Rights and universal instruments ratified by the host country ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1 – Fair Treatment and Non-Discrimination safeguard, item \(2\)](#)).

International Bill of Human Rights URL: BERS Standard v1.0, Section 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

- 3) takes into account and responds to local stakeholders' views.

Yes

Engagement and response to stakeholders approach URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Safeguard Attestation Form requires Building Representatives to confirm that the project takes into account and responds to local stakeholders' views, and that where the project is reasonably expected to affect tenants, workers, or community stakeholders, their concerns have been appropriately considered ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1 – Fair Treatment and Non-Discrimination safeguard, item \(3\): Stakeholder Consideration safeguard](#)).

Stakeholder engagement URL: BERS Standard v1.0, Section 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

- b) Confirm your organisation requires that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents that the mitigation activity adheres to the above safeguards, or that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1) above.

Yes

Design document measures URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Safeguard Attestation Form completed at registration includes confirmation of all human rights and stakeholder engagement safeguard elements. The safeguard summary is disclosed in the Project Description Report on the Ontoly Registry for every project that has achieved Validated status ([BERS Standard Section 5.3.6\(h\)](#)).

Design document measures URL: BERS Standard v1.0, Sections 5.3.6(h) and 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

7.8 Gender Equality

Please respond to each question below.

a) Confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity:

1. provides for equal opportunities in the context of gender
2. protects against and appropriately responds to violence against women and girls
3. provides equal pay for equal work

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Safeguard Attestation Form requires Building Representatives to confirm that the project: (1) provides for equal opportunities in the context of gender; (2) protects against and appropriately responds to violence against women and girls; and (3) provides equal pay for equal work ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1 — Gender Equality safeguard](#)).

Gender equality URL: BERS Standard v1.0, Section 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

b) Confirm your organisation requires that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents that the mitigation activity adheres to the above safeguards or that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1).

Yes

Gender Equality policy/provisions URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The Safeguard Attestation Form completed at registration includes confirmation of all three gender equality safeguard elements. The safeguard summary is disclosed in the Project Description Report on the Ontoly Registry for every project that has achieved Validated status ([BERS Standard Section 5.3.6\(h\)](#)).

Gender equality design documents URL: BERS Standard v1.0, Sections 5.3.6(h) and 13.2.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

7.9 Robust Benefit-Sharing

a) If your organisation requires arrangements for benefit-sharing with IPs & LCs, confirm that you require that mitigation activity proponents:

1) include in validated design documents information on how benefit-sharing arrangements that are appropriate to the context and consistent with applicable national rules and regulations will be designed and implemented through a benefit-sharing plan.

Yes

Benefit sharing proponent requirements URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program does not require benefit-sharing arrangements with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Under BERS Standard Version 1.2, benefit sharing is voluntary and a matter of private negotiation between the Building Owner and other relevant parties (BERS Standard Section 13.4.1). Accordingly, there is no requirement for proponents to include benefit-sharing plan information in design documents. This approach is appropriate and proportionate to the BERS activity type: building retrofits on private property do not extract natural resources from community lands or generate benefits from the use of communal or Indigenous resources, which are the primary contexts in which mandatory benefit-sharing arrangements are warranted.

Benefit-sharing URL: BERS Standard v1.0, Section 13.4.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

2) confirm in validated design documents that the draft and final benefit-sharing plan have been shared with the affected IPs & LCs in a form, manner, and language understandable to them.

Yes

Benefit sharing dissemination requirements URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

As benefit-sharing arrangements are not required under the BERS Program (BERS Standard Section 13.4.1), there is no requirement to confirm that a benefit-sharing plan has been shared with IPs & LCs in design documents.

Benefit-sharing dissemination URL: BERS Standard v1.0, Section 13.4.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

3) make benefit-sharing outcomes that result from the benefit-sharing plan publicly available, subject to applicable legal restrictions.

Yes

Benefit-Sharing results policy/provisions URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

As benefit-sharing arrangements are not required under the BERS Program (BERS Standard Section 13.4.1), there are no mandatory benefit-sharing outcomes to disclose. Where Building Representatives voluntarily disclose how monetary project benefits are shared with building tenants, this information may be included in Registry disclosures, but it is not a programme requirement.

Benefit-sharing results URL: BERS Standard v1.0, Section 13.4.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

7.10 Cancun Safeguards

Please respond to each question below.

a) Confirm your organisation requires for all REDD+ mitigation activities that the mitigation activity is consistent with all relevant Cancun Safeguards as set out in paragraph 71 of [decision 1/CP.16 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#).

No

Cancun Safeguards policy/provisions URL:

N/A

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program does not support any REDD+ mitigation activities. The programme is limited exclusively to operational GHG emission reductions from energy efficiency and fuel-switching retrofit projects in existing buildings in Canada and the United States ([BERS Standard Section 4.1.1](#)). REDD+ activities — which involve reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation — are entirely outside the scope and eligibility criteria of the BERS Program. The Cancun Safeguards established under paragraph 71 of decision 1/CP.16 are therefore not applicable.

Cancun Safeguards URL: BERS Standard v1.0, Section 4.1.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

7.11 Ensuring Positive SDG Impacts

a) Confirm your organisation requires that mitigation activity proponents, in validated design documents:

1) provide information on how the mitigation activity is consistent with the SDG objectives of the host country, where the SDG objectives are relevant, and such is feasible.

Yes

Proponent SDG objectives policy/provisions URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

SDG reporting is mandatory for every project. [BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.4.1](#) requires every project to report its contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 13 (Climate Action) applies to all projects by construction, with consistency with host-country climate objectives established at programme level; for all other SDGs, the Building Representative must either report the additional SDGs to which the project contributes, and must describe how each reported SDG is consistent with the SDG objectives and national sustainable development priorities of the host country. At the methodology level, [Section 13.5.1](#) also requires every new or revised BERS Methodology to include an assessment of the project's compatibility with the host country's net-zero objectives; the Existing Building Methodology gives effect to this at [Section 14.1.3](#), which requires projects to assess the compatibility of the retrofit with the transition to net zero by reference to the net zero objectives of the host country. These disclosures are included in the Project Description Report published on the Ontoly Registry for every project that has achieved Validated status.

SDG objectives URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 13.4.1 and 13.5: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

2) demonstrate, if applicable, through qualitative assessment how the mitigation activity delivers positive SDG impacts for certain SDGs (excluding SDG 13), if any.

Yes

Requirement of proponent demonstration of positive SDGs provisions URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Under BERS Standard v1.2, [Section 13.4.1](#), qualitative SDG reporting is a mandatory requirement for every project: the Building Representative must report contributions with host-country consistency described for each reported SDG. BERS Standard [Section 15.4.3.4](#) identifies inherent sustainable development benefits of building energy retrofits — reduced energy consumption (SDG 7), improved occupant health and comfort (SDG 3), and climate action (SDG 13) — and a project may separately elect the CCP Attribute 3 pathway (Quantified Positive SDG Impacts), under which SDG impacts are quantified ex-post using a method, tool, or standard recognized by a CCP-eligible carbon-crediting program and verified by an accredited Verification Body ([Section 15.4.5](#)).

SDG impacts URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 13.4.1 and 15.4.3.4: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

3) provide information on any standardised tools and methods that were used to assess the SDG impacts.

Yes

Requirement of proponent methods provision URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Where Building Representatives seek the optional CCP Attribute 3 (Quantified Positive SDG Impacts), the BERS Standard requires that SDG impacts be monitored and quantified ex-post using a method, tool, or standard recognized by a CCP-eligible carbon-crediting program, and that the quantification be verified by an accredited Verification Body ([BERS Standard Section 15.4.5](#)). Information on the method or tool used must be included in the relevant project documentation. For qualitative SDG disclosures under Section 13.4.1, no specific tool is prescribed.

SDG methods URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 13.4.1 and 15.4.5: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

D – CORSIA Requirements Related to ICVCM Category Assessment

8. Additionality Demonstration – CORSIA

Please respond to all questions below.

1) Confirm that your Program's carbon credits represent greenhouse gas emissions reductions or carbon sequestration or removals that exceed any greenhouse gas reduction or removals required by law, regulation, or legally binding mandate.

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program's regulatory surplus requirement is a mandatory first gate that every project must pass before any other additionality assessment is conducted. [BERS Standard Section 10.1.1](#) states that a project activity shall be deemed additional only if, based on Ontoly's Regulatory Surplus Assessment, it is very unlikely that the specific GHG emission reductions the project generates are required by applicable local, provincial/state, or federal laws, regulations, or legally binding mandates in effect or enacted as of the assessment date.

Ontoly applies its Jurisdictional Regulatory Model — a continuously updated database of mandatory building codes, minimum efficiency standards, building performance standards, and climate regulation that directly impacts buildings across all eligible jurisdictions — to conduct a Regulatory Surplus Assessment for every project ([BERS Standard Section 10.1.3](#)). Where a consumer carbon tax applies to the utility inputs for a building, the tax is reflected in the price assumptions used for the Financial Additionality Assessment but does not independently negate regulatory surplus. This database is verified by the contracted third-party Verification Body. Where Ontoly's assessment identifies proposed, publicly consulted, or enacted-but-not-yet-effective regulations that may require the project's measures during the crediting period, Ontoly discloses this regulatory risk in the Project Description Report published on the Registry.

This fixed-period approach reflects the nature of building retrofit decisions as one-time capital investments made at a single point in time. Where material regulatory changes affecting a project's regulatory surplus status are enacted after the assessment date, these changes do not impact projected or issued BERUs that have already been assessed at the point of Preliminary Ex-Ante BERU Report assessment. This ensures buyer and stakeholder certainty for contractual outcomes. ([BERS Standard Section 10.1.4](#)).

Where BERUs are expressly recognized as an eligible and approved compliance mechanism under an applicable regulatory program or building performance standard, such use does not negate regulatory surplus, provided the project otherwise meets all BERS requirements. The relevant municipality or jurisdiction may set parameters and limits governing how BERUs may be used in conjunction with its regulatory framework, including percentage-based compliance limitations, geographic restrictions on buyer eligibility, and other conditions designed to preserve the effectiveness of the applicable regulation ([BERS Standard Section 10.1.2](#)).

Rationale for Ontoly's likelihood-based approach to regulatory surplus:

Ontoly's regulatory surplus assessment is ultimately a pass/fail gate — projects whose emission reductions are required by law are ineligible for BERU issuance. However, rather than treating regulatory surplus as a deterministic binary with absolute certainty, Ontoly attaches a likelihood qualification to its finding and pairs it with ongoing regulatory risk disclosure. This reflects the reality that the building regulatory landscape in Canada and North America is demonstrably dynamic, frequently reversed, and subject to political reprioritization. A bare pass/fail assessment against current law — without probability context or ongoing disclosure — would overstate the certainty of a regulatory determination that is inherently contingent on political and legislative conditions. Recent examples illustrate this volatility:

- **Ontario repealed Toronto's Green Roof Bylaw (2025):** In November 2025, Ontario's provincial government repealed Toronto's mandatory green roof bylaw — the first of its kind in North America — via order-in-council under the *Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025*. A regulation that had been legally binding for over 15 years was eliminated overnight to accelerate housing construction. Ontario further prohibited municipalities from imposing environmental building requirements that exceed the provincial building code.
- **BC Step Code in-stream exemptions (2024–2025):** British Columbia delayed key provisions of the 2024 BC Building Code — including earthquake-resilience and adaptable dwelling requirements — and granted in-stream exemptions for projects already underway, extending transition windows to March 2027. Municipalities that had adopted higher Step Code tiers faced pressure to defer enforcement in the interest of housing supply.
- **Federal housing-climate tension:** The federal government under Prime Minister Carney has explicitly prioritized building homes faster and at lower cost, committing to simplify the National Building Code in consultation with provinces — signalling that climate-related building requirements may be subordinated to affordability and supply targets.

These examples demonstrate that building-sector climate regulation is routinely enacted, delayed, weakened, or repealed based on shifting political and economic priorities. A project that is clearly surplus to regulation at the time of investment may find itself subject to a new mandate years later — or conversely, a project that appears

borderline may see the relevant regulation withdrawn entirely.

Ontoly's approach addresses this uncertainty as follows: where a building retrofit is assessed as very unlikely to be required by law, the project clears the regulatory surplus gate. Where regulation exists but takes the form of financial penalties rather than outright mandates — such as building performance standard fines or carbon taxes — Ontoly incorporates those costs directly into the Financial Additionality Assessment as negative cash flows in the project's NPV calculation. If the project's NPV remains below zero (i.e., carbon finance is still needed to make the investment viable even after accounting for regulatory fines and tax obligations), the project satisfies both regulatory surplus and financial additionality. This ensures that projects subject to soft regulatory signals — penalties, taxes, or partial mandates — are not automatically excluded, but are only creditable where carbon finance remains demonstrably necessary to drive the investment decision.

This approach is consistent with the ICVCM's intent that regulatory surplus prevent the crediting of emission reductions that would occur anyway due to legal requirements, while recognizing that the building sector operates in a regulatory environment where "required by law" is rarely a stable or binary condition.

Regulatory surplus URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 10.1 https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

2) Confirm that your Program's carbon credits exceed any greenhouse gas reductions or removals that would otherwise occur in a conservative, business-as-usual scenario.

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program establishes the business-as-usual (BAU) scenario through a conservative, empirically grounded baseline derived from 12–36 months of actual, historical, metered utility data for the specific building, drawn from the period immediately preceding the retrofit ([BERS Standard Section 3 Definitions — Baseline Scenario; Existing Building Methodology Section 5.1](#)). This is the most direct and defensible BAU baseline possible — it is the building's own measured pre-retrofit performance, not a modelled or benchmarked estimate.

The BAU baseline is conservative by design: where adjustments are required due to occupancy changes or weather variability, standardised normalization procedures aligned with ASHRAE Guideline 14 and IPMVP Option C are applied with conservative assumptions ([Existing Building Methodology Section 7.1](#)). The electricity grid emission factor is fixed at the baseline value and does not update annually, preventing any credit for grid decarbonisation ([BERS Standard Section 12.1.4](#)). Only reductions in energy consumption attributable to the specific retrofit measures — measured through actual post-retrofit utility bills — are credited.

The Financial Additionality Test (NPV < 0 without carbon revenue) provides a further confirmation that the retrofit would not have occurred under BAU conditions, demonstrating that the emission reductions would not have happened in the absence of carbon finance ([BERS Standard Section 10.2](#)).

BAU scenario URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 3 and 10.2: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Existing Building Methodology v1.1, Section 5.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a6aa6bf6ef197dfbd03146e_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.1.pdf

3) Confirm that additionality and baseline-setting is assessed by an accredited and independent validation/verification entity.

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Both additionality gates and the baseline are subject to independent third-party assessment. The Jurisdictional Regulatory Model and Financial Additionality Assessment calculations are reviewed by the ISO 14065-accredited Verification Body as part of the mandatory Program-Level Model and Parameter Verification conducted at least every two years ([Verification Standard Section 12.2.1\(b\) and \(c\)](#)). The Verification Body independently confirms the correct application of the Jurisdictional Regulatory Model, the accuracy of financial additionality inputs, and the appropriateness of baseline determinations.

Additionally, the sensitivity analysis results for every project that passes the NPV test are disclosed on the Ontoly Registry, providing public transparency over the robustness of each additionality determination ([BERS Standard Section 10.3.9](#)).

Additionality assessment URL: BERS Validation and Verification Standard v1.1, Section 1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1.1.pdf

[files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1.1.pdf](https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1.1.pdf)

BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 10.1.3 and 10.3.5–10.3.9 https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a90a7287959a59cd9d378f2_Existing_Building_Methodology_v1.2.pdf

4) Confirm that your program reviews additionality and baseline-setting.

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

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Yes. The BERS Program reviews additionality and baseline-setting through several ongoing mechanisms. Additionality parameters — including the discount rate, energy price escalation rates, and sensitivity analysis ranges — are reviewed and verified annually by the contracted Verification Body ([BERS Standard Section 10.3.5](#)). The Verification Body also reviews the correct application of the Jurisdictional Regulatory Model and Financial Additionality Assessment calculations as part of the Program-Level Model and Parameter Verification ([V&V Standard Section 12.2.1](#)). The Methodology Development and Review Process requires periodic review of all approved methodologies at a minimum of every five years, including a reassessment of additionality procedures and baseline-setting approaches.

Additionality and baseline review URL: *BERS Standard v1.2, Section 10.3.5:* https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Methodology Development and Review Process v1.0, Section 8: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a6aa769c8f4eb46b52fd0aa_Ontoly_Methodology_Development_and_Review_Process_v1.0.pdf

5) Which of the following methods below are used to assess that credited mitigation activities are additional:

Possible Selections: Barrier analysis; Common practice / market penetration analysis; Investment, cost, or other financial analysis; Performance standards / benchmarks; Legal or regulatory additionality analysis; Other (please explain below)

Selections Made:

- Investment, cost, or other financial analysis
- Legal or regulatory additionality analysis

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program uses two of the listed methods:

Investment, cost, or other financial analysis — YES. The NPV Financial Additionality Test is a mandatory binary test applied to every project, determining whether the project is financially viable without carbon credit revenue. A project passes (is deemed financially additional) where the NPV of the project without carbon revenue is less than zero (NPV < 0) ([BERS Standard Section 10.2\(A\), 10.3.1–10.3.2](#)). This test uses standardised, publicly disclosed parameters (discount rate, energy price escalation rates, equipment useful lives) published in the Public Parameter List.

Legal or regulatory additionality analysis — YES. For Regulatory Surplus, Ontoly screens federal, provincial/state, municipal, and equipment-level regulations to determine whether it is *very unlikely* that the project's specific emission reductions are required by laws in effect or enacted as of the assessment date — a binary pass/fail test anchored to that date. Any forward-looking regulations (proposed, consulted, or enacted-not-yet-effective) or material interpretive ambiguities identified during screening are flagged and disclosed on the Registry, with ongoing monitoring obligations that update the disclosure if material regulatory changes occur post-assessment — without retroactively affecting already-issued BERUs. ([BERS Standard Section 10.1](#)).

Barrier analysis — NO. Not used as a formal test under Version 1.2. Common practice / market penetration analysis — NO. Not included as a secondary test under Version 1.2, as standardised datasets by technology type, building type, and geography are not yet comparable across jurisdictions. Future versions of the BERS may introduce this assessment as data availability improves ([BERS Standard Section 10.6.2](#)). Performance standards / benchmarks — NO. Not used under Version 1.2.

Additionality methods URL: *BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 10.1–10.4:* https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Public Parameter List v1.1, Sections 4–5: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00b84714c43811713540_Ontoly_Public_Parameter_List_v1.1.pdf

6) If your program provides for the use of method(s) not listed above, please describe the alternative procedures and how you ensure that mitigation activities are additional:

No

URL:

N/A

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program does not employ additionality methods beyond those identified in Q5. The two-gate framework — Regulatory Surplus Assessment and NPV Financial Additionality Test — represents the complete additionality determination process under Version 1.2. No other alternative procedures are in use. The investment analysis is complemented by a mandatory sensitivity analysis testing three parameters (CAPEX -15%, energy savings +15%, discount rate -2pp), which confirms that the additionality determination remains robust even under varied assumptions.

No alternative methods URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 10: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00b84714c43811713540_Ontoly_Public_Parameter_List_v1.1.pdf

7) Confirm whether your program designates certain mitigation activities as automatically additional (e.g., through a “positive list” of eligible project types).

No

URL:

N/A

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program does not designate any activity type or project category as automatically additional. Every project registered under the BERS Program must independently pass both additionality gates — the Regulatory Surplus Likelihood Assessment and the NPV Financial Additionality Test — regardless of technology type, building type, or location (BERS Standard Section 10.6.1). There is no positive list or categorical exemption from the additionality determination process under Version 1.2. This design ensures that every BERU is underpinned by a project-specific additionality determination.

No automatic additionality URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 10.6.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00b84714c43811713540_Ontoly_Public_Parameter_List_v1.1.pdf

8) If your program designates certain mitigation activities as automatically additional, do you provide clear evidence on how the activity was determined to be additional?

No

URL:

N/A

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

As the BERS Program does not designate any activities as automatically additional (Q7), this question is not applicable.

9) Confirm how the procedures described under the above criteria related to additionality provide a reasonable assurance that the mitigation activities would not have occurred in the absence of the carbon crediting program:

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The BERS Program's two-gate additionality framework provides strong, quantitative assurance that credited emission reductions would not have occurred without carbon finance.

The Regulatory Surplus Assessment provides an assessment of the degree to which emission reductions beyond existing legal obligations — projects where existing regulations would likely achieve the same reductions independently are excluded at the first gate. The Regulatory Surplus Assessment screens applicable regulations to confirm it is very unlikely the project's reductions are required by law as of the assessment date — a binary pass/fail test. Identified regulatory risks are flagged and disclosed on the Registry. (BERS Standard Section 10.1).

The NPV Financial Additionality Test provides direct, project-specific financial evidence that the retrofit would not have been commercially viable without carbon revenue. A project passes only where its NPV without carbon credits is demonstrably negative (NPV < 0) — meaning the investment generates a net financial loss in the absence of BERU revenue. This is not a proxy or assumption-based test; it uses actual project-specific cost and savings data submitted by the Building Representative under attestation (BERS Standard Section 10.2).

The mandatory sensitivity analysis — testing CAPEX -15%, energy savings +15%, and discount rate -2pp — further confirms that the additionality determination remains robust even if the underlying assumptions are varied in the

direction most favourable to project economics. A project must pass at least 2 of 3 sensitivity scenarios to retain a robust additionality determination ([BERS Standard Section 10.3.8](#); [Public Parameter List Section 5.4](#)). Results are publicly disclosed on the Ontoly Registry ([Section 10.3.9](#)).

The Investment Analysis Rating (1–5 scale based on payback period) provides a transparent public signal of the degree of financial additionality, enabling buyers and market participants to assess the strength of the additionality case for each individual project ([BERS Standard Section 10.4](#)).

All additionality parameters are independently verified annually by the contracted Verification Body, and financial inputs are subject to third-party audit ([BERS Standard Sections 10.3.5, 10.5.4](#)).

Additionality assurance URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 10.1–10.4: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Public Parameter List v1.1, Section 5: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e00b84714c43811713540_Ontoly_Public_Parameter_List_v1.1.pdf

9. Permanence – CORSIA

Please respond to all questions below.

1) List all emissions sectors (if possible, activity types) supported by your program that present a potential risk of reversal of emissions reductions, avoidance, or carbon sequestration:

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Preliminary note applicable to Q1–9: The BERS Program certifies exclusively GHG emission reductions from building retrofit activities. Carbon removals are explicitly excluded from Version 1.2 ([BERS Standard Section 11.1.1](#)). Because the BERS Program does not certify removals, sequestration, or avoidance credits in sectors with reversal risk — such as forestry, land use, or soil carbon — the permanence framework established under the CORSIA requirements was designed primarily for activity types that are not present in the BERS Program.

1) List all emissions sectors (if possible, activity types) supported by your program that present a potential risk of reversal of emissions reductions, avoidance, or carbon sequestration:

[N/A]

The BERS Program supports a single activity type: energy efficiency and fuel-switching retrofits in existing buildings (Sectoral Scope 03). Under Version 1.2, only GHG emission reductions are certified — carbon removals and sequestration are entirely excluded ([BERS Standard Section 11.1.1](#)). The risk of non-permanence does not apply to emission reductions: a reduction in energy consumption that has already occurred and been verified is a historical fact, not a stock of stored carbon that can be released. No activity types with reversal risk in the carbon sequestration sense are supported.

Permanence URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 11.1.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

2) Confirm what the minimum scale of reversal (i.e. threshold of materiality) is for which your program provisions or measures require a response. (Quantify if possible)

No

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6987d504fe9b9a604857ae67/6a04ba13ce02f57ff34d1672_BERS_Standard_Version_1.1.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

As no activity types with reversal risk are supported under the BERS Program (Q1), a materiality threshold for reversals is not applicable. However, in relation to the physical reversal of installed retrofit measures — a distinct concept from carbon sequestration reversal — the BERS Program's response threshold is effectively zero: reversals are prohibited under the BERS Standard ([Section 11.1.2](#)), and any reversal would be automatically detected through the annual metered utility data monitoring framework ([Section 11.1.3](#)).

Reversal provisions URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Sections 11.1.2–11.1.3: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

3) For those sectors/activity types identified in CORSIA requirement 9.1 in this section, confirm that procedures and measures are in place to require and support these activities to undertake a risk assessment that accounts for, inter alia, any potential causes, relative scale, and relative likelihood of reversals.

No

URL:

N/A

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

As no activity types with reversal risk were identified in Q1, this requirement is not applicable to the BERS Program.

4) For those sectors/activity types identified in CORSIA requirement 9.1 in this section, confirm that procedures and measures are in place to require and support these activities to monitor identified risks of reversals.

No

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

As no activity types with reversal risk were identified in Q1, this requirement is not applicable. In relation to the physical reversal of retrofit measures, annual metered utility data monitoring inherently detects any reversal: if installed energy-efficiency equipment is removed or replaced with higher-emitting alternatives, this change would be immediately reflected in the building's utility consumption data, reducing quantified emission reductions for the affected period ([BERS Standard Section 11.1.3](#)).

Monitoring URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 11.1.3: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

5) For those sectors/activity types identified in CORSIA requirement 9.1 in this section, confirm that procedures and measures are in place to require and support these activities to mitigate identified risks of reversals?

No

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

As no activity types with reversal risk were identified in Q1, this requirement is not applicable. Physical reversals of retrofit measures are prohibited under the BERS Standard ([Section 11.1.2](#)) and must be attested against annually by Building Representatives ([Section 7.4.1 — Permanence of Measures attestation](#)). This prohibition, combined with the annual monitoring framework, constitutes the programme's mitigation mechanism for physical reversal risk.

Reversal mitigation URL: BERS Standard v1.0, Sections 7.4.1 and 11.1.2: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

6) For those sectors/activity types identified in CORSIA requirement 9.1 in this section, confirm that procedures and measures are in place to require and support these activities to ensure full compensation for material reversals of mitigation issued as emissions units and used toward offsetting obligations under the CORSIA?

No

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

As the BERS Program does not certify removals or sequestration, no compensation mechanism for carbon stock reversals is required. In the event that BERUs are subsequently determined to have been issued on the basis of materially inaccurate or fraudulent data — including concealed physical reversals of retrofit measures — Ontoly reserves the right to cancel those BERUs regardless of whether they have been sold, transferred, or reserved, and all legal and financial consequences rest solely with the Building Representative ([BERS Standard Section 16.3.1; Corrective Actions Policy Section 12.1](#)).

Erroneous issuance URL: BERS Standard v1.0, Section 16.3.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

7) Confirm that provisions are in place that confer liability on the activity proponent to monitor, mitigate, and respond to reversals in a manner mandated in the program procedures?

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Although the BERS Program does not certify removals, Building Representatives bear legal obligations in relation to the physical permanence of retrofit measures throughout the crediting period. The mandatory Permanence of Measures attestation, submitted with each Annual Monitoring Report, requires Building Representatives to confirm that all installed GHG-reducing equipment remains installed and operational and has not been reversed or replaced with higher-emitting alternatives ([BERS Standard Section 7.4.1](#)). Failure to comply with this attestation constitutes a breach of BERS Program requirements, potentially resulting in corrective action — including denial of BERU issuance and cancellation of previously issued BERUs ([Section 16, 17.1.1](#)).

Proponent liability URL: BERS Standard v1.0, Sections 7.4.1 and 17.1.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

8) Confirm that provisions are in place that require activity proponents, upon being made aware of a material reversal event, to notify the program within a specified number of days.

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

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Building Representatives are required to notify Ontoly of any material change in building circumstances — including change of ownership or operational change — within ninety (90) days ([BERS Standard Section 7.6.1](#)). The mandatory annual Permanence of Measures attestation (Section 7.4.1) and the leakage prevention attestation ([Section 7.4.1](#)) further require Building Representatives to disclose any reversal of installed measures at the time of each Annual Monitoring Report submission, with the reporting deadline of March 31 following each monitoring year ([Section 5.5.1](#)).

Reversal notification URL: BERS Standard v1.0, Sections 7.4.1 and 7.6.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

9) Confirm that provisions are in place that confer responsibility to the program to, upon such notification, ensure and confirm that such material reversals are fully compensated in a manner mandated in the program procedures.

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a73578ca1355d232c815e7d_Corrective%20Actions%20Policy.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Upon notification or detection of a material reversal, Ontoly is responsible for initiating the appropriate corrective action response under the Corrective Actions Policy. For a material reversal of a physical retrofit measure — which would constitute a Major or Critical non-conformance — Ontoly issues a Corrective Action Notice, holds BERU issuance in abeyance, and may cancel previously issued BERUs for the affected period ([Corrective Actions Policy Sections 6.2–6.3; BERS Standard Section 16.3.1](#)). Where the reversal results in erroneous issuance, Ontoly cancels the affected BERUs and adjusts the programme's BERU registry accordingly.

Programme responsibility URL: BERS Standard v1.2, Section 16.3.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf
Corrective Actions Policy, Sections 6.2–6.3 and 12.1: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a73578ca1355d232c815e7d_Corrective%20Actions%20Policy.pdf

12. Sustainable Development Benefits And Safeguards – CORSIA

Please respond to each question below.

1) Confirm that your program has procedures in place to ensure that mitigation activities do not violate local, state/provincial, national or international regulations or obligations.

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

The mandatory Safeguard Attestation Form requires Building Representatives to declare at registration — and reconfirm annually — that the project complies with all applicable local, provincial/state, national, and international laws and conventions ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1\(a\)](#)). Non-compliance with applicable laws constitutes a breach of BERS Program requirements subject to corrective action under the Corrective Actions Policy, up to and including project suspension, BERU cancellation, and permanent project termination ([Corrective Actions Policy Sections 4.3, 6.2–6.3](#)).

Legal compliance URL: *BERS Standard v1.2, Section 13.2.1(a)*: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

2) Confirm that your program demonstrates it complies with social and environmental safeguards.

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Indicate specific numbered sections/headings or rule text in the URL pertinent to this criterion, clarifying how it is met. You may add additional URLs and any clarifying information. Your application will not be considered complete if specific referenced text cannot be found quickly.

Yes. The BERS Program demonstrates compliance with social and environmental safeguards through its mandatory attestation-based framework. Building Representatives complete the Data Quality & Safeguard Attestation Form addressing all ICVCM safeguard categories — labour rights, land acquisition, resource efficiency, biodiversity, IPs & LCs, human rights, gender equality, and stakeholder consideration — at project registration and annually throughout the crediting period ([BERS Standard Section 13.2.1](#)). Where material risks are identified, mitigation measures must be documented in each Monitoring Report ([Section 13.3.1](#)). Safeguard compliance is independently reviewed by the contracted Verification Body as part of the annual verification scope ([Verification Standard Section 9.2](#)). A safeguard summary drawn from the attestation is publicly disclosed in the Project Description Report on the Ontoly Registry for every project that has achieved Validated status ([Section 5.3.6\(h\)](#)).

Safeguards compliance URL: *BERS Standard v1.0, Sections 5.3.6(h), 13.2.1, and 13.3.1*: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf
BERS Verification Standard v1.0, Section 9.2: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1.1.pdf

3) Confirm that your program publicly discloses the institutions, processes, and procedures that are used to implement, monitor and enforce safeguards to identify, assess and manage environmental and social risks.

Yes

URL:

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

Please indicate the exact wording in your documentation that satisfies this criterion. Reference the specific numbered sections, headings, or rule text in the provided URL(s). You may include additional URLs and any clarifying or supporting information you consider relevant. Applications will be considered incomplete if the referenced text cannot be easily located or verified.

The institutions, processes, and procedures governing safeguard implementation, monitoring, and enforcement are publicly disclosed across several programme documents. The safeguard requirements applicable to Building Representatives are set out in BERS Standard [Section 13](#). The monitoring process — including the annual Safeguard Attestation Form, evidence requirements, and consequences of non-compliance — is defined in [BERS Standard Sections 7.4.1 and 13.2.1–13.3.1](#). The verification of safeguard attestations by the independent Verification Body is established in the [BERS V&V Standard Section 9.2](#). The corrective action framework for safeguard breaches is published in the Corrective Actions Policy. All documents are publicly available on the Ontoly website.

Public disclosure URL: *BERS Standard v1.0, Sections 7.4.1, 13.2.1–13.3.1*: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e0034107247d82999d601_BERS_Standard_Version_1.2.pdf

BERS Verification Standard v1.0, Section 9.2: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a8e006c6435ae8ce0c97bb7_BERS_Validation_and_Verification_Standard_v1.1.pdf

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files.com/6a70de1e2860545c2062fec8/6a73578ca1355d232c815e7d_Corrective%20Actions%20Policy.pdf

End Copy of Application