

Frequently Asked Questions on

Programme Applications for Assessment by the Technical Advisory Body (TAB)

1. What is the timeline for the TAB’s evaluation process?

Answer: The TAB indicative work programme and timeline for evaluating programme applications and making recommendations to the ICAO Council can be found on the ICAO website [here](#).

2. Will programmes have additional opportunities to apply for evaluation in the future?

Answer: The application process is iterative. The TAB has indicated its intention to invite another round of applications in March 2020.

3. Should a programme submit an application if the programme itself is still under development?

Answer: Programmes that are still under development and uncertain about their “readiness” for evaluation and eligibility are encouraged to thoroughly review the *Emissions Units Criteria and Guidelines for Criteria Interpretation* in the **Application Form: Appendix A** prior to submitting an Application Form for the current evaluation cycle.

The TAB’s [timeline](#) notes that “the TAB process above is iterative, and the second programme application period is foreseen to begin in March 2020.”

Thus, the TAB has indicated its openness to inviting further applications in the future, including from programmes developed in the future.

4. How should a programme proceed if it plans to implement procedures that are consistent with the Emissions Units Criteria and Guidelines for Criteria Interpretation, but is unable to do so prior to the application form deadline?

Answer: If the programme is unable to demonstrate by the submission deadline that procedures to address a given criterion or guideline are “in place”, programmes are requested to describe their *plans* to revise any programme procedures and standards to meet the criterion or guidelines in their response to the relevant question(s) in the application form.

Section II: Instructions in the Application Form explains how a programme should describe any such programme revisions, including the information required.

The TAB will further consider how to respond to these proposed developments on a case-by-case basis and with consideration to its timeline.

5. Does a programme have to be of a certain “size” in order to be eligible to submit an application form?

Answer: At this time, there are no prerequisites (e.g., a minimum or maximum quantity of offsets issued or number of activities supported) for submitting an application form.

Some programmes support implementation of activities at a larger scale, e.g., national, sub-national, rather than project-based or programmatic activities. In response to an application from such a programme, the TAB may consider how the Emissions Units Criteria can be most appropriately applied to assess the programme—including whether the TAB will evaluate only the primary programme, or evaluate specific national or sub-national programmes in their own right., The TAB may follow up with the programme administrator as necessary to proceed with its evaluation.

6. What types of “actors” and activities are the focus of the TAB’s evaluation?

Answer: The focus of the TAB’s evaluation is at the “level” of an Emissions Unit Programme. An Emissions Unit Programme administers standards and procedures for developing activities that generate offsets, and for verifying and “issuing” offsets created by those activities.

The TAB may also evaluate a programme’s rule-set as it pertains to specific project “types”, e.g., sectors or emissions categories.

The TAB is not expected to evaluate any individual activity outside of an evaluation of the Emissions Unit Programme that supports the activity.

7. What happens if the TAB does not recommend a programme for eligibility? Does this mean the programme will not ultimately be considered by the Council when it decides eligible programmes?

Answer: The TAB is likely to summarize its findings and recommendations for each programme that applies. The TAB has identified, at least initially, that it is unlikely that this will be a simple “yes/no” exercise; rather, substantive consideration will be given to each programme.

This initial round of evaluations by the TAB is not foreseen to be a one-off exercise. The TAB has indicated its intention to invite another round of applications in March 2020, at which time programmes that wish to re-apply or refine their application forms would have the opportunity to do so.

- 8. How will key procedures (e.g., the Emissions Units Criteria and Guidelines for Criteria Interpretation) and documentation be governed on an ongoing basis? For example, how will the criteria be managed and updated in future, and how will programmes need to demonstrate ongoing compliance?**

Answer: The procedure for future updates to the *Emissions Units Criteria and Guidelines for Criteria Interpretation*, and expectations for maintaining consistency with these provisions, are issues that are currently being considered by an ICAO working group. Details will be announced once further recommendations and decisions are made.