



Understanding CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units



ICAO Webinar – 2 February 2021



- 1) Background on CORSIA Emissions Unit Criteria, Technical Advisory Body (TAB), and Eligibility Recommendations and Decisions – ICAO Secretariat
- 2) Key Documents for Understanding CORSIA Eligibility – TAB Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
- 3) Recent Assessment and Next Steps – TAB Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
- 4) Questions and Answers about CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units – TAB Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson



Part 1: Background on CORSIA Emissions Unit Criteria, Technical Advisory Body, and Eligibility Recommendations and Decisions

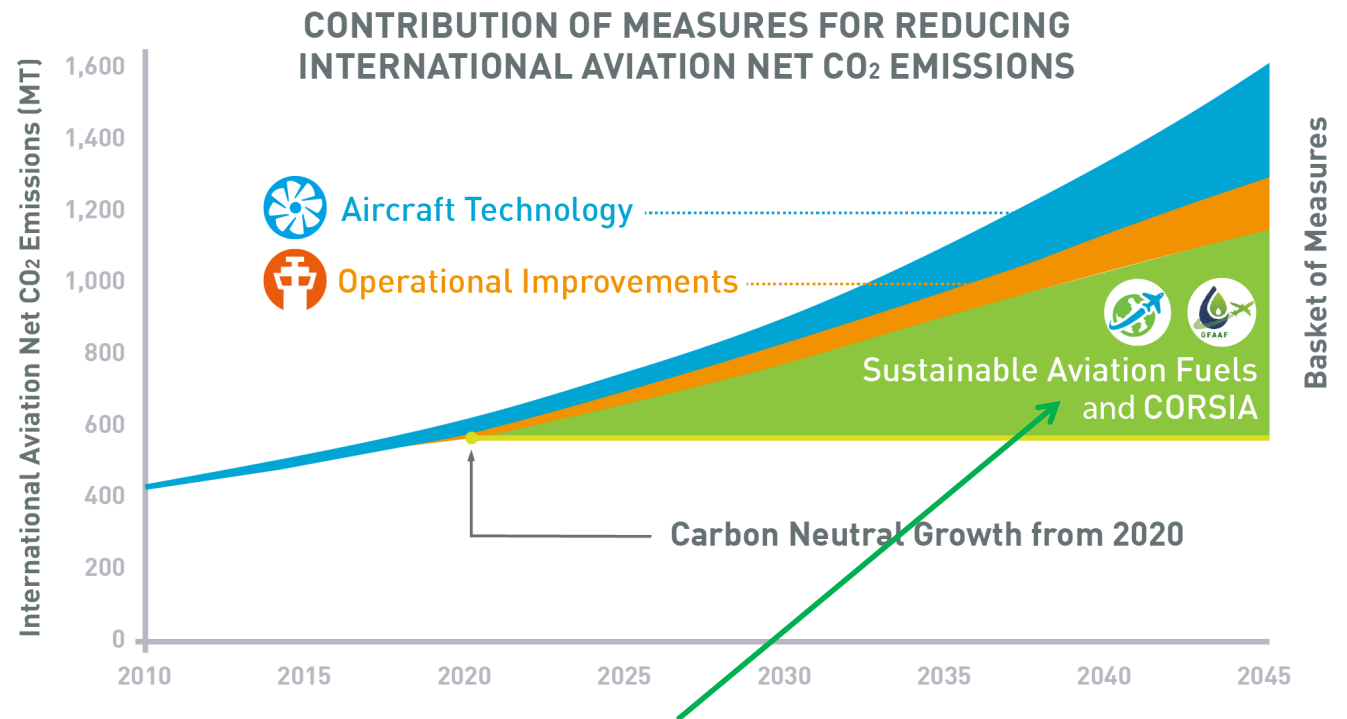
Jane Hupe, Deputy Director, ATB/ENV, ICAO Secretariat

CORSIA was adopted by the 39th ICAO Assembly (2016) as the **first global market-based measure** for any industry sector

To achieve ICAO's global aspirational goal of carbon neutral growth from 2020 (CNG2020), CORSIA is **one complementary element in the basket of measures:**

- aircraft technology
- operational improvements
- sustainable aviation fuels

In 2019, the 40th Assembly reiterated its support for CORSIA



CORSIA addresses the remaining "emissions gap" to achieve CNG2020

ICAO Policy



Chicago Convention

ICAO Assembly Resolutions

A40-17, A40-18 and A40-19:

Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies and practices related to environmental protection

ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs)



Annex 16 - Environmental Protection:

Volume I, Aircraft Noise

Volume II, Aircraft Engine Emissions

Volume III, Aeroplane CO₂ Emissions

Volume IV, CORSIA

ICAO Guidance



Various guidance on noise, LAQ and climate change, e.g.:

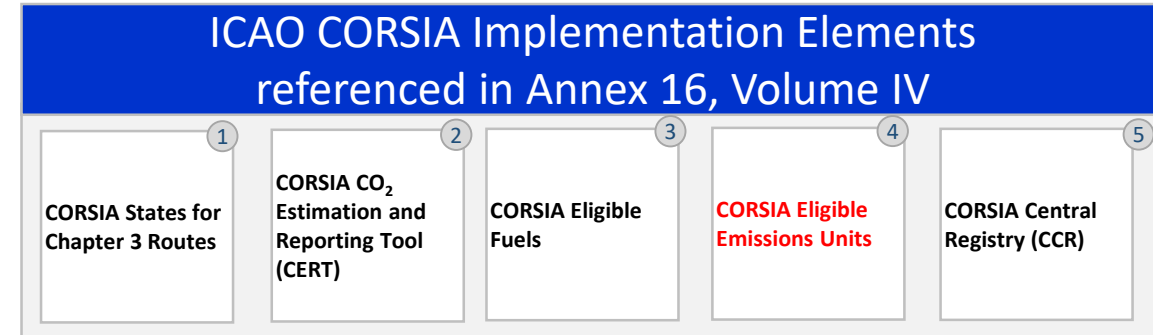
Environmental Assessment of Proposed ATM Operational Changes (Doc 10031)

Environmental Technical Manual Volume IV (Doc 9501)

- 5 CORSIA Implementation Elements...

- ... reflected in 14 ICAO documents

- Directly referenced in Annex 16, Volume IV
- Contain material approved by the ICAO Council for publication by ICAO to support Annex 16, Volume IV, and essential for the implementation of CORSIA





- CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units are determined by the ICAO Council, upon recommendation of an expert group: the Technical Advisory Body (TAB)
- CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units meet the CORSIA Emissions Unit Criteria (EUC) by:
 - Originating from programmes that have procedures and measures in place that meet the EUC for Program Design Elements
 - Adhering to the EUC for Carbon Offset Credit Integrity, which are also assessed on the basis of programme-level procedures and measures
- More information on the EUC can be found on the ICAO website:
<https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Pages/CORSIA-Emissions-Units.aspx>



Programme Design Elements Assessment Criteria

Clear Methodologies and Protocols, and their Development Process

Scope Considerations

Offset Credit Issuance and Retirement Procedures

Identification and Tracking

Legal Nature and Transfer of Units

Validation and Verification procedures

Program Governance

Transparency and Public Participation Provisions

Safeguards System

Sustainable Development Criteria

Avoidance of Double Counting, Issuance and Claiming

Carbon Offset Credit Integrity Assessment Criteria

Are additional

Are based on a realistic and credible baseline

Are quantified, monitored, reported, and verified

Have a clear and transparent chain of custody

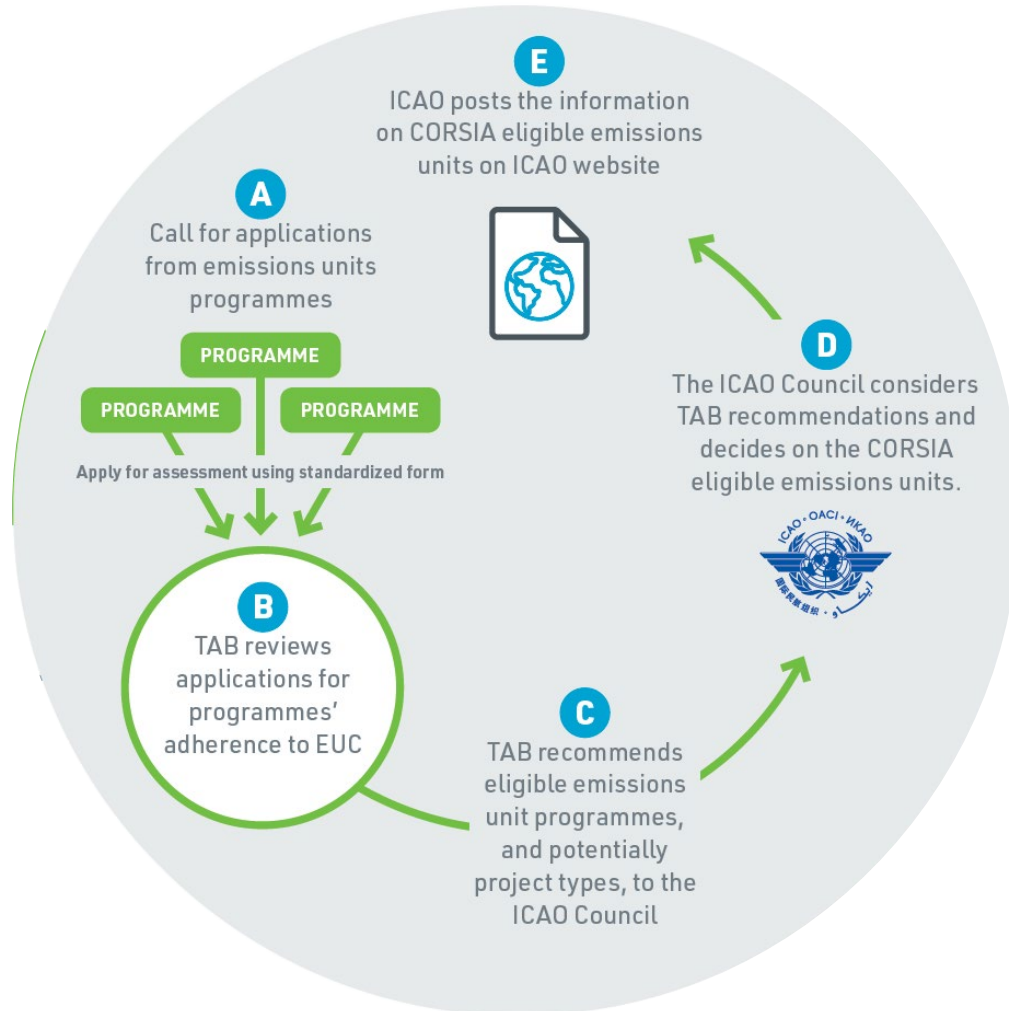
Represent permanent emissions reductions

Assess and mitigate against potential increase in emissions elsewhere

Are only counted once towards a mitigation obligation

Do no net harm

ICAO process for determining CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units



- A. Application:** Emissions units programmes apply for consideration to be eligible for CORSIA
- B. Assessment:** An expert group, the Technical Advisory Body (TAB), reviews emissions units programmes for their adherence to the CORSIA Emissions Unit Criteria (EUC)
- C. Recommendations:** TAB makes recommendations on CORSIA eligible emissions units to ICAO Council
- D. Decision:** The ICAO Council decides on CORSIA eligible emissions units
- E. Publication:** Information on CORSIA eligible emissions units is posted on the ICAO CORSIA website



- In March 2019, the ICAO Council made the following decisions:
 - Approved the Emissions Unit Criteria, to be used by the TAB.
 - Established the Technical Advisory Body (TAB). The 19 members of the TAB are experts nominated by their States and approved by Council.
 - Approved the TAB Terms of Reference (TOR), which indicate that the tasks of the TAB are to:
 - ... undertake the assessment of emissions unit programmes against the emissions units criteria
 - ... develop recommendations on the list of eligible emissions unit programmes (and potentially project types) whose emissions units would be eligible for use under the CORSIA, for consideration by the Council



- In January 2020, TAB completed the first assessment of applicant programmes, and submitted a report including its recommendations to Council for consideration
- In November 2020, TAB completed the second assessment of applicant programmes and submitted the associated report to Council for consideration
- TAB recommendations are available on the TAB website here:
<https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Pages/TAB.aspx>
- The TAB Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will further discuss their process and recommendations later in the webinar

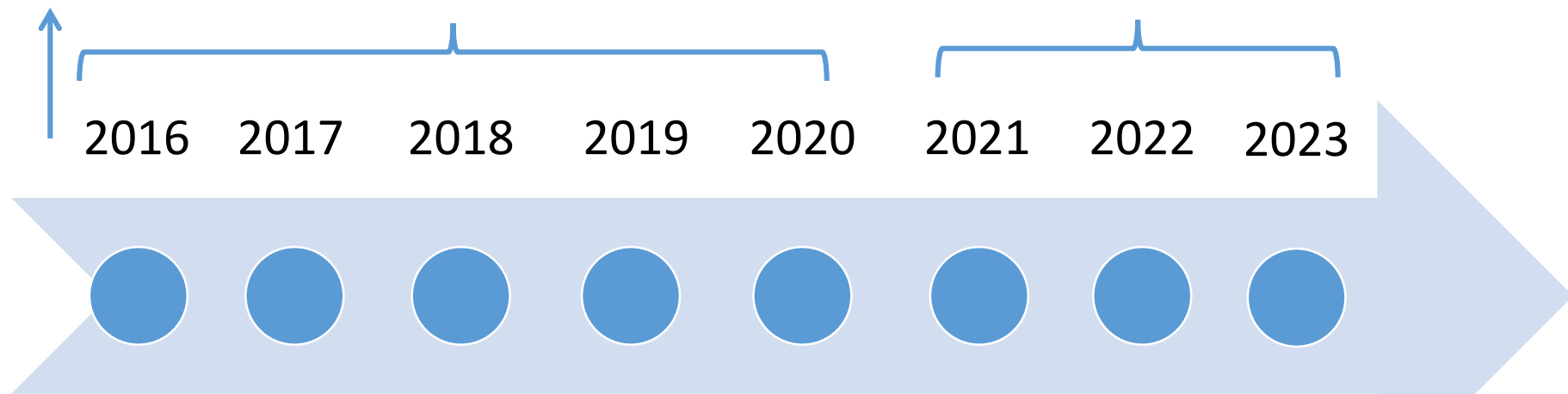


- In March and November 2020, the Council considered TAB recommendations from its 1st and 2nd assessment cycles and approved **eligible units for the 2021-2023 pilot phase**
- Eligible units are issued...
 - ...to projects/activities that **started their first crediting period from 1 January 2016 and**
 - ...in respect of emissions reductions that occur **no later than 31 December 2020.**

Crediting
period start:
1 January 2016

Emissions units can be
generated from reductions
occurring through 2020

Emissions units can be
used for CORSIA
offsetting in Pilot Phase



(see ICAO document *CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units* and TAB report)

Seven Eligible Programmes

1) American Carbon Registry



2) Architecture for REDD+ Transactions



3) China GHG Voluntary Emission Reduction Program



4) Clean Development Mechanism



5) Climate Action Reserve



6) The Gold Standard



7) Verified Carbon Standard



NOTE: Not all units from these programmes are eligible for use in CORSIA

- Certain emissions units from these programmes are not eligible (see each programme's *Scope of Eligibility* in the ICAO document *CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units* and TAB report)

Part 2: Understanding CORSIA Eligibility

Molly Peters-Stanley (TAB Chairperson) and
Benedict Chia (TAB Vice-Chairperson)



Basis for determining CORSIA eligibility: Documents informing TAB assessments and Council decisions

Several Documents on the ICAO CORSIA website play an integrated role in informing, defining, and in some cases limiting the eligibility of CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units. **These documents describe...:**

1. How TAB conducts its assessment

- Application Form materials including *Emissions Units Criteria and Guidelines for Criteria Interpretation* (described later in this presentation);
- *TAB Terms of Reference*; and
- *TAB Procedures*:
 - outline some key definitions used in the assessment process and documents;
 - contain procedures and guidelines for applying the emissions unit criteria, including as a source of guidance on any specific procedure or issues not addressed in the *TAB Terms of Reference*;
 - describe how programme eligibility is managed once decided by the ICAO Council, including ongoing expectations and procedures related to eligible programmes
 - Updated as needed to reflect Council decisions and guidance, and the experience of TAB.

Some other features of the TAB assessment process, and of programmes themselves, are also important for defining and managing eligibility:

a) TAB interactions with applicants

- Regular written clarification questions and answers, between TAB and applicants
- Live interviews with applicants if/as needed to resolve outstanding questions
- Assessment tables that “mirror” each question in the Application Form (to assess each applicant according to ~140 indicators)

b) Eligible Programme-designated registry(ies) systems

- The primary resource for programmes, and buyers in turn, to explicitly identify CORSIA-eligible emissions units that fall within the programme’s *Eligibility Scope*
- Common approach: “Tagging” eligible units with CORSIA identifier in registry(ies) system



These documents also describe...:

2. How Council decisions are informed and reflected

- TAB Recommendations

- **Available here** on TAB website: <https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Pages/TAB.aspx>

- ICAO Document titled “CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units”

- **Available here** on CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units website: <https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Pages/CORSIA-Emissions-Units.aspx>



After Council Decisions: Terms of Approval, Listing in ICAO Document, & Material Changes



Key processes that are implemented after Council approves a CORSIA eligible emissions unit programme include the following:

1. Programmes are requested to accept the *Terms of Eligibility*, including their *Scope of Eligibility*
2. Programmes are listed in the ICAO Document “CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units”
3. Programmes notify the ICAO Secretariat of any formal decision to alter their procedures that materially modifies their *Scope of Eligibility*; such modifications are defined as “Material Changes”
 - TAB reviews any such procedural modifications to determine if they are indeed “material” and, if so, assesses their continued consistency with the EUC

1) Acceptance of *Scope* and *Terms of Eligibility*

After the Council's approval and prior to inclusion in the ICAO Document *CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units*, each programme is requested to accept the “**Terms of Eligibility**”, including:

- Terms of Eligibility – [the] Conditions and limitations to the scope of eligibility and further actions requested of a programme, and agreement to maintain consistency with the EUC as described in the application form and subsequent communications with TAB

TAB Procedures define a programme's “**Scope of Eligibility**” as:

- Scope of Eligibility – [the] ...extent and limits of a programme's eligibility, which is defined, assessed, and granted on the basis of the programme-level governance structures, measures or mechanisms, and procedures that programmes have in place at the time of their initial submission of application materials to the ICAO Secretariat; and any updates to these procedures that are communicated to TAB during the course of its assessment; and as defined in the general or programme-specific eligibility parameters set out in TAB's recommendations
 - During their assessment, **applicants** define the scope of their programme to be assessed by TAB
 - **TAB** may recommend additional exclusions or limitations to the programme's scope of eligibility



2) Listing as CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units programme

Upon accepting the Terms of Eligibility, a programme is listed in the ICAO Document ***CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units***.

Each programme listing has four sections defining the nature of its eligibility:

- A. Programme-designated Registry**
- B. Eligibility Timeframe**
- C. Eligible Unit Dates**
- D. Scope of Eligibility**



A. Programme-designated Registry(ies) section...

- Lists the programme's registry or registries and link(s) to each registry system
- Specifies further requirements for each Programme-designated Registry system
 - i.e., must be able to identify CORSIA eligible emissions units, and to enable the public identification of cancelled units that are used toward CORSIA offsetting requirements; and any further requirements decided by the ICAO Council
- Confirms receipt of Application Form, Appendix D – Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation, upon submission by programme
 - In this document, applicants attest to and describe their consistency with registry requirements; TAB will review continued consistency of programme registry with EUC and these requirements



B. Eligibility Timeframe section...

- Identifies the CORSIA cycle(s) when specified units from listed programme are eligible for use toward CORSIA offsetting obligations
- Currently, all listed programmes' eligible units are eligible for use toward offsetting obligations in the 2021-2023 CORSIA Compliance Cycle

C. Eligible Unit Dates section...

- Identifies the date(s) associated with the creation of eligible units
- Currently, all listed programmes' eligible units are issued...
 - to activities that started their first crediting period from 1 January (according to the crediting period start date specified at the time of registration) and
 - in respect of reductions that occurred through 31 December 2020



D. Scope of Eligibility section...

- Specifies any limitations to the *scope* of a programme's eligibility in CORSIA
- These eligibility parameters apply to each individual programme, including excluding the eligibility of certain emissions units according to, e.g., their:
 - Activity type
 - Unit type
 - Methodology
 - Programme element
 - Procedural class
- These exclusions are identified by the programmes themselves during the assessment process, or by TAB in its recommendations regarding the outcomes of assessment.



3) Programme notifications of *Material Changes*

- Programmes are required to notify the ICAO Secretariat of any formal decision to alter their procedures that materially modifies their *Scope of Eligibility*
- Such modifications are defined as a “Material Change”:
 - Material Change – an update to a programme’s Scope of Eligibility that would alter the programme’s response(s) to any questions in application form and further inquiries from the TAB over the course of the programme’s assessment
- Such changes are to be communicated to ICAO by the soonest of three deadlines/year that are set for this purpose.
- TAB reviews any such procedural modifications to determine if they are indeed “material” and, if so, assesses their continued consistency with the EUC



3) Programme notifications of *Material Changes*

- Material changes should be disclosed using the **Material Change Form**. TAB will then consider the need for any further review, in line with *TAB Procedures*.

PART B: PROGRAM CHANGE NOTIFICATION(S)

The Programme is requested to provide the following information regarding any modification(s) to the programme's Scope of Eligibility that could constitute a “material change” as described above. Report each change separately by duplicating (copying and pasting) the table below as needed.

Programme name:

CHANGE 1
a. Description of the change (e.g., the addition, modification, deletion undertaken):
b. Rationale for the change:



Applications for TAB's Assessment: Materials and Instructions



These documents are requested of organizations applying for assessment:

- 2021 Application Form for Emissions Unit Programmes
 - Where applicants describe their consistency with the EUC and Guidelines for Criteria Interpretation
- Application Form, Appendix B - Programme *Assessment* Scope (.xlsx)
 - Where applicants list the programme elements described in application forms
- Application Form, Appendix C - Programme *Exclusions* Scope (.xlsx)
 - Where applicants list the programme elements excluded from TAB's assessment
- Application Form, Appendix D – Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation
 - Where applicants attest to and describe their consistency with registry requirements

- **2021 Application Form for Emissions Unit Programmes:** Where applicants describe their consistency with the EUC and Guidelines for Criteria Interpretation (in [Appendix A—Supplementary Information](#))
- Contains a series of check boxes, narrative questions, and requests for “evidence” that programme procedures are in place and available for use

Question 3.6 Validation and verification procedures

Are standards, requirements, and procedures in place for... (<i>Paragraph 2.6</i>)	
a) the validation of activities?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES
b) the verification of emissions reductions?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES
c) the accreditation of validators?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES
d) the accreditation of verifiers?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES

Provide evidence of the standards, requirements, and procedures referred to in a) through d), including their availability to the public:

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Complete responses to applications questions include three components:

- 1) Written summary response
- 2) Selection of the “Yes” check box if procedure is *fully in place*
- 3) Supporting evidence, as...:
 - a) Web links to supporting documentation
 - b) Copy / paste information directly into form, along with written summary
 - c) Attached supporting documentation, with instructions for finding relevant documentation

EXAMPLE: Preferred approach to providing supporting evidence that could meet expectations for complete responses to a question:

“The Programme ensures its consistency with this requirement by requiring / undertaking / etc. the following:

[Paragraph(s) introducing and summarizing specific programme procedures relevant to question]

The full contents of these procedures can be found in [Document title, page X, Section X, paragraphs X-X]. This document is publicly available at this weblink: [\[weblink\]](#).”

- The Application Form’s **Appendix B - Programme Assessment Scope** and **Appendix C - Programme Exclusions Scope** (both .xlsx documents) ask applicants list the programme elements that are described in and/or excluded from their application forms.
- These documents begin the process of identifying the elements that are within or beyond TAB’s assessment and recommendations

SHEET A: DESCRIBED ACTIVITIES <i>(Here, list activities supported by the programme that are described in this form for further assessment)</i>			
Sector	Supported activity type(s)	Implementation level(s)	Geography(ies)
e.g. Waste, Energy	e.g., Landfill methane capture; Coal mine methane capture;	e.g., Project-level only; Programmes of activities; Sector-scale	e.g., Global; Non-Annex I-only; Country X only

SHEET B: METHODOLOGIES / PROTOCOLS LIST <i>(Here, list all methodologies / protocols that support activities described in Sheet A)</i>						
Methodology name	Unique Methodology / Protocol Identifier	Applicable methodology version(s)	Date of entry into force of most recent version	Prior versions of the methodology that are credited by the Programme (if applicable)	Greenhouse / other gases addressed in methodology	Web link to methodology
e.g. "Methodology to XYZ..."	e.g., ABC-123-V.20-XXX	e.g., V2.0	1/1/18			

- The Application Form’s **Appendix D – Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation** is to be signed by programme and registry administrators, accepting terms for the provision of registry services under CORSIA
- Registry representatives provide evidence of requirements indicated in the Registry Attestation

PART 3: EVIDENCE OF ADHERENCE TO SCOPE OF REGISTRY RESPONSIBILITIES

	<p>Does the Programme Registry fully meet the objectives of any and all Programme provisions and procedures related to the Programme Registry that the Programme is required to have in place in the manner represented by the Programme in the application form that the Programme has provided to the ICAO Secretariat and, if applicable⁴, as acknowledged by the Programme in the signed “Programme acceptance to terms of eligibility for inclusion in the ICAO document ‘CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units’”?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES
<p>7.1</p>	<p>Describe how the Registry ensures its ability to implement these provisions:</p>	
	<p>In the field below, provide link(s) to any web-based evidence of existing registry functionalities and/or of documents demonstrating business practices and procedures for the Programme Registry’s implementation of these provisions. Alternatively, or in addition, confirm that such evidence is included as an attachment to this <i>Emissions Unit Programme Registry Attestation</i>.</p>	



Part 3: Recent Assessment and Next Steps

Molly Peters-Stanley (TAB Chairperson) and
Benedict Chia (TAB Vice-Chairperson)

- In October 2020, TAB made the following recommendations to Council:
 1. Approve *Architecture for REDD+ Transactions* for immediate eligibility
 2. Update programme-specific eligibility parameters for:
 - a) *American Carbon Registry*
 - b) *Climate Action Reserve*
 - c) *The Gold Standard*
 - d) *Verified Carbon Standard*
- Council accepted TAB's recommendations, and approved amendments to the ICAO document *CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units*

All documents available at: <https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Pages/CORSIA-Emissions-Units.aspx>

TAB's Third Assessment: 2021 Work Programme

- We are here in the timeline –
 - This webinar to provide further information to applicants
 - Third call for programme applications currently open

- TAB's third set of full recommendations are expected for consideration by the Council in November 2021

TAB Work Programme (2021 Assessment)													
		2021											
		January	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1st Quarter 2021													
1.1	ICAO begins third call for programme applications	█											
1.2	ICAO webinar for third cycle applicants		█										
1.3	End call for third cycle applications			█									
1.4	222nd Council Session: Consideration of TAB recommendations on material changes received in April-August 2020			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
1.5	TAB assessment of third cycle applicants			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
1.6	Public comments invited on third assessment cycle applications			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
2nd Quarter 2021													
2.1	Deadline (15 April 2021) for material change assessments to be considered at 224th Council Session (November 2021) and/or updated information on compliance with eligibility conditions				█								
2.2	223rd Council Session: Consideration of TAB recommendations on material changes submitted 10 December 2020, if needed						█						
3rd Quarter 2021													
3.1	Deadline (1 September 2021) for material change assessments to be considered at 225th Council Session (February 2022) and/or updated information on compliance with eligibility conditions									█			
4th Quarter 2021													
4.1	224th Council Session: Consideration of TAB recommendations on material changes submitted 15 April 2021, if needed and TAB recommendations on third cycle applications											█	
4.2	Deadline (30 December 2021) for material change assessments to be considered at 226th Council Session (June 2022) and/or updated information on compliance with eligibility conditions												█

Note 1: The above TAB Work Programme and Timeline is subject to further changes.
Note 2: The TAB process above is iterative, and the fourth programme application period is foreseen to begin in January 2022.
Note 3: The reassessment of eligible programmes is foreseen to begin in January 2022.



Deadlines for Reporting Material Changes

- Eligible programmes have three deadlines for reporting material changes to ICAO in 2021:
 - 15 April, 2021
 - 1 September, 2021
 - 30 December, 2021
- Future deadlines for reporting material changes will occur 2-3 times per year

Part 4: Questions and Answers about CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units

Molly Peters-Stanley (TAB Chairperson) and
Benedict Chia (TAB Vice-Chairperson)



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