



Protocol Comment Form

Date: 6/20/03

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What is the issue or problem with the current Protocol?

Please select one: General Reporting Protocol Certification Protocol

Subject: Use of the term certification

Though in common usage the terms certification and verification have similar meanings of "to attest as being true or as represented or as meeting a standard", within GHG management contexts of the term "certified" has assumed associated meaning.

In particular, the term has through its use in the CDM's Certified Emission Reductions become related to a tradeable unit within an international policy context.

Furthermore, broadly recognized standards on GHG reporting such as the WRI/WBCSD GHG Protocol do not use the term certify but rather address the assessment of the accuracy of emission reports through the term "verification" defined as:

"Verification is the objective and independent assessment of whether the reported GHG inventory properly reflects the GHG impact of the company in conformance with the preestablished GHG accounting and reporting standards."

Because of associations, as well as divergence from more commonly applied terms, the extensive use of the term "certification" in the protocol could create confusion that emission reports "certified" contain information suitable to support emission trading rather than the intended purpose of baseline protection against future regulatory measures.

What solution or alternative approach would address this?

As the purpose of the protocol is to ensure that the participant's emission report has been verified, consistent with the definition found in the GHG Protocol, this term should be considered in place of certification throughout the Protocol.

How will this proposed solution continue to meet the general spirit and purpose of the Protocol and the Registry, as outlined in the Protocol itself, policies adopted by the Board of Directors and enabling legislation?

This terminology change ensures clear understanding of the purpose of the Protocol and Registry, does not change the Protocol's process of GHG report assessment, and aligns the Registry's Protocol with other GHG policy contexts and reporting guidelines.

Return completed form by email, fax or mail to:
California Climate Action Registry
help@climateregistry.org

For Registry use only:

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