

Overview of Certification Standards for Carbon Offsetting (Ver. 1.0, 18 Mar 2009)

Background

In order to promote carbon offsetting, Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) set forth several issues for consideration in their *Guidelines for Carbon Offsetting in Japan* published in February 2008. One of the measures deemed necessary in this document was the establishment of a third-party certification and labeling scheme.

Purpose

Certification standards establish the reliability of various carbon offset initiatives based on MOEJ policy in order to raise awareness of and promote these initiatives as well as to contribute to the establishment of an equitable carbon offset market.

Significance

Certification standards indicate the requirements that must be met in order for applicants to have their own carbon offset initiatives certified in line with MOEJ policy.

Applicable scope

Certification standards target marketing initiatives (such as CER and the use of other credits of sufficient quality circulating in the market) that place particular importance on the reliability of their carbon offset efforts.

Basic certification concepts

Requirements

(1) Become aware of emissions (2) Make efforts to reduce emissions (3) Establish purchase volume and purchase method for offsetting (4) Invalidate credits (cancellation etc.) (5) Provide information

Classification

I-1 Offsetting the use of products and services

Example 1: Offsetting emissions produced during beverage manufacture

I-2 Offsetting meetings and events

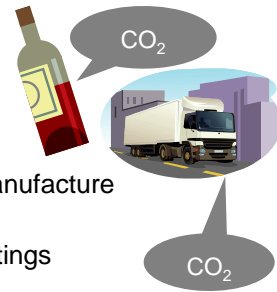
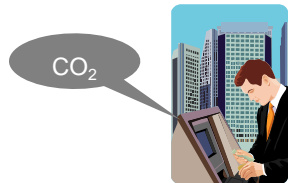
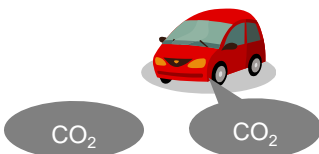
Example 3: Offsetting CO₂ emissions produced in holding meetings

I-3 Offsetting personal activities

Example 4: Offsetting CO₂ emissions produced by businesses in their own buildings

II Support for offsetting personal activities

Example 5: Retail businesses selling beverages attached with a 1 kg credit, allowing consumers to offset a kilogram of emissions produced during their daily lives



Certification timing and application requirements

Although carbon offset initiatives can only receive final confirmation once emissions have been compensated for, certification can also be obtained at the planning stage in order to promote consumer choice. In that case, it must be reconfirmed once offsetting (cancellation etc.) is actually carried out.

Carbon offset initiative certification standards

certification requirement	Standard content		Common standard	I-1	I-2	I-3	II
Awareness of emissions	Calculation scope (boundaries)		○				
	Emission calculation methods	Calculation levels	○				
		Calculation formulas	○				
		Recording calculation, various data collection, and other methods, verifying appropriateness	○				
		Reliability of emission coefficient and activity volume	○				
		Correct calculation based on selected data and calculation method	○				
	Establishing offset volume		○				
Providing information on calculation methods and emission calculations		✕				○	
Carrying out reduction efforts	Applicant efforts to reduce their own emissions		○			●	
	Efforts to reduce emissions of target activities			○	○	○	
	Initiatives to promote efforts to reduce consumer emissions			○	○		○
Purchase of credits for offsetting	Types of credit		○				
	Contracts related to credit purchase		○				
Compensation for emissions	Handling emissions and offset volume		○				
	Handling credits vs. offset volume		○				
	Methods of invalidating credits		○				
Provision of information	Providing information according to the <i>Information Provision Guidelines</i>		○				
	Content of information provided		○				
	Providing information specifying the party allegedly carrying out the carbon offsetting			○	○		

○: certification standards established

●: Additional requirements

✕: Provide information on calculation scope and emission calculation according to the *Information Provision Guidelines*

I-1 Offsetting the use of products and services

I-2 Offsetting meetings and events

I-3 Offsetting personal activities

II Support for offsetting personal activities

Reference sites and guidelines (Japanese only):

Carbon offsetting guidelines

◆ Guidelines for Carbon Offsetting in Japan

http://www.env.go.jp/earth/ondanka/mechanism/carbon_offset/guideline/guideline080207.pdf

◆ Guidelines for Information Provision of Carbon Offsetting Activities for Establishing Credibility (Ver. 1.0)

http://www.env.go.jp/press/file_view.php?serial=12336&hou_id=10347

◆ Guidelines for Calculation of GHG Emissions of Activities to be Offset(Ver. 1.1)

<http://www.j-cof.org/document/GHGsguideline-ver.1.pdf>

Information on carbon offsetting:

◆ Ministry of the Environment, Japan website on carbon offsetting:

http://www.env.go.jp/earth/ondanka/mechanism/carbon_offset.html

◆ Japan Carbon Offset Forum (J-COF) <http://www.j-cof.org>

◆ Third-party certification of carbon offset, labeling: <http://www.4cj.org/label.html>

◆ Reliable Provider Scheme: <http://www.4cj.org/provider.html>

◆ Offsetting Credit (J-VER) Scheme: <http://www.4cj.org/jver.html>