CO₂ PERFORMANCE LADDER

Transition arrangement for certification and procurement with 4.0

1   Introduction

This transition arrangement describes what certificate holders, contracting authorities and certification bodies must allow for during the *transition period* from Handbook 3.1 to Handbook 4.0 and from *MEAT 3.1* to *MEAT 4.0*.

2   Concepts (insofar as these are not listed in the Handbook 4.0 glossary)

- *MEAT 3.1*: the Most Economically Advantageous Tender criteria for the CO₂ Performance Ladder as described in the Procurement Guide Version 3.1, where the CO₂ Performance Ladder is used for procurement;
- *MEAT 4.0*[1]: The upgraded version of *MEAT 3.1*;
- *Transition period:* the period from 14 January 2025 to 14 January 2027. This period starts on the Handbook 4.0 publication date and continues until the date on which the 3.1 audits are no longer allowed. This period lasts for 24 months.

3   Transition arrangement for certification with Handbook 4.0

- On 14 January 2025, Handbook 4.0 was published for Step 1, Step 2 and Step 3 including the certification scheme. As of this date, all interested parties can access the contents;
- As of 14 July 2025, certification bodies with appropriate accreditation can perform audits for Steps 1, 2 and 3 of Handbook 4.0;
- Audits for Handbook 3.1 may still be performed until 14 January 2027. These certificates remain valid until the next (annual) audit. This means that there may be valid certificates for Handbook 3.1 until 14 January 2028 (36 months after the publication date of Handbook 4.0);
- Organisations with a valid 3.1 certificate that will have a 4.0 audit performed for Step 1 may continue their 3.1 audit cycle. That is, if the next 3.1 audit would be an annual audit, then the first 4.0 audit may also take place as an annual audit including any audit time reduction;
- 4.0 audits for Step 2 and Step 3 are always an initial audit.

4   Transition arrangement for procurement with MEAT 4.0

- Contracting authorities are advised to use *MEAT 3.1* in their procurement until 14 January 2027 and then use *MEAT 4.0* for new tenders. Earlier deployment of *MEAT 4.0* is recommended only if the contracting authority is convinced that the (international) market in which the tender is being launched is ready. This may be so when enough expected tenderers already have a 4.0 certificate. In any case, it is not recommended to deploy *MEAT 4.0* earlier than 14 January 2026.

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[1] Publication of the MEAT criteria 4.0 is expected in early 2025.

- Contracting authorities using *MEAT 3.1* in procurement during the *transition period* and receiving a valid 4.0 certificate as evidence from a bidder are advised to accept it in the following manner:
    - Handbook 4.0 Step 1 is accepted as Handbook 3.1 Level 3
    - Handbook 4.0 Step 2 is accepted as Handbook 3.1 Level 5
    - Handbook 4.0 Step 3 is accepted as Handbook 3.1 Level 5
- Contracting authorities using *MEAT 4.0* for procurement are advised to accept only valid 4.0 project declarations or 4.0 certificates as proof (see the Procurement Guide 4.0 for this), and therefore <u>no</u> 3.1 certificates.

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