FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: VERIFICATION

Q1. What is third party verification?

A1. Third party verification refers to verification carried out by an independent external organization accredited and competent to perform GHG verification. This organization must be independent of the organizations that have gathered and/or provided the data and those that will use the data. This organization is also independent from the recognised standard that it is using to perform the third party verification.

Q2. What proportion of my emissions needs to be verified?

A2. To be awarded Leadership points for Scope 1 and Scope 2 verification questions in the 2024 Full Corporate Questionnaire - Climate change (7.9.1, 7.9.2), 100% of each Scope 1 and 2 emissions must be verified. This refers to the total emissions within the reporting boundary, and there must also be no relevant exclusions from the reporting boundary for Leadership points to be awarded.

To be awarded Leadership points for the Scope 3 verification question in the 2024 Full Corporate Questionnaire - Climate change (7.9.3), at least 70% of Scope 3 emissions must be verified. This 70% refers to the total emissions within the reporting boundary, and there must also be no relevant exclusions from the reporting boundary.

Leadership points for Scope 1, 2 and 3 verification (7.9.1, 7.9.2 and 7.9.3) must have been awarded for a company to be eligible to receive an 'A' score for the Climate change environmental issue area.

Q3. Why does CDP work with verification partners?

A3. CDP collaborates closely with CDP verification partners in order to support reporting companies with helpful, high quality resources and to further develop CDP's approach to verification. The verification services provided by our accredited verification partner organizations can provide companies with third party certification, verification and assurance of climate and sustainability data. Part of CDP's partner accreditation process includes checking that the services that our verification partners provide are accredited under internationally recognized standards, including relevant ISO or ISAE standards and are accredited to perform verification under schemes such as the EU ETS and Western Climate Initiative.

Q4. Why doesn't CDP accept 'pre-audit', 'agreed upon procedures', 'pre-assurance' or 'draft assurance' as verification under Climate Change scoring methodology?

A4. 'Pre-audit' or 'pre-assurance' is an accounting practice used prior to the official examination of the accuracy and completeness of an organization's data and/or statements. This preliminary phase of an audit is used to establish the scope of the audit and any specific areas of focus. It is also used to gather background information and to request the required documents, records and information. As these terms both refer to the stages prior to the official examination of the data for accuracy and completeness, they are not accepted as verification by CDP.

'Agreed upon procedures' is a professional engagement in which a verifier agrees with the reporting company the specific procedures to be followed. Therefore this is not considered to be a full GHG emissions verification/assurance. Although this process can provide a very detailed evaluation of the procedures used to prepare the data, it does not express an opinion on the findings. Therefore, the use of the findings should be restricted to those parties that have agreed to the procedures as other users may misinterpret the results.

A draft assurance process is not a recognized verification/assurance process and will not generate a final opinion over the company's GHG data.

Q5. Why doesn't CDP accept internal verification?

A5. Although internal verification can deliver some of the same benefits as third party verification, third party verification is an independent process, therefore one that increases the credibility and reliability of the verification. Third party verification provides an independent assessment of the systems and processes used to monitor and report an organization's climate information and independent verifiers are able to bring objective opinions and recommendations to the data collection, management and reporting processes.

Q6. What does CDP mean by accreditation?

A6. Accreditation is a process that ensures that the verification body has achieved an appropriate level of organizational proficiency and that it has reliable mechanisms in operation to continually improve the quality of services it delivers, according to standards developed by impartial organizations.

Accreditation assesses whether the verifier:

1. Has the competence to carry out verification

2. Is performing the verification in line with the standard set by the independent organization

3. Meets the requirements of the standard

Please note that CDP accredited verification providers are CDP's verification partners and technical working group members and their services are accredited under internationally recognized standards (including relevant ISO or ISAE standards) to perform verification under schemes such as the EU ETS and Western Climate Initiative. These checks are done by CDP to ensure that we are working with leading verification providers, and as part of our own accreditation process. Any reference to accreditation by CDP within consultation or guidance documents refers to the accreditation of verification providers in a wider sense: for example, accreditation provided by United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and other accreditation bodies.

Some of the verification standards accepted by CDP require the verification body to be accredited against a particular standard or will provide guidelines on the requirements to verifiers in order to conduct the verification. CDP scorers do not check the accreditation of verification bodies for scoring decisions as this is beyond the scope of our work. Instead, CDP checks whether the standard that the verification was done to is accepted.

CDP recommends that companies check their verifier has relevant GHG experience together with the required accreditations for the relevant, CDP-accepted verification standard used.

Q7. What is the difference between limited and reasonable assurance in terms of CDP scoring?

A7. Currently, CDP does not differentiate between limited and reasonable assurance within the CDP scoring methodology. CDP wants to continue to allow the flexibility of both levels of assurance being accepted allowing companies to select what makes sense for their business, the purpose of the verification and previous practices in the company. CDP also accepts different verification standards and those can use different terminology in relation to levels of assurance, therefore limiting verification requirements to a particular level of assurance might not always be comparable. However reasonable and high assurance will always provide a higher level of assurance than limited and moderate assurance. CDP will continue to monitor and review its approach to different levels of verification in 2024.

Q8. Which verification standards are better?

A8. To ensure that the third party verification activities undertaken by companies are broadly comparable, CDP requires verification to be completed in accordance with recognized verification standards that are reviewed by CDP. These standards must have a common set of attributes which are set out in the criteria on our website. Any third party verification standard referenced in a company's submission to CDP will be assessed against these criteria to determine acceptability.

All verification standards accepted by CDP are published on our website. CDP acknowledges the diversity of geographies and industries amongst CDP responders and has reviewed a wide range of verification standards. CDP does not differentiate between the accepted standards. If information is disclosed correctly and evidence attached to the response there will not be any

incentive to use one accepted standard over another. Companies will find that some standards fit their business and business needs better than others. In some cases companies might be able to extend their existing verification procedures in order to include GHG emissions verification in addition to other data.

Q9. Why is the question on exclusions (7.4.1) linked with the scoring points awarded for verification?

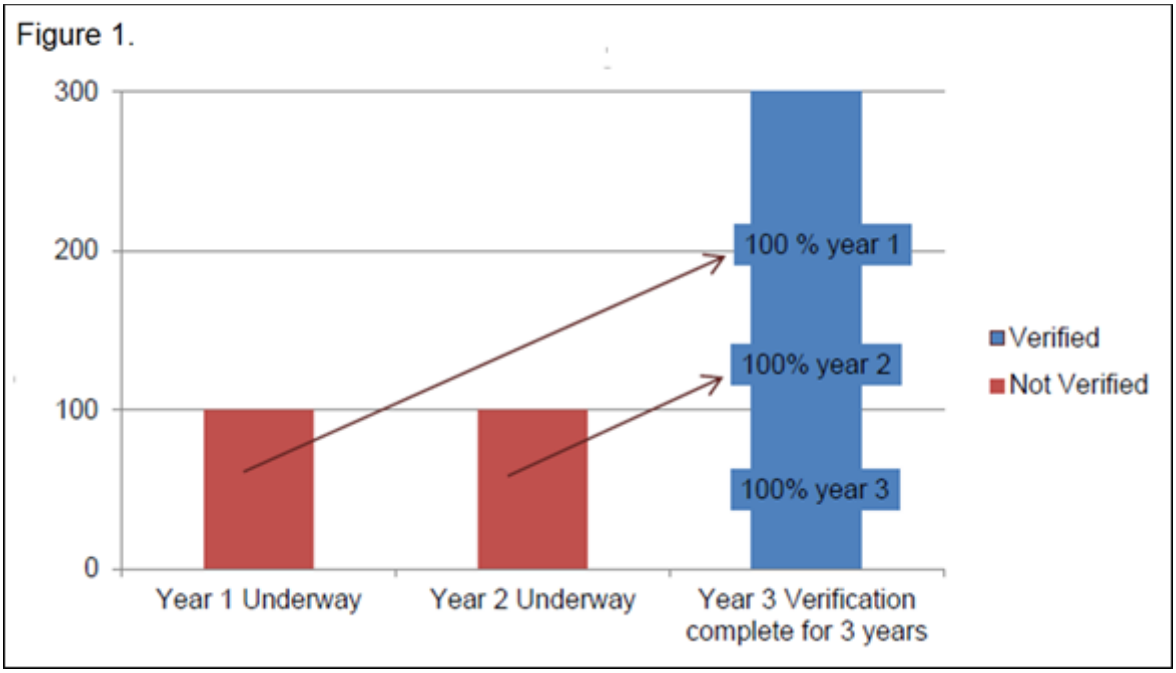
A9. For full points for verification in the 2024 Full Corporate Questionnaire - Climate change, a company will have to have reported in question 7.4.1 that they have not excluded any relevant sources from their GHG boundary. If a company reports that they have verified a proportion of their reported emissions (their GHG boundary) but then reports relevant exclusions from their boundary - the proportion verified becomes meaningless.

Q10. Can I gain full points for verification in 2024 if I have 50% verified each year and that way achieve 100% every two years?

A10. Companies can select whether their verification process is annual, biennial or triennial. Whatever the frequency of verification, for Leadership points to be awarded 100% of annual emissions within the reporting boundary, for scope 1 and 2 must be awarded. Similarly, 70% of annual emissions within the reporting boundary for scope 3 must be verified. If a company only verifies 50% of their emissions each year, this would not be eligible for Leadership points.

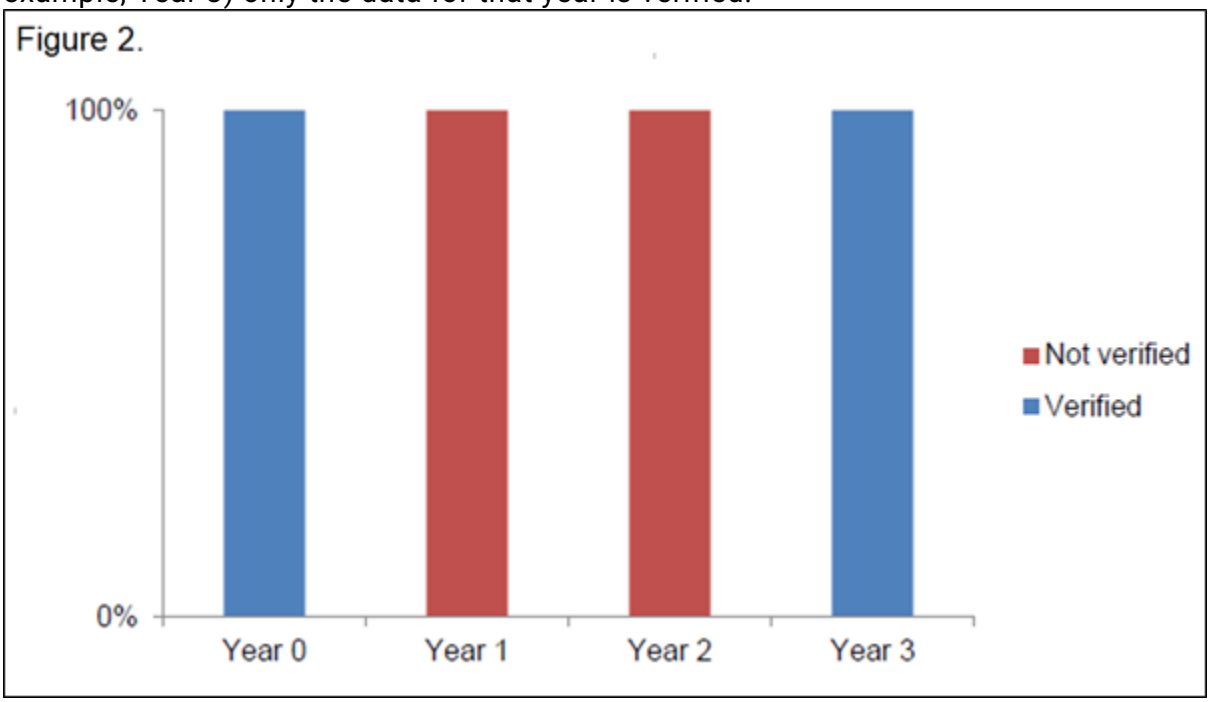
Q11. How should I report my emissions verification if I have an annual, biennial or triennial process?

A11. If in the year the verification is completed (for example, Year 3), the data for all sources during the full cycle is verified (for example year 1, 2, and 3) the company can report 100% verification and should attach the verification statements that cover the emissions for all three years. This would be considered **a triennial process**. Graph of this situation is provided for clarity below (Figure 1).



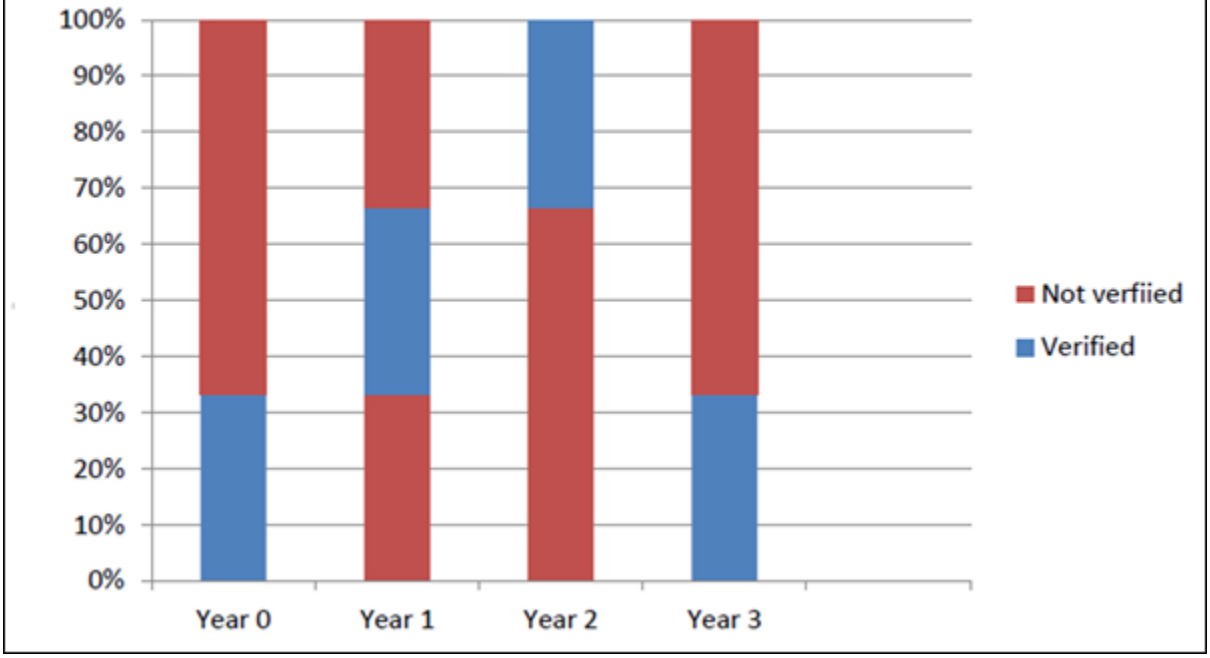
Annual processes: Not all processes taking place over three years will be considered a triennial process. The graphs below illustrate annual processes, which should not be confused with triennial.

Figure 2 shows an annual process, where in the year the verification is completed (for example, Year 3) only the data for that year is verified.



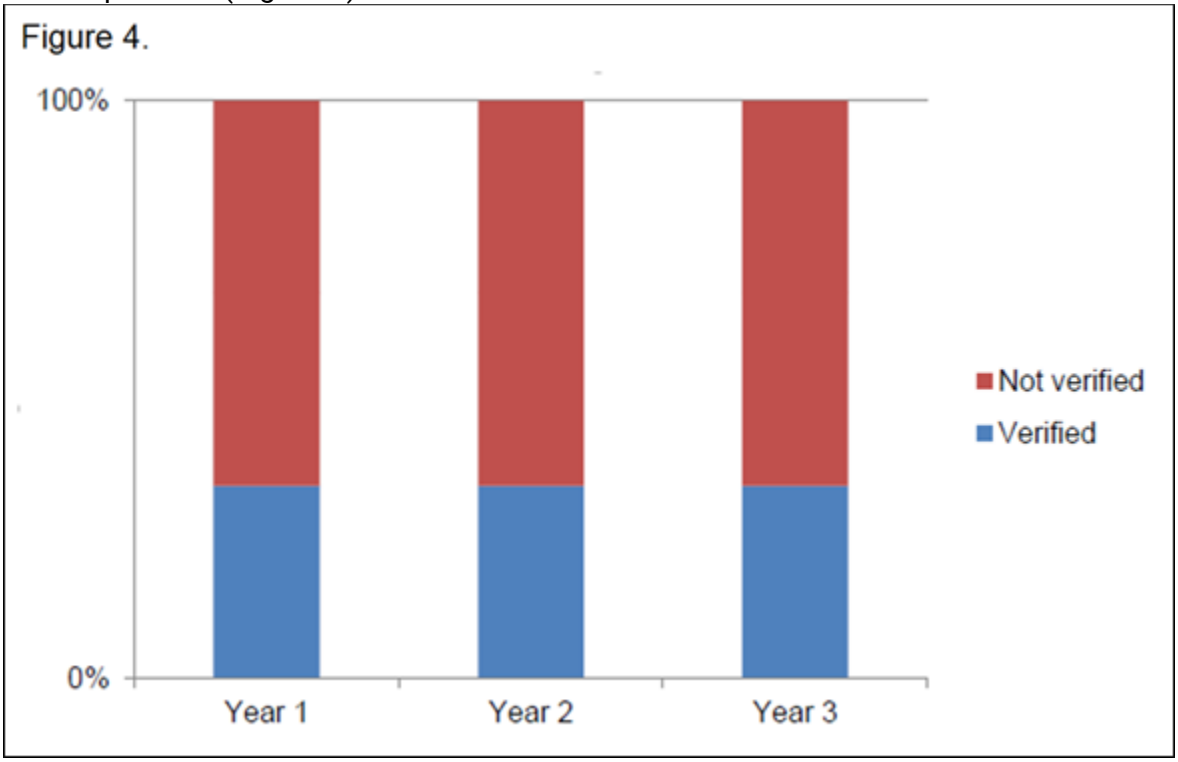
Another example of a yearly process is when one third of the sources is verified every year (Figure 3). Under this scenario, in Year 3 only 1/3 of the sources are verified, with the second third verified in Year 2, and the remaining third in Year 1. The company should report this as a yearly process where 33% of the sources are verified.

Figure 3.



Likewise, where a company has 1/3 of their emissions verified every year this is an annual process (Figure 4):

Figure 4.



CDP regards **verification/assurance** as a process undertaken by an independent third party accredited to perform verification/assurance of the GHG emissions data. Please only state that you have had or are having verification/assurance carried out if it is by an independent third party accredited to perform verification/assurance of GHG data. CDP does not prescribe companies' choice of specific verification/assurance providers.

However, companies searching for a provider may want to consult our list of accredited verification partners: Learn more about CDP solution providers offering third party verification services here.

For more information on verification visit CDP's verification pages or contact one of CDP's accredited verification partners. If you have a question related to verification of GHG emissions that hasn't been answered above, please email verification@cdp.net

Frequently Asked Questions: Verification 2024 - Version Control

Version number	Release/revision date	Revision summary
1.0	14/06/2024	First version
1.1	18/06/2024	Update to CDP's accredited verification partners