

Airport Carbon Accreditation Communication

Communication No:	3 of 2025
From:	Environmental Minds
To:	Accredited Airports, Approved Verifiers and Programme Stakeholders
Subject:	Update Regarding Various Programme Provisions
Date:	5 th June 2025

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Communication is to provide updated information on three programme provisions that were approved by the Advisory Board in February and May 2025. These provisions relate to:

- A. Level 1: Time Limitation;
- B. Levels 3/3+: Abolishment of the Three-Year Renewal Cycle; and
- C. Levels 4/4+: Pathway Reformulation

2. Updates to the Airport Carbon Accreditation Programme Requirements

A. Time Limitation for Level 1

To incentivise airports to upgrade to higher levels of accreditation, two changes are being introduced at Level 1. Firstly, it has been agreed that airports will now be recommended to upgrade to a higher level of accreditation after two years of accreditation at Level 1. Secondly, airports will be required to upgrade to a higher level of accreditation after three years of accreditation at Level 1. For example, an airport that enters the programme at Level 1 in August 2025, should upgrade to a higher Level by August 2028 at the latest.

For airports currently at Level 1, the time limitation will commence from July 1st, 2025. This means that an airport currently at Level 1 has up to three years to upgrade to a higher level. For example, if an airport is currently at Level 1 and their accreditation expires in August 2025, the airport should upgrade no later than August 2028.

If an airport withdraws from the programme at any level, they are only entitled to re-enter the programme at Level 2 or higher. Also, airports cannot downgrade to Level 1 from any higher Level.

B. Abolishment of Level 3/3+ with Three-Year Renewal Requirements

Effective immediately Level 3/3+ with three-year renewal is abolished. Airports that were accredited at this level before June 2025 and were initially accredited at this level in 2024 or earlier shall be allowed to renew one more time on a three-year cycle, when their current cycle expires. Airports that were accredited at this level before June 2025 and were initially accredited at this level in 2025 shall have to upgrade, downgrade or move to an annual cycle when their current cycle expires.

C. Reformulation of Pathway for Levels 4/4+

To ensure *Airport Carbon Accreditation* is aligned with global developments, it has been agreed that for airports accredited at Levels 4/4+, their targets must be in line with the IPCC 1.5°C target, leading to Net Zero by 2050. This is applicable for all airports, unless they operate in countries where the 2°C pathway is adopted as part of their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). This requirement is applicable for any new application from 1st September 2025 onwards. Airports that are currently at Level 4/4+ with a 2°C pathway shall update their target and pathway in accordance with the new requirement during any application (interim or renewal) submitted from January 1st, 2026, onwards.

3. Other Information

The information in this Communication supersedes the information provided in:

1. Application Manual Version 14 (December 2023).
2. Verifiers Manual Issue 1 (November 2020).

These changes to the verification methods will be reflected in the updated *Application Manual (Issue 15)* and the *Verifiers Manual (Issue 2)* both of which are expected to be updated in the next few months.

For any questions, please contact the Airport Carbon Accreditation Helpdesk at
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