

GUIDANCE PAPER

July 2020

CORSIA (Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation) Eligible Emission Units

On 13 March 2020 the ICAO Council approved the use of eligible emission units to be used against CORSIA obligations by airlines and operators. This paper will give information surrounding this subject.

What are eligible emission units?

Eligible emissions units are central to the ongoing success of the CORSIA offsetting program and are made available through registries as detailed below. The ICAO Technical Advisory Body (TAB) has evaluated these programs to establish that they fulfil ICAO CORSIA requirements and has recommended them for immediate availability to airlines and operators.

These eligible emission units will be made available through offset registries that have been evaluated and approved by the TAB. They are as follows;

- American Carbon Registry
- China GHG Voluntary Emission Reduction Program
- Clean Development Mechanism
- Climate Action Reserve
- The Gold Standard
- Verified Carbon Standard Program

Only emissions units that started their period of credit on the 01/01/2016 through to the 31/12/2020 are eligible for use under CORSIA obligations.

These approved emissions units are only available for the period that covers the CORSIA Pilot Phase compliance cycle, which runs from 1st January 2021 until 31st December 2023. Further guidance will be issued by ICAO and the TAB for the subsequent phases once it become available.

How many offsets do I need?

The CORSIA program is currently going through its baseline phase, this baseline will help ICAO establish the growth factor within the civil aviation industry that is the amount that would need emission units applied to them. This is what enables the industry to achieve its goal of carbon-neutral growth (CNG).

Once the baseline period is completed, CORSIA will enter its first compliance phase, which is also known as the Pilot Phase. This phase will run from 01/01/21 to 31/12/2023 and will be where the baseline measurements will be measured against reported emissions for that period and the sectoral growth factor (SGF) will be applied to determine an operators' emission obligations for the period. Operators will be advised individually by their Administering Authority on their obligations for offsetting.

Exercising caution

Any operator should be cautious about any emission unit scheme that claims to be "CORSIA Compliant," but is not on the eligible emissions unit list. Operators are strongly advised to do the necessary due diligence prior to purchasing offsets in relation to their CORSIA compliance obligations.