

Technical Bulletin- SLCP Full Alignment with APSCA n.3 – Actions after June 30, 2024

Requirements for eligibility and status maintenance– released July 1, 2024

This is a new Technical Bulletin providing additional details on Phase Two of the full alignment, which starts on July 1, 2024.

Please note that these APSCA related requirements supersede any other lesser requirements contained in other SLCP documents, including but not limited to QA Manual, VB Requirements, Helpdesk. Becoming an APSCA member or maintaining good standing with APSCA does not guarantee approval or continued approval by SLCP.

Existing VB - APSCA Full Member with ASCA/CSCA Verifiers

APSCA Full Member VBs may continue SLCP verifications with ASCA and CSCA Verifiers, following APSCA rules.

Any new Verifier applicants must have ASCA or CSCA status in good standing.

APSCA Full Member VBs can apply for supplemental countries.

Only ASCA/CSCA in good standing Verifiers can apply for supplemental countries.

Existing VB - APSCA Provisional Member with ASCA/CSCA Verifiers

APSCA Provisional Member VBs may continue SLCP verifications with ASCA and CSCA Verifiers, following APSCA rules. They must meet APSCA requirements and follow the APSCA process to achieve APSCA Full Member status. If APSCA does not grant the VB Full Member status, following APSCA process and timeline, the VB will be removed from SLCP.

Any new Verifier applicants must have ASCA or CSCA status in good standing.

APSCA Provisional Member VBs can apply for supplemental countries.

Only ASCA/CSCA in good standing Verifiers can apply for supplemental countries.

Existing VB - APSCA Provisional or Full Member with Verifiers who are not, at minimum, ASCA APSCA Auditor Members

Effective July 1, 2024, existing SLCP approved Verifiers who do not have ASCA/CSCA status and are associated with APSCA Full Member VBs/ APSCA Provisional Member VBs will be deactivated. We understand that APSCA has enough capacity to process applications for their Member Firms and we, therefore, want to drive the journey to CSCA for all our Verifiers by requiring, at minimum, ASCA level Verifiers in good standing. As we require Verifier Bodies to align with APSCA, we also require this of Verifiers.

If a non-ASCA/non-CSCA Verifier wishes to continue with SLCP after July 1, 2024, they can be reinstated once they obtain, at minimum, ASCA APSCA in good standing status. Reinstatement is at no cost as long as the Verifier SLCP VSM approval they had before deactivation is still valid. If the VSM approval expires before they ask for reinstatement, the reinstatement fee of USD 200 will apply.

Only ASCA/CSCA in good standing Verifiers can apply for supplemental countries.



Existing VB - APSCA Member Applicant VB with current SLCP approved Verifiers – any or no APSCA Auditor Member status

An APSCA Member Applicant VB is an SLCP approved Verifier Body that has applied to become an APSCA Member Firm and has paid the APSCA application fee by June 30, 2024. APSCA Member Applicant VBs must achieve, at minimum, APSCA Provisional Member Firm status by March 1, 2025, to maintain Verifier Body status with SLCP. From APSCA, we understand that, on average, an audit firm can achieve Provisional Member status within four months. This requires timely submissions and close collaboration with APSCA. SLCP is, therefore, granting ample time (total 8 months from June 30, 2024) to reach Provisional Member status, allowing for exceptional circumstances or closing of major findings resulting from the application review.

As an APSCA Member Applicant VB, please make sure that you have informed APSCA that you are associated with SLCP and you want SLCP to be informed about your application status, including the progress of your application, and approval as Provisional APSCA Member Firm. This will allow SLCP to get updates from APSCA directly on your progress. If you submitted your application through the web form (electronic submission of your application), there is a checkbox where applicants can give APSCA permission to share information with SLCP. If you did not use the web form, or you forgot to give APSCA permission, contact applications@theapsca.org to inform them that you want APSCA to share your application progress information with SLCP.

APSCA Member Applicant VBs may continue SLCP verifications with SLCP approved Verifiers who are non-ASCA/CSCA and these VBs must follow the APSCA process to achieve APSCA Provisional Member status by March 1, 2025. If APSCA does not grant the VB Provisional Member status by March 1, 2025, the VB will be deactivated from SLCP. If APSCA, following the APSCA process and timeline, does not grant the VB Full Member status, the VB will be deactivated from SLCP.

APSCA Member Applicant VBs may not apply for supplemental countries. Only after reaching Provisional Member status are these VBs allowed to apply for supplemental countries.

Any new Verifier applicants (also those associated with an APSCA Member Applicant VB) must have ASCA or CSCA status in good standing. In this Phase Two of full alignment with APSCA, we are no longer allowing any VB or Verifier applicants that are not already aligned with APSCA. Verifier Bodies must be Full APSCA Members in good standing and Verifiers must be, at minimum, ASCA Auditor Members in good standing.

Any supplemental country applications for Verifiers will require the Verifier to have ASCA or CSCA status in good standing.

It is our understanding that if an ASCA/CSCA is not associated with an APSCA Member firm, so rather associated with an APSCA Member Applicant VB, special rules apply. Please remember to follow any special rules that apply when an ASCA/CSCA Auditor Member is associated with a Member Applicant VB.

Once an APSCA Member Applicant VB has achieved APSCA Provisional Member status, SLCP requires the now Provisional Member VB to align their SLCP approved Verifiers with APSCA and, at minimum, obtain ASCA in good standing status for all their SLCP approved Verifiers. Any still approved SLCP VB after July 1, 2024, once they are granted APSCA Provisional Member status, have 60 calendar days from the start of their APSCA Provisional Membership to transition all SLCP approved Verifiers to, at minimum, ASCA in good standing. After said 60 calendar days, any Verifier without and APSCA status in good standing will be deactivated. After deactivation, if a non-ASCA/non-CSCA Verifier wishes to continue with SLCP, they can be reinstated once they obtain, at minimum, ASCA APSCA in good standing status. Reinstatement is at no cost as long as the Verifier SLCP VSM approval they had before deactivation is still valid. If the VSM approval expires before they ask for reinstatement, the reinstatement fee of USD 200 will apply.

Existing VBs that did not align with APSCA by June 30th

Effective July 1, 2024, VBs without APSCA membership and/or VBs that did not pay the application fee to obtain APSCA membership are marked as "**APSCA Opt-Out**" on the SLCP public list.



If a VB that left the program on June 30, 2024, wants to join the SLCP Program again in the future, they are welcome to do so. However, they must first become APSCA Full Members in good standing before applying again.

Existing ASCA/CSCA Verifiers who wish to continue with SLCP but are not linked to SLCP approved VB

After June 30, 2024, Verifiers with ASCA or CSCA status in good standing status who wish to continue conducting SLCP verifications can transition to a different SLCP approved VB. After June 30, SLCP approved VBs are either an:

- APSCA Full Member VB;
- APSCA Provisional Member VB; or
- APSCA Member Applicant VB (SLCP approved Verifier Body that has applied to become an APSCA Member Firm and has paid the APSCA application fee)

Existing Verifiers who have ASCA/CSCA status in good standing and wish to continue with SLCP but are not linked to a now approved SLCP VB, please complete and submit the following form to transfer to an existing APSCA member or APSCA Member Applicant:

<https://fs26.formsite.com/Sumerra/SLCPChangeVB/index>

Please make sure the transition to the new VB is completed while the Verifier SLCP VSM approval is still valid. To check the validity of your SLCP approval, go to the STEP platform and login with your credentials. Verifiers can review the Verifier VSM approval under 'my activity' section and then 'certifications'. VB administrators can also view the Verifier VSM approvals in one view by logging into the dedicated VB dashboards to confirm this information.

REMEMBER: Verifiers with ASCA or CSCA status must also associate their profile with SLCP within the APSCA system, so that the ASCA or CSCA status is visible to SLCP (in some cases, consent may be needed to provide updated APSCA status information to SLCP/VOO). Please follow the [guideline](#) from APSCA on How To: Add A Collaborative Program / Scheme Accreditation To Your APSCA Profile.

Also, it is our understanding that if an ASCA/CSCA is not associated with an APSCA Member firm, so rather associated with an APSCA Member Applicant VB, special rules apply. Please remember to follow any special rules that apply when you are an ASCA/CSCA Auditor Member and associated with a Member Applicant VB and not an APSCA Member Firm.

SLCP strongly encourages all Verifiers with ASCA status to become CSCA.

Existing Verifiers with no ASCA/CSCA status and not associated with APSCA Provisional or Full Member Audit Firm or APSCA Applicant Member VBs

These Verifiers will be deactivated on July 1, 2024.

These Verifiers (SLCP approved Verifiers prior to July 1, 2024) without ASCA/CSCA status can associate themselves with an:

- APSCA Full Member VB;
- APSCA Provisional Member VB; or
- APSCA Member Applicant VB (SLCP approved Verifier Body that has applied to become an APSCA Member Firm and has paid the APSCA application fee)

If associated with an APSCA Full Member VB or APSCA Provisional Member VB, these Verifiers without ASCA/CSCA status must first obtain, at minimum, ASCA APSCA in good standing status to be reinstated. Reinstatement is at no cost as long as the Verifier SLCP VSM approval they had before deactivation is still valid. If the VSM approval expires before they ask for reinstatement, the reinstatement fee of USD 200 will apply.

If associated with an APSCA Member Applicant VB (SLCP approved Verifier Body that has applied to become an APSCA Member Firm and has paid the APSCA application fee), and reinstated, these



Verifiers without ASCA/CSCA status can continue SLCP verifications under this APSCA Member Applicant VB. Reinstatement is at no cost as long as the Verifier SLCP VSM approval they had before deactivation is still valid. If the VSM approval expires before they ask for reinstatement, the reinstatement fee of USD 200 will apply. Continuation of Verifier SLCP approval will then be tied to the APSCA Member Applicant VB becoming an APSCA Provisional Member by March 1, 2025, the Verifier obtaining ASCA status in good standing within 60 calendar days, and the VB obtaining APSCA Full Member status in line with APSCA process and timelines.

If the APSCA Member Applicant VB does not achieve Provisional Member status by March 1, 2025, the Verifiers associated with the non-member VB will be deactivated. After March 1, 2025, Verifiers must have ASCA or CSCA status in good standing and be associated with an SLCP approved VB to continue verifications.

REMEMBER: Verifiers with ASCA or CSCA status must also associate their profile with SLCP within the APSCA system, so that the ASCA or CSCA status is visible to SLCP (in some cases, consent may be needed to provide updated APSCA status information to SLCP/VOO). Please follow the attached guideline from APSCA on How To: Add A Collaborative Program / Scheme Accreditation To Your APSCA Profile.

Also, it is our understanding that if an ASCA/CSCA is not associated with an APSCA Member firm, so rather associated with an APSCA Member Applicant VB, special rules apply. Please remember to follow any special rules that apply when you are an ASCA/CSCA Auditor Member and associated with a Member Applicant VB and not an APSCA Member Firm.

SLCP strongly encourages all Verifiers with ASCA status to become CSCA.

Any supplemental country applications for Verifiers will require the Verifier to have ASCA or CSCA status in good standing.

