

Social and Labor Convergence Program (SLCP)

Technical Bulletin SLCP VB Selection Model -Implementation Guidelines-

18 May 2026

Since the launch of the new VB Selection Model, we have maintained close contact with manufacturers and VBs to monitor the implementation process. Based on this feedback, we have identified specific areas where further alignment is necessary.

This Bulletin serves to clarify SLCP expectations and ensure the VB Selection Model is executed as intended.

1. Impacts on existing and future agreements between manufacturers and VBs

As previously communicated (see Annex I), VBs must inform facilities about impacts to verification agreements as soon as possible and apply changes to existing agreements. VBs were given 8 months to implement these changes before the model was officially launched on April 1, 2026.

However, it seems that many VBs are **not following our requirements**. In tickets raised to SLCP and Exception Form requests, Manufacturers refer to existing agreements and completed payments with VBs as the main reason for asking for an exception. Manufacturers also point out that they were not informed by the VB about the upcoming changes. Consequently, they request us to grant an exception to add their "preferred" VB to the VB Selection List.

To ensure all VBs make the mandatory adjustments, we are granting an additional "transition" period: **VBs have an additional one month until June 18, 2026, to ensure all facility agreements abide by our requirements.**

After June 18, 2026:

- We will not grant an exception:
 - If the facility has other **VBs to choose from** and
 - If the facility requests the exception based on an **existing agreement with a "preferred" VB** (*Note that SLCP can require facilities to share evidence of the signed agreement*) and/or
 - If the facility requests the exception based on a **completed verification payment with the "preferred" VB** (*Note that SLCP can require facilities to share evidence of the payment*)
- The VB will be issued a **CAR** for not following the guidance of this Technical Bulletin and for not following our requirements (Key Quality Issue Category of CAR, *Any errors covered in SLCP/VOO published technical bulletins*).
- The facility will be directed back to the applicable VB to resolve the problem.

What are you required to do?

- **Contact** all manufacturers you have agreements with.
- **Make changes** to existing agreements to ensure they include reference to the **new VB rotation policy** and take the **VB quality score into account - explaining that your VB cannot guarantee the service until selected by the facility on the VB Selection List.**
- **Do not accept payment** from manufacturers before they have selected your VB on the Accredited Host (Worldly).
- **When signing or preparing new agreements with facilities, you must consider ALL key elements of the new Selection Model:** eligibility criteria (country approval, language match, CSCA Verifier approved for that country), VB rotation rule, and the

pre-screening based on VB quality score. All agreements must acknowledge there is no *guarantee* you will appear on the facility's VB Selection List.

Remember:

- VBs will only appear on the VB Selection List if they meet *all* the eligibility criteria **AND** if they have a score of 4 and higher (medium and low-performing VBs are selected on a randomized basis, with lower chances of appearing on the list).

IMPORTANT: Please remind facilities that they must always keep their Gateway profile updated, especially the section regarding languages spoken at the facility. **Language matching** is one of the eligibility criteria that will determine whether a VB will appear on the VB Selection List.

2. Clarification on the VB Selection List Exception Form

Please note that the VB Selection List Exception Form is not intended for use by Verifier Bodies (VBs). It is reserved exclusively for manufacturers under very specific circumstances. For example:

- **Unavailability:** A manufacturer finds all VBs displayed on their list are not available to conduct the verification during the necessary timeframe.
- **Geographic limitations:** A manufacturer has only one VB approved in their country and will need to be granted an exception to override the VB rotation rule.

Over the past months, we had multiple requests from Verifier Bodies asking for exceptions, as well as manufacturers using the form simply to select a "preferred" provider. We kindly ask VBs to refrain from using this form or encouraging facilities to use it to ask to use a specific VB. We highly recommend sharing the easy to understand and translated [Facility Guidance on the VB Selection Model](#) with your facility customers.

Thank you for your attention and for working with us on improving SLCP data quality and integrity!

Annex I

Email Sent on 1st July 2025: Upcoming Changes to VB Selection Model – Potential Impacts on Existing Facility-VB Agreements

Upcoming Changes to VB Selection Model – Potential Impacts on Existing Facility-VB Agreements

As we prepare to implement the new VB Selection Model, we want to ensure clear and timely communication regarding its potential impact on existing agreements between facilities and VBs. We were made aware that some VBs may have yearly or multi-year verification services agreements with facilities. The new VB Selection Model will impact this.

Due to the new VB rotation requirement, facilities will no longer be able to select the same VB for two consecutive years. The facility will be required to select a different VB, meaning VB rotation will be enforced through the new VB Selection Model. Exceptions will only apply if there is limited VB choice or availability.

Please act now – especially on long-term agreements with facilities – to address this new requirement and to avoid future VB service disruptions. This new VB rotation rule is not in effect yet, so you are still able to fulfill existing agreements and assigned verifications in the near future. However, once we launch the new VB Selection Model, Q1 2026 with a possible pilot end 2025, VB rotation enforcement will be in place.