



EQUITABLE
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EO Inc. Policy
EOP-105: EO100™ Suspension and Withdrawal Policy



EOP-105: EO100™ Suspension and Withdrawal Policy

- Policy
 - Procedure
 - Handbook
 - Checklist
-

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Table of Contents

	Page
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	II
GLOSSARY	1
1.0 OVERVIEW.....	2
2.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE	2
3.0 REFERENCES	2
4.0 SUSPENSION.....	3
5.0 WITHDRAWAL	4
6.0 APPEALS	5
7.0 CHANGES TO CERTIFICATION SCOPE	5
8.0 REVISION HISTORY	5



GLOSSARY

Certifiable Unit – The scope of the assessment area including all facilities located within the predetermined geographical area. Facilities include well pads, compressor stations, gas processing plants, batteries, water treatment/storage facilities, and both active and inactive operations. Sometimes used interchangeably with Site.

Certified Unit - Subsequent to the Certifiable Unit achieving EO100™ certification it is called the Certified Unit. Sometimes used interchangeably with Site.

Closure Stage - Units that are solely engaged in plugging and abandonment activities with no exploration or production stage activities.

EO Standards Technical Committee - A permanent committee of the EO Board responsible for reviewing, developing, and ensuring the quality of EO's standards, assurance processes and impact assessment.

Exploration Stage - Unites that are solely engaged in seismic; exploration/ appraisal drilling, including long-term testing; or development activities preliminary to the production stage with no early or long-term production (the exploration stage may include closure activities).

Production Stage - Units that have made a declaration of commerciality and are engaged in early or long-term production. They may also be engaged in exploration and closure stage activities.



1.0 OVERVIEW

The mission of Equitable Origin (EO) is to protect people and the environment by ensuring that energy development is conducted under the highest social and environmental standards. Equitable Origin is an independent, stakeholder-negotiated, market-driven certification system that distinguishes and rewards operators for outstanding social, environmental and safety performance.

This policy serves to ensure the credibility of EO's assurance and verification regime and certification program.

2.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Operators registered in the certification program in various stages (seeking certification, initial certification, annual re-certification) need to be aware of activities and incidences that certification could be suspended or withdrawn. This policy describes the expectations of an Operator to gain and keep certification over the course of the Certification cycle.

3.0 REFERENCES

- EO100™ Standard for Responsible Energy Development and Technical Supplements
- EOP-102: EO100™ Policy on Association
- EOP-103: EO100™ Certification System Comments, Complaints and Appeals Policy
- EOP-104: EO100™ Trademark Use and Licensing Policy
- EOH-201: EO100™ Operator Handbook



4.0 SUSPENSION

EO will suspend certification in cases where:

- The Operator fails to meet certification requirements (performance Target level 1 scored as a zero);
- Annual reviews and recertification assessments are not conducted on schedule in accordance with the required frequency;
- Operator breaches EOP-104: EO100™ Trademark Use and Licensing Policy;
- Operator breaches EOP-102: EO100™ Policy on Association;
- There is credible evidence that the Operator carried out retributions or reprisals against individuals or organizations that submitted a complaint related to the operator's performance against the EO100™ Standard; or
- Operator requests voluntary suspension.

Proceedings or requests that may result in suspension will be triggered by the following:

- The Assessment Body (AB) notifies EO of allegations or proof of fraudulent activities on the part of the certified client;
- The AB notifies EO of persistent and systematic failures to address outstanding non-conformances; or
- Evidence provided by stakeholders indicates non-conformance with the EO100™ Standard requirements due to underperformance and/or ineffective management systems in case of serious incidents.

EO's CEO with input from the peer reviewer shall decide on the action to be taken, based on a review and consideration of the evidence presented.

Suspension may last a maximum of six months, at which time certification is withdrawn if the Operator has failed to implement the corrective actions. The suspension period may be shortened based on the severity of the issues.

The decision to suspend certification shall be communicated to the Operator under this Agreement by a formal written communication. The communication shall include:



- A statement on the decision to suspend the certificate including a proper description of the situation, rationale and reference to objective evidence;
- The right to respond and appeal to the decision. Normally a notice period of ten working days is given for response and appeal. An appeal may be lodged through EOP-103: EO100™ Certification System Comments, Complaints and Appeals Policy;
- Start date of the suspension (normally from the date of receipt of the communication);
- Conditions and due date of required action in order to revoke the suspension, and the consequences of failing to perform corrective actions;
- The means of follow-up by EO or the AB to verify that conditions have been met and corrective actions have been implemented;
- A statement that the certification is invalid during suspension and that use of all claims containing a reference to certification are prohibited during time of suspension; and
- A statement that both the Operator and EO shall inform all enquirers and registries that certification is suspended.

Advance notification shall be provided to the Registry no later than ten (10) days prior to any possible delivery of such formal written communication to the Operator.

Follow up: EO or the AB shall verify that conditions are met and requested corrective actions are implemented before suspension is revoked and the certification is declared valid.

5.0 WITHDRAWAL

Withdrawal of the certificate shall be initiated if:

- The Operator does not meet the conditions of suspension. Note that a suspension is not considered to be an adequate action in itself.

The decision to withdraw certification shall be formally communicated to the Operator and any relevant registries, including the requirements to:

- Terminate use of the certification mark and any reference to certification;
- Suspend EO Certificate trading.



6.0 APPEALS

The operator has a right to appeal decisions to suspend or withdraw certification. An appeal may be lodged through EOP-103: EO100™ Certification System Comments, Complaints and Appeals Policy.

EO shall make the suspended or withdrawn status of the certification publicly accessible.

7.0 CHANGES TO CERTIFICATION SCOPE

Changes to certification scope are not permitted without consultation with EO and the AB.

8.0 REVISION HISTORY

Revision No.	Date	Substantive Revisions	Revision by	Approved by
1.0	January 2022	Moved to separate policy	H. Jones	S. Mills