

Frequently Asked Questions – Green Finance Certification Scheme Handbook 2018

- Q. What is the publication date of Green Finance Certification Scheme Handbook 2018?
A. The publication date of 2018 Handbook is 24 August 2018.
- Q. What will happen to GFCS certified clients after the release of 2018 Handbook?
A. No action is required for GFCS certified clients in respect to the handbook update. Existing certificates remain valid and are not affected. Surveillance assessment of existing Post-issuance stage certificate will be conducted according to 2017 Handbook.
- Q. Is there any migration period for GFCS: 2018?
A. Migration to GFCS: 2018 is not mandatory for existing clients. New applicants will be given a three-month notification and clarification period. During the three-month period from 24 August 2018 to 24 November 2018, new certification application can be made for either 2018 Handbook or 2017 Handbook. After 24 November 2018, new applicants are required to make certification application according to 2018 Handbook.
- Q. Can existing client apply for GFCS: 2018?
A. Migration to GFCS: 2018 is not mandatory for existing client. If existing clients of Pre-issuance stage certificate would like to apply for GFCS: 2018, a new application is required. If existing clients of Post-issuance stage certificate would like to apply for GFCS: 2018, they should inform HKQAA three months before the surveillance assessment. The surveillance assessment should be conducted as migration assessment.
- Q. What are the criteria for granting GFCS: 2018 certificate?
A. The decision to issue certification to GFCS: 2018 will be made once actions in respect of all outstanding non-conformities have been reviewed, accepted and verified.

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