

# CRITERIA ASSESSMENT INDICATORS FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SME)

Version 1.0

October 2024











## **ABOUT SBTI SERVICES**

SBTi Services Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Science Based Targets initiative, a corporate climate action organization and standard-setter that enables companies and financial institutions worldwide to play their part in combating the climate crisis. SBTi Services is a distinct legal entity and operates independently from the standard-setter, the Science Based Targets initiative.

SBTi Services checks and validates climate targets, validating the decarbonization goals of corporations, financial institutions and SMEs worldwide. By validating their climate targets, businesses demonstrate an understanding of their minimum decarbonization requirements by which customers and investors can measure them.

To be validated, companies must create greenhouse gas inventories and apply the Science Based Targets initiative's thorough methodologies for calculating decarbonization targets and submit these to SBTi Services for validation. Validators at SBTi Services check companies' and financial institutions' climate targets with standards developed by the Science Based Targets initiative.

SBTi Services is a trading subsidiary company, with any profits generated from commercial activities passed to its parent the Science Based Targets initiative, a charity registered in England and Wales.



## DISCLAIMER

The checklist of Criteria Assessment Indicators provided by SBTi Services Limited ("SBTi Services") are intended to serve as a general guide for organizations seeking validation against the SBTi requirements for SMEs. This checklist outlines key indicators used during the SBTi Services' target validation process and are based on the most current version of the standard at the time of publication. However, they are not exhaustive, and additional requirements may apply depending on the specific circumstances of each validation.

The use of this checklist does not guarantee compliance with the standard, nor does it constitute a formal approval of SBTi targets. The actual SBTi target validation process conducted by SBTi Services involves a comprehensive review of all relevant factors, and final decisions are based on a detailed assessment by our qualified team.

SBTi Services disclaims all liability for errors or omissions in this checklist or for actions taken in reliance on their content. The checklist may be updated or modified at any time by SBTi Services to reflect changes in standards, guidance or applicable regulations as developed or applied by the Science Based Targets Initiative ("SBTi") or SBTi Services. Users are encouraged to consult the most recent version and to seek professional advice if necessary.



# **VERSION HISTORY**

Version	Change/update description	Release date	Effective dates
Version 1.0		October 2024	October 29th, 2024



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## INTRODUCTION

SBTi Services independently assesses Small and Medium Enterprises' (SMEs') science-based emission reduction targets. To support this service, the Criteria Assessment Tables in this document outline the major checks conducted by SBTi Services during the validation process, to ensure conformance with SBTi criteria.

Companies may only set targets through the tailored validation route for SMEs if they meet the SME Eligibility Criteria points. SME Eligibility Criteria are divided into 2 sections; companies must meet both requirements to be considered an SME:

#### I. All of the below are true

- 1. Have <10,000 tCO2e across scope 1 and location-based scope 2
- 2. Are not classified in the Financial Institutions (FIs) and Oil & Gas (O&G) Sectors
- 3. Are not required to set targets using sector-specific criteria (such as the Sectoral Decarbonization Approaches) developed by the SBTi (see the SBTi's sector guidance documents for requirements)\*
- 4. Are not a subsidiary of a parent company whose combined businesses fall into the standard validation route

#### II. And three or more are true:

- 1. Employ <250 employees\*\*
- 2. Turnover of <€50 million\*\*
- 3. Total assets of <€25 million\*\*
- 4. Are not in a mandatory FLAG sector\*\*\*

\*Mandatory FLAG sector companies that meet all other criteria are not affected by this criterion. Please see the second set of eligibility criteria if you operate in a FLAG sector. \*\*CSRD alignment.

\*\*\*See Criterion 1 of the FLAG Guidance

The Criteria Assessment Indicators (CAI) for SMEs described in this document are provided as verifiable control points which will be used to evaluate submitted information during the target validation process. Conformity with the CAI gives confidence that the company is in compliance with the SBTi Standard(s) under which they are submitting targets. The CAI found in the following sections of this document represent a clarification and formalization



of the existing process followed by the Target Validation Team to assess alignment of all SME submissions with SBTi Criteria GHG Protocol Corporate Standard, and Scope 2 Guidance.

Any updates made to the contents of this document will be communicated in due time to all companies via electronic means, along with information on applicability and effective dates before these become applicable. The SBTi urges companies to keep their contact details up to date, to ensure communications are not missed.

This document uses precise language to indicate requirements, recommendations and permissible options that companies may choose to follow.

- The terms "shall" or "must" are used throughout this document to indicate what is required for companies to be in conformance with SBTi Criteria.
- The term "should" is used to indicate a recommendation.
- The term "may" is used to indicate that an option is permissible or allowable.

This document is intended for SMEs<sup>1</sup> submitting targets to SBTi Services. Companies should utilize this document while completing the SBTi SME Submission Form—henceforth referred to as "the submission form" - to ensure that any proposed targets meet all relevant criteria. The 'description' column provides a detailed explanation of the CAI, which can be understood as the various checks conducted to ensure conformity with the SBTi Criteria for SMEs. The 'minimum documentation required' column outlines the information needed to assess conformity with each criteria assessment indicator, and stipulates where (if relevant) in the submission form to provide this information or if supplemental documentation is required.

The Target Validation Team will review all submissions to ensure that all CAI are met for any target submission to be approved. The Target Validation Team reserves the right to request additional information during the validation process, where further explanation or evidence is needed to clarify alignment with any criteria assessment indicators.

For the SBTi to provide any of its services, organizations must provide information that is accurate and complete at the time of submission and must update such information in order that all submissions are and remain accurate and complete at all times. In the case SBTi Services determines that all or part of the information provided is inaccurate,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> SMEs are defined as companies that meet the SBTi SME Eligibility Criteria defined above.



incomplete or confirms that it has been intentionally hidden or forged, this could be a reason to suspend or void the validation process according to the Termination clause in the Validation Services contract.



## ASSESSMENT OF SBTI CRITERIA FOR NEAR-TERM TARGETS

Table 1. Near-term criteria assessment table					
Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required		
companies shall both parent com	NT C1 - Organizational boundary: Companies should submit targets only at the parent- or group level, not the subsidiary level. Parent companies shall include the emissions of all subsidiaries in their target submission, in accordance with the boundary criteria.* In cases where both parent companies and subsidiaries submit targets, the parent company's target must also include the emissions of the subsidiary if it falls within the parent company's emissions boundary given the chosen inventory consolidation approach.**, ***				
* As outlined in NT C2 to NT C6, and NZ C2 to NZ C7.  ** Brands, licensees, and/or specific regions or business divisions of a company will not be accepted as separate targets unless they fall outside of a parent company's chosen consolidation approach.  *** Companies must integrate emissions from their structural changes into their GHG inventory within a reasonable timeframe.					
1.1 Disclosure of organizational	GHG Accounting	Companies must disclose the organizational boundary approach chosen, and justify the appropriateness of the			

1.1 Disclosure of	GHG	Companies must disclose the organizational boundary Written selection of consolidation approach and
organizational	Accounting	approach chosen, and justify the appropriateness of the explanation of choice (e.g., choice aligns with
boundary		approach used. Any deviations from the consolidation financial reporting and the company provides a
		approach must be indicated and highlighted in the link to the financial report) in the submission form.
		supporting evidence.
1.2 Inclusion of	GHG	Companies must include all worldwide subsidiaries in Written confirmation in the submission form.
subsidiaries	Accounting	accordance with the chosen consolidation approach (e.g.,



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
		operational control) to determine the organizational boundary.	
1.3 Integration of structural changes into GHG inventory	GHG Accounting	Companies must integrate emissions from their structural changes into their GHG inventory within a reasonable timeframe as per the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard Chapter 5 for recalculating base year emissions (pages 35 - 39). Companies should make this integration within a year of the completion of a full reporting cycle after the structural change. Companies must confirm that they are still eligible to use the tailored route for SMEs following any structural changes.	divestments, along with an indication of whether each has been recalculated and incorporated into the base year inventory in the submission form. If any have not, justification is needed. Justifications include but are not limited to: occurred in the last year and haven't been integrated yet, changes are
1.4 Disclosure of exclusions	GHG Accounting	Companies must transparently disclose if any entities that are within the organizational boundary have been omitted from the reporting.	

NT C2 - Greenhouse gases: The targets shall cover all relevant emissions of the seven\* GHGs as required by the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard.

\* The seven GHGs are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), and nitrogen trifluoride (NF<sub>3</sub>).



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required	
2.1 Inclusion of greenhouse gasses	GHG Accounting	As indicated in the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard (Required Greenhouse Gases in Inventories, Accounting and Reporting Standard Amendment (February, 2013) to include NF3), the GHG inventory must cover all relevant emissions of the seven different GHGs or classes of GHGs covered by the UNFCCC/Kyoto Protocol.		
2.2 Disclosure of exclusions	GHG Accounting	Companies must justify and include any exclusions in the submission form. Please note being unable to measure a gas is not a valid reason for exclusion. Exclusions must be calculated based on the entire gross inventory and insignificant categories still need to be accounted for in the inventory in tCO2e.	with other exclusions do not amount to over 5% in the submission form.	
NT C3 - Scope 1 and scope 2: The targets shall cover company-wide scope 1 and scope 2 emissions, as defined by the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard.*  * GHG accounting that is not proven to adhere to the GHG Protocol accounting standard and the SBTi criteria assessment indicators will not be accepted by the SBTi.				
3.1 Inclusion of scope 1 activities	GHG Accounting	Companies must include all direct GHG emissions occurring from sources that are owned or controlled by the reporting company based on the consolidation approach chosen*. Refer to GHG Protocol Corporate Standard	1 business activities in the submission form.	



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
		Chapter 4 page 27 for examples of direct GHG emissions included in scope 1.  *See SBTi Near-Term Criterion 5 for exclusionary allowances.	
3.2 Inclusion of scope 2 activities	GHG Accounting	Companies must include all GHG emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling based on the consolidation approach chosen*.  *See SBTi Near-Term Criterion 5 for exclusionary allowances.	2 business activities in the submission form.
3.3 SBTi scope 1 and 2 Criteria Assessment Indicators		GHG accounting must be in accordance with SBTi GHG Accounting Criteria Assessment Indicators 1.1-2.3.	Demonstration of objective evidence needed for GHG Accounting Criteria Assessment Indicators 1.1-2.3.

## NT C4 - N/A

NT C5 - Scope 1 and 2 allowable exclusions: Companies shall not exclude more than 5% of total combined scope 1 and scope 2 emissions from either the boundary of the GHG inventory or the target boundary.\*,\*\*\*,\*\*\*



Assessment	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required		
Indicator					
inventory boundary and ** Where a company's s scope 2) that covers me Protocol's principle of ce *** SBTi Services does	* The total targeted scope 1 and 2 emissions shall be greater than or equal to 95% of total (reported + excluded) scope 1 and 2 emissions. This means that a company shall not exclude 5% from the inventory boundary and then also exclude a further 5% from the target boundary.  ** Where a company's scope 1 or 2 emissions are deemed immaterial (i.e., under 5% of total combined scope 1 and 2 emissions), companies may set their SBT solely on the scope (either scope 1 scope 2) that covers more than 95% of the total scope 1 and 2 emissions. The company must continue to report on both scopes and adjust their targets as needed, in accordance with the GH Protocol's principle of completeness, and as per C26 and C27.  *** SBTi Services does not recognize emissions perceived to be "negligible" as a rationale for not reporting them. Even if emissions from certain activities or operations are perceived to be negligible these emissions still must be quantified and reported in the reporting company's GHG inventory or disclosed as an exclusion.				
5.1 Scope 1 and	GHG	Total exclusions from the reporting company's scope 1 and	Provision of the quantitative list and justification of		
2 exclusion	Accounting	2 inventory and target boundary combined must not	any exclusions from the scope 1 and 2 inventory in		
threshold		exceed 5% of the total scope 1 and 2 emissions	tCO2e in submission form.		
		calculated.*			
		*Where the reporting company's scope 1 or 2 emissions			
		are less than 5% of total combined scope 1 and 2			
		emissions), companies may set their SBT solely on the			
		scope (either scope 1 or scope 2) that covers more than			
		95% of the total scope 1 and 2 emissions. Companies			
		must continue to report on both scopes and adjust their			
		targets as needed, according to the GHG Protocol's			

principle of completeness, and as per C32 and C33.



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
5.2 Allowable exclusions based on immateriality	Accounting	Companies must account for all potential emissions sources and have calculated the total magnitude of emissions in tCO2e before any emissions are excluded.	

NT C6 - N/A

#### NT C7 - N/A

NT C8 - Scope 2 accounting approach: Companies shall disclose whether they are using a location- or market-based accounting approach as per the GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance to calculate base year emissions and to track performance against a science-based target. The GHG Protocol requires measuring and reporting scope 2 emissions using both approaches. However, a single and consistent approach must be used for setting and tracking progress toward a SBT (e.g., using location-based approach for both target setting and progress tracking).

						2 2
8	.1	Scope	2	Target Setting	Companies must report location-based emissions in order	Provision of location-based scope 2 emissions in
ta	ırget	setting			to confirm eligibility for use of the tailored route for SMEs.	the submission form. Selection of one scope 2
					A single scope 2 accounting approach must be selected	method in the submission form and confirmation
					for the purpose of target setting. Companies may use	that the chosen method will be used consistently
					either the market-based or location-based approach for	for tracking target progress.
					target setting, but if a market-based approach is selected	
					for target setting, location-based emissions must still be	
					reported in the submission form.	



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
' ' '	GHG Accounting	·	Explanation of how the chosen scope 2 reduction strategy aligns with the selected scope 2 accounting approach in the submission form.
NT C9 - N/A			

### NT C10 - N/A

NT C11 - Carbon credits: The use of carbon credits must not be counted as emission reductions toward the progress of companies' near-term or long-term science-based targets. Carbon credits may only be considered as an option for neutralizing residual emissions (see Corporate Net-Zero Standard Criteria C28) or to finance additional climate mitigation beyond their science-based emission reduction targets (see Corporate Net-Zero Standard Criteria R9).

			-
11.1 Ca	rbon Target Settin	Reductions that result from the purchase of carbon credits	Written confirmation in the submission form that
credits for t	arget	must be reported outside of the main GHG inventory and	carbon credits (e.g. offsets) will not be counted
progress		tracked separately from validated targets.	toward target progress.
		Carbon credits do not count toward the achievement of	
		near or long-term targets, and companies must select a	
		target ambition that is based on the reductions which can	
		be achieved through direct mitigation levers. If companies	
		choose to purchase carbon credits, these credits may be	



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
		used for Beyond Value Chain Mitigation (BVCM), or for neutralization of residual emissions.	
		voided emissions fall under a separate accounting system for reduction targets.	rom corporate inventories and do not count toward
12.1 Accounting and tracking of avoided emissions separately from GHG inventory and targets	Accounting	Companies must not report avoided emissions in their GHG inventory or count avoided emissions toward near or long-term target achievement. Companies wishing to track avoided emissions must account for these emissions under an entirely different accounting system.	avoided emissions are not included in the GHG inventory calculations or covered by any proposed

NT C13 - Base and target years: Absolute reduction near-term targets must cover a minimum of 5 years and a maximum of 10 years from the date the target is submitted to SBTi Services for validation.\* The choice of base year must be no earlier than 2015. Scope 1 and scope 2 targets must use the same base year. SBTi Services does not accept multi-year average base years, unless this is specified in the sector-guidance relevant to the company.

\*For targets submitted for validation in the first half of 2024 (until June 30), the valid target years are 2028-2033 inclusive. For targets submitted in the second half of 2024 (from July 1), the valid target years are between 2029 and 2034 inclusive.



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
13.1 Near-term target timeframe	Target Setting	Targets must cover a minimum of 5 years and a maximum of 10 years from the date of submission. If the target is submitted for validation in the first half of the year (i.e., by the end of June), the timeframe includes the year of submission. If submitted in the second half of the year, the timeframe begins from the start of the following year.	form.
13.2 Consistent base year for targets with different timeframes	Target Setting	Once companies select a base year, that base year must be used consistently for both near-term and long-term target setting for targets of the same scope.	
13.3 Base year after 2015	Target Setting	Base years must cover a complete past calendar or financial year. Companies must set targets with a base year of 2015 or later. Any companies that used base years prior to 2015 during past SBTi Services submissions must update their base year to 2015 or later during the target resubmission process.	



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required			
decarbonization ro	NT C15 - Level of ambition for scope 1 and 2 targets: At a minimum, scope 1 and scope 2 targets shall be consistent with the level of decarbonization required to keep global temperature increase to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial temperatures.*  When a company uses fiscal years in its GHG accounting, SBTi Services assesses minimum ambition based on the calendar year (CY) where the majority of the months occur. E.g. FY2022 with a					
the date range. This app		ld be assessed as CY2021. In the rare case where a FY is evenly split across a CY all targets.	and the factor of the factor o			
15.1 Assessment of absolute contraction ambition	Target Setting	If the target is absolute-based, the criterion is met if companies are in conformance with SBTi Near-Term Criterion 16.	•			
15.2 Assessment of maintenance targets	Target Setting	Companies whose scope 1 and/or scope 2 emissions are 0 may set maintenance targets.	Written justification for how scope 1 and/or scope 2 emissions are 0 in the submission form.			
NT C16 - Absolute targets: Absolute reduction targets for scope 1 and scope 2 are eligible when they are at least as ambitious as the minimum of the approved range of emissions scenarios consistent with the 1.5°C goal.						
16.1 Assessment of ambition after 2020	Target Setting	For base years after 2020, the absolute emissions reduction must meet the minimum reduction value over the target period as set out below:				



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required		
		Minimum value for absolute reduction target = 4.2% x (Target year - 2020).			
16.2 Assessment of ambition before 2020	Target Setting	For base years between 2015 and 2020 (inclusive), the absolute emissions reduction must meet the minimum reduction value over the target period as set out below:  Minimum value for absolute reduction target = 4.2% x (Target year - base year)	form.		
NT C17 - N/A					
NT C18 - N/A					
NT C19 - N/A					
NT C20 - N/A	NT C20 - N/A				
NT C21 - N/A	NT C21 - N/A				
NT C22 - N/A	NT C22 - N/A				
•	NT C23 - Companies in the fossil fuel production business or with significant revenue from fossil fuel business lines: SBTi Services will not currently validate targets for:				



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
fuels, irres  Companie equipmen Companie purposes.	pective of perc s that derive t or services to s with more the	I of direct involvement in exploration, extraction, mining and entage revenue generated by these activities.  50% or more of their revenue from the sale, transmission fossil fuel companies.  an 5% revenue from fossil fuel assets (e.g., coal mine, lignited applicable sector standards if available.	n and distribution of fossil fuels, or by providing
23.1 Fossil fuel activities	Target Setting	Companies with any level of direct involvement in exploration, extraction, mining and/or production of oil, natural gas, coal or other fossil fuels, irrespective of percentage revenue generated by these activities*, i.e., including, but not limited to, integrated oil and gas companies, integrated gas companies, exploration and production pure players, refining and marketing pure players, oil products distributors, gas distributors and retailers and traditional oil and gas service companies cannot get their targets validated at this stage.  *See criteria assessment indicator 23.3.	or selling of fossil fuel assets has occurred, objective evidence is provided showing the completion of the sale or decommissioning.



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
23.2 Fossil fuel revenue	Target Setting	Companies that derive more than 50% of revenue from a) sale, transmission and distribution of fossil fuels, or b) providing equipment or services to fossil fuel companies cannot have their targets validated at this time.	will provide company documents such as financial
23.3 Fossil fuel policy revenue	Target Setting	Companies with more than 5% revenue from fossil fuel assets (e.g., coal mine, lignite mine, etc.) for extraction activities with commercial purposes cannot have their targets validated at this time and must follow the respective sector methodology, once published.	Confirmation in the submission form.
NT C24 - N/A			
NT C25 - Freque published targets	•	pany shall publicly report its company-wide scope 1 and asis.	2 GHG emissions inventory and progress against
25.1 Confirmation of annual reporting	MRV	Companies must state where (e.g. sustainability report, reporting platform such as CDP, GRI report, TCFD report, etc.) they will disclose:  1. Company-wide GHG inventory based on the consolidation approach chosen, and 2. Progress against their SBTi Services-approved targets.	Confirmation in the submission form.



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required		
SBTi criteria.* If the earlier shall review * Please note that the base note that the bas	NT C26 - Mandatory target review: Companies shall review all active targets, at a minimum, every 5 years to ensure consistency with the latest SBTi criteria.* If targets do not meet SBTi criteria, then they shall be updated and revalidated. Companies with targets approved in 2020 or earlier shall review all active targets by 2025. Companies shall follow the most recent applicable criteria at the time of resubmission.  Please note that the beginning of the review period for all active targets corresponds to the date of initial validation of the oldest currently active target or the most recent target validation date of the target where all the company targets were updated.				
26.1 Confirmation of 5 year cycle		Companies must state that they will review, and if necessary, recalculate and revalidate their targets, at a minimum, every 5 years.	Confirmation in the submission form.		
criteria version		Companies with an approved target(s) that require recalculation must follow the most recent applicable criteria at the time of resubmission.	Confirmation in the submission form.		
26.3 Adherence to SBTi significance threshold	Target Setting	SBTi's significance threshold is defined as a cumulative change of five percent or larger in an organization's total base year emissions (tCO2e). All companies must adhere to the SBTi's 5% significance threshold. In the absence of a base year emissions recalculation policy, companies must agree to apply a 5% significance threshold for	commitment to the SBTi's 5% significance threshold for base year emissions recalculation in		



Criteria			
Assessment	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
Indicator			

NT C27 - Triggered target recalculation: Targets shall be recalculated and revalidated when significant changes occur that could compromise the existing target. The following changes shall trigger a target recalculation:

- Eligibility for use of the tailored route for SMEs changes
- Changes in the consolidation approach chosen for the GHG inventory.
- Emissions of exclusions in the inventory or target boundary change significantly.
- Significant changes in company structure and activities (e.g., acquisition, divestiture, merger).
- Adjustments to data sources or calculation methodologies resulting in significant changes to an organization's total base year emissions or the target boundary base year emissions (e.g., discovery of significant errors or a number of cumulative errors that are collectively significant).
- Other significant changes to projections/assumptions used in setting the science-based targets.

Companies shall apply a significance threshold of 5% or less. For base year emissions, a change of 5% in an organization's total base year emissions would trigger a base year emissions recalculation. A change of 5% or more in the base year emissions covered within a target boundary would trigger a target recalculation.\*

If a significant change occurs and the company's target(s) no longer meet SBTi criteria, then the target(s) shall be recalculated and revalidated. Companies shall follow the most recent applicable criteria at the time of resubmission.

\* Please note that the significance threshold for target recalculation is relative to the scopes covered by the target. For example, if a company has a validated scope 1+2 target and their scope 1+2 base year emissions change by 5% or more, this triggers a target recalculation.

27.1	Integration	GHG	Targets should be recalculated as soon as possible Demonstration of objective evidence needed for
of	structural	Accounting	(companies should make this integration within a year of NT C1.4.



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
changes into GHG inventory		the completion of a full reporting cycle after the structural change) according to NTC1.4 to reflect significant changes to remain relevant to the current company structure and operations. Companies validated under the tailored route for SMEs who experience structural changes must confirm their continued eligibility for using the tailored route. Companies must resubmit under the corporate validation route if structural changes impact the eligibility of using the tailored route for SMEs.	
27.2 Near-term target recalculation triggers	GHG Accounting	Targets must be recalculated, as needed, to reflect significant changes that would compromise the relevance and consistency of the existing target(s).  The following changes trigger a target recalculation:  • Exclusions in the inventory or target boundary change significantly and/or pass the 5% significance threshold.  • Significant changes in company structure and activities (e.g., acquisition, divestiture, merger).  • Significant adjustments to the base year inventory, data sources or calculation methodologies.	



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
		<ul> <li>Significant changes in data used to calculate the targets such as growth projections (e.g., discovery of significant errors or several cumulative errors that are collectively significant).</li> <li>Other changes to projections/assumptions used with science-based target setting methods</li> <li>Changes to company result in ineligibility of using the tailored route for SMEs</li> </ul>	
27.3 Triggered resubmission		During a company's target recalculation process, a company must assess whether the ambition and coverage of the current targets remains in line with SBTi criteria. If the ambition, coverage, or any other aspect of the current targets fail to meet one or more of the SBTi criteria against which they were validated, a resubmission is triggered. If all SBTi criteria are still adhered to after the recalculation, no resubmission is mandatory.	SBTi-designated significant changes (ie: 5% as referenced in NTC26) compromise the relevance and consistency of existing targets in the submission form.

NT C28 - Target validity: Companies with approved targets must announce their target publicly on the SBTi website within 6 months of the approval date. Targets unannounced after 6 months must go through the approval process again unless a different publication time frame has been agreed in writing with the SBTi.



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
28.1 Announcement of targets	Target Setting	If officially approved by the SBTi, companies must announce their targets at any time within 6 months of the approval date. Targets that go unannounced after 6 months must be resubmitted to the SBTi for a complete re-validation with the most recent version of the criteria.	within 6 months of approval by the SBTi Target Validation Team.



## ASSESSMENT OF SBTI CRITERIA FOR NET-ZERO TARGETS

Table 2. Net-Zero Criteria Assessment Table

Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required	
NZ C1 - Organiza	tional boundary: S	ee near-term criterion 1.		
NZ C2 - Greenhou	use gasses: See n	ear-term criterion 2.		
NZ C3 - Scope 1	and scope 2: See	near-term criterion 3.		
NZ C4 - N/A				
from either the boundary of the GHG inventory or the target boundary.*, ** Companies shall not exclude more than 5% of emissions from their total scope 3 GHG inventory.***  * The total targeted scope 1 and 2 emissions shall be greater than or equal to 95% of total (reported + excluded) scope 1 and 2 emissions. This means that a company shall not exclude 5% from the inventory boundary and then also exclude a further 5% from the target boundary.				
** Where a company's scope 1 or 2 emissions are deemed immaterial (i.e., under 5% of total combined scope 1 and 2 emissions), companies may set their SBT solely on the scope (either scope 1 or scope 2) that covers more than 95% of the total scope 1 and 2 emissions. The company must continue to report on both scopes and adjust their targets as needed, in accordance with the GHG Protocol's principle of completeness, and as per C26 and C27.  *** The SBTi does not recognize emissions perceived to be "negligible" as a rationale for not reporting them. Even if emissions from certain activities or operations are perceived to be negligible, these emissions still must be quantified and reported in the reporting company's GHG inventory or disclosed as an exclusion.				
5.1 Scope 1 and	_	Total exclusions from the reporting company's scope 1 and 2	•	
2 exclusion		inventory and target boundary combined must not exceed	justification of any exclusions from the scope	
threshold		5% of the total scope 1 and 2 emissions calculated.*		



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required	
		*Where the reporting company's scope 1 or 2 emissions are less than 5% of total combined scope 1 and 2 emissions), companies may set their SBT solely on the scope (either scope 1 or scope 2) that covers more than 95% of the total scope 1 and 2 emissions. Companies must continue to report on both scopes and adjust their targets as needed, according to the GHG Protocol's principle of completeness, and as per C32 and C33.		
5.2 Scope 3 exclusion threshold	GHG Accounting	Total exclusions from the reporting company's scope 3 inventory must not exceed 5% of the total scope 3 emissions calculated.*  *The SBTi does not recognize emissions perceived to be "negligible" as a rationale for not reporting them. Even if emissions from certain activities or operations are perceived to be negligible, these emissions still must be quantified and reported in the reporting company's GHG inventory. This is regardless of whether the reporting company chooses to exclude them or not, as exclusions must also be quantified and reported.	from the scope 3 inventory in the submission form.	
5.3 Allowable exclusions based on immateriality	GHG Accounting	Companies must account for all potential emissions sources and have calculated the total magnitude of emissions in tCO2e before any emissions are excluded.		
NZ C6 - N/A	NZ C6 - N/A			



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required			
scope 3 emissions Accounting and R	NZ C7 - Scope 3 emissions coverage for long-term targets: The boundary of long-term science-based targets shall cover at least 90% of total scope 3 emissions considering the minimum boundary of each category in conformance with the GHG Protocol Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard.* Exclusions in the GHG inventory and target boundary shall not exceed 10% of total scope 3 emissions.  *GHG accounting that is not proven to adhere to the GHG Protocol minimum boundaries and the SBTi criteria assessment indicators will not be accepted by the SBTi.					
7.1 Complete disclosure of GHG inventory based on GHG Protocol Scope 3 Standard	GHG Accounting	Companies must disclose the entire GHG inventory in line with the GHG Protocol Corporate Value Chain Scope 3 Standard.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
7.2 Scope 3 in long-term targets	Target Setting	Companies must set a long-term and net-zero scope 3 target, irrespective of percentage of scope 3 emissions compared to their total scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
7.3 Assessment of scope 3 target boundary coverage in long-term targets		Companies must set long-term scope 3 targets that collectively cover at least 90% of total mandatory (reported and excluded) scope 3 emissions, not taking into account any optional emissions reported. Companies therefore must not exclude more than 10% of scope 3 emissions from the GHG inventory and target boundary. Companies must	submission form. Excluded emissions must be taken into account in the total scope 3 emissions when calculating the required coverage.			



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
		quantitatively list and justify any exclusions from the scope 3 inventory and estimate the percentage for each scope 3 category.	

NZ C8 - Method validity: See near-term criterion 7.

NZ C9 - Scope 2 accounting approach: See near-term criterion 8.

NZ C10 - Scope 3 inventory: Companies shall complete a scope 3 inventory covering gross scope 3 emissions for all its relevant emissions sources according to the GHG Protocol Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard.\*, \*\*

\* To determine relevance of scope 3 activities for inclusion in the target boundary, companies will be assessed against minimum boundary in Table 5.4 and using the criteria in Table 6.1 of the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard. Please note that, although beyond the minimum boundary, all transport-related emissions across all sectors must be reported on a well-to-wheel (WTW) basis in companies' GHG inventories (well-to-wake for aviation and maritime transport). All use-phase emissions from third-party distributed fossil fuels must be reported in scope 3 category 11 for all companies engaged in this type of distribution activity.

\*\* Companies may use the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) Global GHG Accounting and Reporting Standard for the Financial Industry to calculate financed emissions. However, emissions beyond the minimum requirements of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol for Scope 3 Category 15 Investments as per Table 5.9 (page 52) of the GHG Protocol Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard shall not count towards the mandatory boundary for scope 3 targets (see C6 and C7).

10.	Scope	3	GHG Accounting	Companies must conduct a full scope 3 inventory and	Provision of scope 3 total emissions (tCO2e)
GH	accounti	ng		calculate emissions for each scope 3 category regardless of	in the submission form. Companies may also
				perceived relevance or magnitude.	provide supplemental documentation of the
					methodology/emissions factors used to
					derive the figures in the reporting company's
					submission files.



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
10.2 SBTi scope 3 requirements	GHG Accounting	Companies must adhere to all SBTi GHG Accounting expectations beyond the GHG Protocol Scope 3 Corporate Value Chain Standard.	_
10.3 Scope 3 Market-Based GHG Accounting	GHG Accounting	As per the Greenhouse Gas Protocol guidance, the SBTi does not permit market-based accounting in scope 3, including the purchase of market-based renewable electricity instruments on behalf of the reporting company's suppliers, customers, lessors, lessees, franchisees, or investments. Companies can report scope 3 emissions based on specific primary emissions data received from their suppliers, customers, lessors, lessees, franchisees or investments that are determined by those value chain partners using market-based GHG accounting.	emissions.

## NZ C11 - N/A

NZ C12 - Carbon credits: The use of carbon credits shall not be counted as emission reductions toward the progress of companies' near-term or long-term science-based targets. Carbon credits may only be considered as an option for neutralizing residual emissions (see NZ C28) or to finance additional climate mitigation beyond their science-based emission reduction targets (see R9 of the Corporate Net-Zero Standard).



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required	
12.1 Disclosure of Beyond Value Chain Mitigation (BVCM)		Companies engaged in BVCM in addition to their near-term and long-term science-based targets must disclose so in the net-zero submission form.		
12.2 Separation of BVCM accounting		Companies engaged in BVCM must confirm that any BVCM actions will be reported separately from the regular scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions inventory.		
NZ C13 - Avoided	emissions: See n	ear-term criterion 12.		
NZ C14 - State of net-zero emissions: Companies shall set one or more targets to reach a state of net zero emissions, which involves: (a) reducing scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions to zero or a residual level consistent with reaching net-zero emissions at the global or sector level in eligible 1.5°C scenarios or sector pathways and (b) neutralizing any residual emissions at the net-zero target date - and any GHG emissions released into the atmosphere thereafter.				

14.1 Emissions Target Setting	Targets set to reach a state of net-zero emissions must Written confirmation in the submission form.
	reduce scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions to zero or a residual level
scope 1, 2 and 3	consistent with net-zero.
are sufficient for	
net-zero	



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
14.2 Residual emissions calculation	Target Setting	Targets set to reach a state of net-zero emissions must include a calculation of the quantity of residual emissions at net-zero target year. The quantity of residual emissions must be applied to both the emissions reduction target(s) boundary and to any unabated emissions that have been excluded from the GHG inventory and/or target boundary.	
14.3 Neutralization of residual emissions	Target Setting	Companies must disclose information on their neutralization plan such as milestones and near-term investments that demonstrate the integrity of commitments to neutralize unabated emissions at the target year. Companies must include a description of planned neutralization milestones and a description of near-term investments (0-5 years) towards carbon removal solutions with permanent storage.	
14.4 Maintenance target after net-zero target year	Target Setting	A maintenance target can be set once companies have achieved net-zero emissions to ensure that net-zero is maintained through the target timeframe by keeping emissions to a residual level and neutralizing every year any emissions that cannot be abated.	



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
the requirements	outlined in this st	Companies shall set both near-term and long-term science-landard. If a company sets a near-term target that meets long that, at a minimum, maintains the same level of emissions there	g-term target requirements, the target shall be
15.1 Long-term target required based on net-zero timeframe	Target Setting	All companies submitting for net-zero that have targets with a timeframe of more than 10 years from the date of submission must set long-term targets.	
15.2 Near-term target meeting net-zero requirements	Target Setting	Any near-term targets that meet long-term target requirements for net-zero will be assessed against the net-zero standard and additional long-term targets are not required.	Submission of near-term target in the submission form.
targets as its near	r-term science-bas	r shall be no earlier than 2015. The company shall use the sased targets. Scope 1 and scope 2 targets shall use the same becified in the sector guidance relevant to the company.	, c
16.1 Consistent base year for targets with different timeframes	Target Setting	Once companies select a base year, that base year must be used consistently for both near-term and long-term target setting for targets of the same scope. Companies setting long-term targets must also demonstrate that there is base	



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
		year alignment by disclosing the same base year across their near-term and net-zero submission documents.	

NZ C17 - Target year(s): Absolute emission reduction near-term targets must cover a minimum of 5 years and a maximum of 10 years from the date the target is submitted to the SBTi for validation.\* Long-term targets shall have a target year no later than 2050.

\* For targets submitted for validation in the first half of 2024 (until June 30), valid target years are 2028-2033 inclusive. For targets submitted in the second half of 2024 (from 1 July), valid target years are between 2029 and 2034 inclusive.

17	.1 Long-te	rm Target Setting	Companies setting long-term targets must have a target year	Written confirmation in the submission form.
tar	get timefra	me	no later than 2050.	
for	all SMEs			

### NZ C18 - N/A

NZ C19 - Level of ambition for scope 1 and 2 targets: At a minimum, scope 1 and scope 2 targets shall be consistent with the level of decarbonization required to keep global temperature increase to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial temperatures. This applies to both near-term and long-term targets.\*

<sup>\*</sup> When a company uses fiscal years in its GHG accounting, the SBTi assesses minimum ambition based on the calendar year (CY) where the majority of the months occur. E.g. FY2022 with a date range of April 2021 - March 2022 would be assessed as CY2021. In the rare case where a FY is evenly split across a CY (i.e. FY ends on 30th June), ambition is assessed using the later year in the date range. This approach is applicable to all targets.



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
19.1 Absolute ambition assessment	Target Setting	Companies must demonstrate that long-term targets for scope 1 and 2 are 1.5°C aligned and consistent with reaching net-zero emissions at the global level by 2050 or earlier.	
	<u> </u>	e reduction targets for scope 1 and scope 2 are eligible when scenarios consistent with the 1.5°C goal.	they are at least as ambitious as the minimum
20.1 Absolute ambition assessment	Target Setting	Companies must demonstrate that long-term targets for scope 1 and 2 are 1.5°C aligned and consistent with reaching net-zero emissions at the global or sector level by 2050 or earlier.	
NZ C21 - N/A			
NZ C22 - Level of ambition for scope 3 emissions reductions targets: At a minimum, long-term scope 3 targets, shall be aligned with methods consistent with the level of decarbonization required to keep global temperature increase to 1.5°C.*  * When a company uses fiscal years in its GHG accounting, the SBTi assesses minimum ambition based on the calendar year (CY) where the majority of the months occur. E.g. FY2022 with a date range of April 2021 - March 2022 would be assessed as CY2021. In the rare case where a FY is evenly split across a CY (i.e. FY ends on 30th June), ambition is assessed using the later year in the date range. This approach is applicable to all targets.			
22.1 Absolute ambition	Target Setting	Long-term targets for scope 3 must be 1.5°C aligned and consistent with reaching net-zero emissions at the global or sector level by 2050.	Written confirmation in the submission form.



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required	
NZ C23 - N/A				
	- , , ,	e 3): Absolute targets for scope 3 are eligible when they are rios consistent with the 1.5°C goal (long-term targets).	at least as ambitious as the minimum of the	
24.1 Absolute ambition assessment	Target Setting	Absolute reduction targets for scope 3 must be aligned with the relevant cross-sector 1.5°C long-term absolute contraction pathway.	1	
NZ C25 - N/A				
	NZ C26 - Combined scope targets: Targets combining scopes (e.g., 1 and 2, or scope 1, 2 and 3) are permitted if the SBTi can review the ambition of the individual target components and confirm each meets the relevant ambition criteria.			
26.1 Combined scope 1, 2 and 3 assessment	Target Setting	For long-term targets combining scope 1, 2 and 3, the scope 1 and 2 portion of the target must be in line with criterion SBTi net-zero criterion 20 and the scope 3 portion must be in line with criterion net-zero criterion 24.  Compensating for reductions between targets set over scopes 1+2 and scope 3 by exceeding ambition in one scope(s) and failing to meet the ambition outlined for the other scope(s) must not occur. Scope 1 and 2 targets are modeled, measured, tracked, and therefore also achieved, at a disaggregated level, separately from scope 3	for NZ C20 and NZ C24.	



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
NZ C27 - N/A			
to counterbalance for subsequent yeunabated emissio * For example, a compa SBT. After reducing emis	e the impact of an ears thereafter. The ns that have been ny with 100 tCO2e emissions covered by its lor	d emissions to reach net-zero: Companies shall remove carbon y unabated emissions that remain once companies have achieve neutralization of unabated emissions applies to both the emissions in the base year excludes 1 tCO2e from its GHG inventory and 1 tCO2e from its or term SBT by 90%, this results in 9.8 tCO2e of residual emissions. Assuming the est tCO2e from target boundary exclusions, and the remaining 9.8 tCO2e).	eved their long-term science-based target, and ssions reduction target(s) boundary and to any target boundary, resulting in 98 tCO2e covered by its long-term
28.1 Calculation of residual emissions	Target Setting	Targets set to reach a state of net-zero emissions must include a calculation of the quantity of residual emissions at net-zero target year. The quantity of residual emissions is applied to both the emissions reduction target(s) boundary and to any unabated emissions that have been excluded from the GHG inventory.	
28.2 Neutralization of residual emissions	Target Setting	Companies must disclose information on their neutralization plan such as milestones and near-term investments that demonstrate the integrity of commitments to neutralize unabated emissions at the target year.  Companies must include a description of planned neutralization milestones and a description of near-term	Written confirmation in the submission form.



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
		investments (0-5 years) towards carbon removal solutions with permanent storage.	
28.3 Maintenance target after net-zero target year		A maintenance target can be set once companies have achieved net-zero emissions to ensure that net-zero is maintained through time by keeping emissions to a residual level and neutralizing every year any emissions that cannot be abated.	
_	ents including (a) n	panies shall publicly set a net-zero target that clearly and tra let-zero target year, (b) magnitude of emissions reductions that	•
29.1 Target language		The net-zero target wording used in any public communication must be formulated by including the following elements:  1. Net-zero target year 2. Base year 3. Amount of emissions reductions in absolute terms (in tonCO2e) and percentage reduction from base year for all the scopes covered by the target.	



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required	
		Net-zero target wording must contain the above elements and be structured as follows:  1. Overarching target wording  2. Near-term target wording  3. Long-term target wording		
NZ C30 - Frequen	cy: See near-term	criterion 25.		
·	•	e: Companies shall publicly report information pertaining to removals in the annual GHG inventory.	progress against validated targets, including	
reporting of GHG	· .	Companies must report annually their gross GHG emissions.	Written confirmation in the submission form.	
•	reporting and	Companies must report annually their carbon removals separately from their gross GHG emissions.	Written confirmation in the submission form.	
reporting of	reporting and	Companies must report annually their progress towards validated targets e.g. amount of scope 1 and 2 and scope 3 emissions reduced in the reporting year.		
NZ C32 - Mandato	NZ C32 - Mandatory target review: See near-term criterion 26.			
NZ C33 - Triggere	NZ C33 - Triggered target recalculation: See near-term criterion 27.			



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required	
NZ C34 - Target validity: See near-term criterion 28.				
NZ C35 - N/A				
NZ C36 - Companies in the fossil fuel production business, or with significant revenue from fossil fuel business lines: See near-term criterion 23.				
NZ C37 - N/A				



## ASSESSMENT OF SBTI CRITERIA FOR GHG ACCOUNTING

Table 3. GHG Accounting Criteria Assessment Table

Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required	
GHG C1 - Suita	ible GHG accou	inting: Scope 1		
1.1 Confirmation of completeness	GHG Accounting	Companies must disclose all emissions associated with fuel combustion, fugitive emissions sources and process emissions sources within the organizational boundary. Companies must use calculation methods consistent with the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard.		
1.2 Disclosure of scope 1 energy sources	GHG Accounting	Companies must disclose the main business activities and scope 1 sub-categories (mobile combustion, stationary combustion, process emissions, and fugitive emissions) leading to generation of scope 1 emissions.	sources provided in the submission form	
1.3 Market Instruments	GHG Accounting	Companies must not calculate and report scope 1 emissions corresponding to market-instruments such as green-gas certificates. Companies may report emissions corresponding to low-carbon fuel alternatives with proof of such consumption.		
GHG C2 - Suita	GHG C2 - Suitable GHG accounting: Scope 2			



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
2.1 Confirmation of completeness	GHG Accounting	Companies must disclose all emissions associated with purchased energy (electricity, heating/cooling, and/or steam) within the organizational boundary. Companies must use calculation methods consistent with the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard.	
2.2 Disclosure of scope 2 energy sources	GHG Accounting	Companies must disclose the main business activities and scope 2 sub-categories (electricity, heating/cooling, and/or steam) leading to generation of scope 2 emissions.	sources in the submission form.
2.3 Use of scope 2 quality criteria	GHG Accounting	Companies must follow the scope 2 Quality Criteria (Chapter 6 of the GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance) for market-based approaches as indicated in the GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance when reporting market-based scope 2 emissions.	
GHG C3 - N/A			
GHG C4 - N/A			
GHG C5 - N/A			
GHG C6 - N/A			
GHG C7 - N/A			



Criteria Assessment Indicator	Applicability	Description	Minimum Documentation Required
GHG C8 - N/A			
GHG C9 - N/A			
GHG C10 - N/A			
GHG C11 - N/A	GHG C11 - N/A		
GHG C12 - N/A	HG C12 - N/A		
GHG C13 - N/A			
GHG C14 - N/A			
GHG C15 - N/A	GHG C15 - N/A		
GHG C16 - N/A	HG C16 - N/A		
GHG C17 - N/A	HG C17 - N/A		
GHG C18 - N/A	iHG C18 - N/A		



## **REFERENCES**

**GHG Protocol** 

**GHG Protocol Corporate Standard** 

GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance

GHG Protocol Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard

GHG Protocol Scope 3 Calculation Guidance



