

Building Sustainably . . . . .



# GSAS CREDENTIALS GUIDE



**GSAS  
TRUST**





# **GSAS** **CREDENTIALS** **GUIDE**





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## 1.0 ABOUT THE GUIDE

This guide takes readers through various credentials offered by GSAS Trust. It gives an overview of GSAS accreditations and licenses for professionals and organizations, and describes the associated processes and prerequisites.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

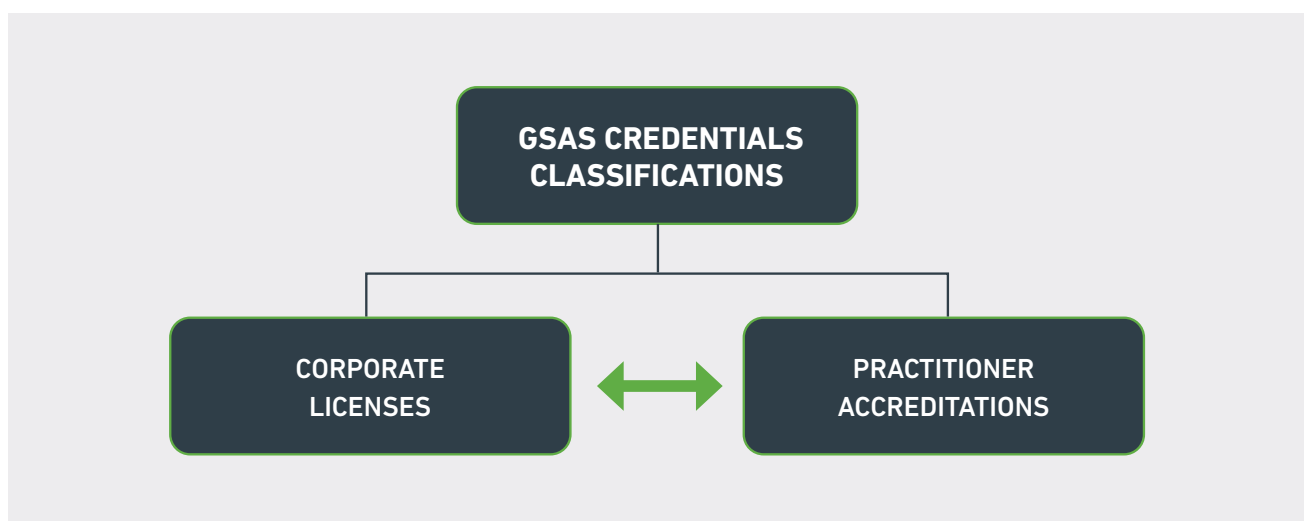
The Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS) is the first integrated and performance-based system in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, designed for assessing and rating buildings and infrastructure projects for their sustainability impacts. Representing green building regulations, GSAS is aimed at improving the design, construction and operations of buildings while also identifying sustainability challenges specific to MENA's built environment. GSAS has been endorsed by mega projects within Qatar and abroad, which makes it a true step forward for MENA's built environment.

While GSAS is the green building rating system, GSAS Trust is the certification body responsible for the development and administration of GSAS green buildings and infrastructure certification framework. GSAS Trust issues certificates based on the assessment in which it verifies that the projects fulfil the specified requirements.

GSAS is supported by various tools, including manuals, guides, calculators, suites, scoring sheets, an online portal for project submissions called 'GSASgate', and many others.

Since its launch, standard setting through GSAS framework has followed rigorous capacity building programs. These include enabling professionals and organizations to implement GSAS on building and infrastructure projects. Practitioners must receive GSAS accreditation to be eligible to participate in projects through a legally registered entity. Similarly, corporates must seek GSAS Service Provider licenses to be able to provide services to clients seeking GSAS certifications. Here is the relationship, as depicted in the figure below, between practitioner accreditations and corporate licenses:

- 1. Practitioner Accreditations:** Professionals working or interested in the field of sustainable built environment seek such accreditations to acquire GSAS related designations. These accreditations offer career advancement and opportunities to engage in GSAS projects under formal affiliation with a GSAS Service Provider.
- 2. Corporate Licenses:** Corporations working or interested in the field of sustainable built environment seek such licenses to acquire GSAS related credentials. Private corporations and government organizations holding such licenses and employing practitioners with appropriate accreditations are authorized to engage in GSAS projects.





## 3.0 PRACTITIONER ACCREDITATIONS

Practitioner accreditations are industry recognized qualifications demonstrating professional competence in sustainability and commitment to career progression. GSAS practitioner accreditation programs empower engineering professionals with the technical skillset needed to manage the implementation of sustainability principles guided by the GSAS framework. By acquiring such accreditations, practitioners are authorized to be affiliated with GSAS Service Providers and rendering services for projects seeking GSAS certification.

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### 3.1 PRACTITIONER ACCREDITATION TYPES

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GSAS Trust offers several practitioner accreditations that can be pursued by professionals working in the construction industry. All practitioner accreditations are valid for a period of three years from the date of issuance and must be renewed for extended validity subject to fulfilment of the requirements stipulated in this guide. Practitioner accreditations currently awarded by GSAS Trust include the following:

#### 3.1.1 GSAS Certified Green Professionals (GSAS CGP)

GSAS CGP designation qualifies professionals to perform certain activities related to project certification process, these include:

1. Ensuring that GSAS certification requirements are met by the project as stipulated by the Technical Guide.
2. Managing communications and submittals of needed evidences to GSAS Trust on behalf of the project.
3. Coordinating for GSAS assessment, audit and certification activities for the project.

Candidates can pursue a specific accreditation depending on the certification type their projects have opted to implement. Each accreditation is applicable for a specific type of GSAS certification as explained hereafter.

##### 3.1.1.1 GSAS Design & Build CGP (GSAS-D&B CGP)

GSAS Design & Build CGP accreditation enables professionals to evaluate the sustainability of newly constructed or majorly renovated buildings, parks, districts and infrastructure in addition to fit-out projects.

### **3.1.1.2 GSAS Construction Management CGP (GSAS-CM CGP)**

GSAS Construction Management CGP accreditation authorizes professionals to assess the environmental impact of the construction process for any type of projects.

### **3.1.1.3 GSAS Operations CGP (GSAS-OP CGP)**

GSAS Operations CGP accreditation allows professionals to assess the sustainability performance of buildings in use, whether or not these buildings are GSAS certified.

### **3.1.1.4 GSAS Certified Green Professional-Fellow (GSAS CGP-Fellow)**

GSAS Certified Green Professional-Fellow or GSAS CGP-Fellow accreditation represents advanced level of competence and expertise in GSAS implementation. It is a designation awarded to individuals who have made significant contribution and excelled in the field of sustainable built environment and implementation of GSAS in projects.

### **3.1.1.5 GSAS Certified Energy Professional (GSAS CEP)**

GSAS Certified Energy Professional or GSAS CEP accreditation qualifies professionals to perform energy assessment for GSAS projects. Proposed to be amended to: Candidates can choose from two designations depending on the certification type their projects have opted to implement. Available CEP accreditations include:

1. GSAS Design & Build CEP: This accreditation qualifies professionals to perform energy assessment for building and infrastructure projects seeking GSAS-D&B certification.
2. GSAS Construction Management CEP: This designation authorizes individuals to perform energy assessment for construction sites seeking GSAS-CM certification.

## **3.1.2 GSAS Accredited Auditors**

GSAS Accredited Auditor designation qualifies professionals to perform energy audits during operations stage for buildings that opt to obtain GSAS Operations certification. It equips individuals with knowledge and expertise to assess certain aspects in the building. Available GSAS Accreditation Auditors qualifications include:

### **3.1.2.1 Accredited Energy Practitioner (AEP)**

Accredited Energy Practitioner or AEP designation authorizes professionals to perform energy audits during operations stage for buildings that opt to obtain GSAS Operations certification. It equips individuals with knowledge and expertise to assess energy use and find ways to minimize energy consumption.

### **3.1.2.2 Accredited Energy Manager (AEM)**

Accredited Energy Manager or AEM designation represents advanced level of competence and expertise in the field of energy auditing during building operations stage. It is awarded to individuals who demonstrate outstanding knowledge and expertise in energy auditing, in addition to understanding the associated energy savings opportunities (ESOs) and their financial implications.

### **3.1.2.3 Accredited Water Auditor (AWA)**

Accredited Water Auditor or AWA accreditation authorizes professionals to perform water audits during operations stage for buildings that opt to obtain GSAS Operations certification. It equips individuals with knowledge and expertise to assess water use and find ways to minimize water consumption.

## **3.1.3 Other Professional Accreditations**

Other Professional Accreditations qualify professionals to engage in certain activities related to operational stage of the facility. Candidates can select relevant accreditation from the following:

### **3.1.3.1 Accredited Facility Management Professional (AFMP)**

Accredited Facility Management Professional or AFMP accreditation enables professionals to engage in facility management during the operational phase. Coursework specified under this accreditation prepares professionals to implement practices and strategies that ensure that facilities are operated and maintained in a sustainable manner.

### **3.1.3.2 Accredited Waste Management Professional (AWMP)**

Accredited Waste Management Professional or AWMP accreditation is an industry recognized certification that qualifies candidates to work on waste management strategies in operational phase. The credential is designed to enable professionals to mitigate the environmental impacts through waste reduction, reuse and recycling and management of waste diverted to landfills.

### **3.1.3.3 Accredited Building Commissioning Professional (ABCP)**

Accredited Building Commissioning Professional or ABCP accreditation certifies professionals to manage commissioning of systems as needed throughout the project life cycle to ensure that the facility is ready for occupancy while meeting the sustainability requirements prescribed by the GSAS framework.

### 3.1.4 GSAS Temporal Designations

These designations are not recognized as professional qualifications. However, they are used for specific purpose for a limited duration. No certificate is issued for temporal designations. Available designations include:

1. GSAS Advocate: GSAS Advocate is a designation provided to GSAS users who have registered on LinkMe, which is GSAS' online sustainability portal accessible through GORD's website. Holding the designation allows users to access GSASgate as team members.
2. GSAS Associate: GSAS Associate is a temporary designation provided to certain GSAS users. It enables candidates to perform specific roles on a temporary basis until full requirements are met for the targeted practitioner accreditation. For example, GSAS Associate-D&B is for candidates who have completed the GSAS-D&B CGP workshop but have not yet passed the exam. The Associate designation allows to access GSASgate for a certain period in a similar role of the CGP. After this period, the access is disabled.

## 3.2 PRACTITIONER ACCREDITATIONS ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria to be qualified to obtain the required accreditation:

Accreditation	Education	Experience
<b>GSAS Associate</b>	University engineering or science degree	2+ years experience in construction field, or holding post-graduate degree
<b>GSAS-D&amp;B CGP</b>	University engineering or science degree	2+ years experience in construction field, or holding post-graduate degree
<b>GSAS-CM CGP</b>	University engineering or science degree	2+ years experience in construction field, or holding post-graduate degree
<b>GSAS-OP CGP</b>	University engineering or science degree	2+ years experience in construction field, or holding post-graduate degree
<b>GSAS-D&amp;B CEP</b>	University engineering or science degree	2+ years experience in energy management field, or holding post-graduate degree
<b>GSAS-CM CEP</b>	University engineering or science degree	2+ years experience in energy efficiency field, or holding post-graduate degree
<b>AEP</b>	University engineering or science degree	3+ years experience in energy management field
<b>AEM</b>	University engineering or science degree	5+ years experience in energy management field
<b>AWA</b>	University engineering or science degree	2+ years experience in water management field
<b>AWMP</b>	University engineering or science degree	2+ years experience in waste management field
<b>AFMP</b>	University engineering or science degree	2+ years experience in facility management field
<b>ABCP</b>	University engineering or science degree	3+ years experience in commissioning management field

Any candidate without the above qualifications can attend the trainings but will not be eligible to receive the practitioner accreditation or designation.

### 3.3 PRACTITIONER ACCREDITATIONS REQUIREMENTS

To obtain the practitioner accreditations stated above, candidates must meet the following prerequisites:

Accreditation	GSAS Workshop	Wrap-up Session	Exam
GSAS Associate	✓	✓	–
GSAS-D&B CGP	✓	✓	✓
GSAS-CM CGP	✓	✓	–
GSAS-OP CGP	✓	✓	–
GSAS-D&B CEP	✓	–	–
GSAS-CM CEP	✓	–	–
AEP	✓	–	✓
AEM	✓	–	✓
AWA	✓	–	✓
AWMP	✓	–	–
AFMP	✓	–	–
ABCP	✓	–	✓

GSAS workshops, wrap-up sessions and exams are requested to ensure that practitioners comprehend the needed knowledge, which enables them to participate in projects. Here is a quick summary for each:

- **GSAS Workshops:** GSAS Workshops are technical trainings conducted by GSAS Trust's instructors, either face-to face or virtually through GORD Academy, which is GORD's hub for knowledge dissemination. GSAS workshops' duration vary according to the topics covered.
- **Wrap-up Sessions:** Wrap-up Sessions are a direct interaction between candidates who have attended the CGP workshops and GSAS Trust. It helps familiarize candidates about GSAS policies and procedures, and open floor for technical discussions and any further clarifications needed by the candidates.
- **Exams:** Exams are assessments verifying the knowledge gained during the training. Each exam has a threshold which should be met to succeed and obtain the accreditation. Multiple failure in exams can lead to retaking the training.

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## 3.4 PRACTITIONER ACCREDITATIONS PROCESS

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Individuals interested in obtaining GSAS accreditations are required to undertake the following steps:



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## 3.5 PRACTITIONER ACCREDITATIONS VALIDITY

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All practitioner accreditations are valid for three years from the date of issuance. To maintain accreditation, practitioners must demonstrate that their practice continues to meet all the standards for the relevant accreditation. The following requirements must be met in order to maintain the accreditation.

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## 3.6 PRACTITIONER ACCREDITATIONS RENEWAL

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All practitioner accreditations are subject to renewal after certain period by maintaining certain requirements.

### 3.6.1 GSAS CGP Accreditation

To maintain the GSAS CGP accreditation, practitioners are required to fulfill the following renewal conditions:

- Participation in relevant Refresher Course.
- Obtainment of 8 Learning Hours.
- Payment of renewal fees.

#### 3.6.1.1 Refresher Courses

Refresher courses are technical trainings conducted by GSAS Trust instructors, either face-to-face or virtually through GORD Academy, for each GSAS CGP accreditation. It updates the CGPs with the latest developments, and major changes relevant to the discipline. It also reminds practitioners with current policies and procedures.

GSAS CGPs need to participate in the relevant refresher course to maintain the credential. These courses are offered in all three categories i.e. GSAS D&B, GSAS-CM and GSAS-OP.

#### 3.6.1.2 Learning Hours (LHs)

A Learning Hour (LH) is a measure used in GSAS professional development programs, to help candidates maintain their accreditations. These units are measured in terms of hours of participation in educational activities. It is quantified as follows:

- One LH (1 LH) is equivalent to 60-minute long (+/-15) seminar/webinar.
- Half LH (1/2 LH) is equivalent to 30-minute long (+/-15) seminar/webinar.



Professionals looking to renew their CGP license should complete 8 learning hours through one or more of the following paths:

1. **GORD Academy Courses:** Professionals can attend a combination of courses, introduced by GORD Academy, that are equivalent to at least 6 LHs. GORD Academy updates the courses regularly for practitioners to increase their knowledge related to sustainability issues. Any GSAS courses offered by the academy can be attended to obtain LHs required for the maintenance of CGP accreditation.
2. **Capacity Building Programs:** Professionals can participate in non-GSAS public capacity building programs related to sustainability domain. All capacity building programs should be offered by an academic institution or recognized professional organization or its chapter and should be attached with a certificate of attendance. LHs resulting from capacity building programs must not exceed 2 LHs. Eligible activities for this path include:
  - Participation in seminar/webinar, technical training and/or conference. This is considered equivalent to 1 LH.
  - Public speaking at a conference/event. This is considered equivalent to 1 LH.

**Guidance Note:** In-house seminars or awareness sessions provided by vendors for specific products or technologies are not accepted to be counted for LHs towards credential maintenance. When claiming LHs, all information provided to support the case must be accurate at the time of submission. Any qualifications not yet obtained, presentations not yet delivered, and articles not yet published, etc. should not be included at the time of submission.

### 3.6.1.3 Renewal Fees

A renewal fee is required to maintain each GSAS CGP accreditation. Please visit GORD website for more details, [www.gord.qa](http://www.gord.qa).

### 3.6.2 GSAS CEP Accreditation

To maintain the GSAS CEP accreditation, practitioners are required to undertake the relevant GSAS CEP course.

### 3.6.3 AEP, AEM and AWA Accreditations

To maintain the AEP, AEM and AWA accreditation, practitioners are required to undertake the relevant course. Undertaking the exam is required for these accreditations.

### 3.6.4 AWMP, AFMP and ABCP Accreditations

To maintain the AWMP, AFMP and ABCP accreditation, practitioners are required to undertake the relevant course and fulfil other relevant requirements of the targeted accreditation.

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### 3.7 GSAS CGP-FELLOW

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Requirements for eligibility for fellowship are as follows:

1. Holding at least two types of CGP accreditations.
2. Maintaining both GSAS-CGP accreditations for six years or more.
3. Maintaining a work experience as a CGP on various types of GSAS projects, including projects combination of three different GSAS Common Typologies, as well as work experience on projects from two other specific schemes (Railways, Healthcare, Sports, Districts, Neighborhood).
4. Publishing at least two papers/public presentations/interviews on GSAS certified projects.
5. Providing recommendation letters by two satisfied project owners.
6. Maintaining clean records of any demerit flags or demerit points.
7. Receiving GSAS Trust's endorsement confirming candidate's technical competence in GSAS based on previous interactions.

## 4.0 CORPORATE LICENSES

Corporate licenses authorize companies to engage in the assessment and implementation of GSAS certifications for building and infrastructure projects subject to the employment of professionals holding appropriate accreditations. This includes design firms, project management organizations, contracting companies and professional services firms. Organizations have the option to obtain one or more types of corporate licenses as long as it has the professional capacity in the concerned area.

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### 4.1 CORPORATE LICENSE TYPES

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Organizations seeking corporate licenses can choose from a range of licenses as indicated in the subsequent sections. Corporate licenses are issued for a specific territory where the applicant company has a physical presence.

#### 4.1.1 GSAS Design & Build Service Provider (GSAS-D&B SP)

GSAS-D&B Service Provider is a corporate license for organizations to engage in the implementation of GSAS-D&B certification from the design stage to the project completion. The applicant can choose from six types of licenses under GSAS-D&B, of which the first is compulsory:

1. Common Schemes: For various building typologies, including Commercial, Education, Homes, Hospitality, Interiors, Light Industry, Mosques, Neighborhoods, Offices, Parks, Renovations and Residential schemes.
2. Districts
3. Healthcare
4. Railways
5. Sports
6. Energy Centers

#### 4.1.2 GSAS Construction Management Service Provider (GSAS-CM SP)

GSAS-CM Service Provider is a corporate license for organizations to engage in the implementation of GSAS-CM certification at all three stages of construction that include: enabling and foundation stage, substructure and superstructure stage, and finishing stage.

#### **4.1.3 GSAS Operations Service Provider (GSAS-OP SP)**

GSAS-OP Service Provider is a corporate license for organizations to engage in the implementation of GSAS-OP certification during building operations and post-occupancy phase.

#### **4.1.4 Facility Management Service Provider**

Facility Management Service Provider license certifies entities to manage the facility sustainably. The aspects associated with this license cover soft and hard facility management practices.

#### **4.1.5 Waste Management Service Provider**

Waste Management Service Provider license certifies entities to manage waste throughout the operations of the project, considering aspects associated with the collection, transportation, storage, recycling and disposal of waste.

#### **4.1.6 Building Commissioning Service Provider**

Accredited Commissioning Agent Service Provider certifies organizations to manage projects throughout the commissioning stage, including pre-design phase, handover and re-commissioning.

## 4.2 CORPORATE LICENSES REQUIREMENTS

To obtain a corporate license, organizations are required to meet the following prerequisites:

- Submission of the applicable form available on GSAS Trust website, along with requested documents stipulated in the form.
- Payment of License Fees.
- Possession of valid company legal/commercial license issued by the regulatory authority for the applied territory.
- Possession of valid affiliated Practitioner Accreditations relevant to the applied license, as shown in the below table:

License	Affiliated Practitioner Accreditations
GSAS-D&B SP	GSAS-D&B CGP GSAS-D&B CEP
GSAS-CM SP	GSAS-CM CGP GSAS-CM CEP
GSAS-OP SP	GSAS-OP CGP AEP or AEM
Energy & Water Audit Service Provider	AEP or AEM AWA
Facility Management Service Provider	AFMP
Waste Management Service Provider	AWMP
Building Commissioning Service Provider	ABCP

- Proof of practitioners' legal affiliation with Service Provider through an official document issued by the local authority indicating employment with the GSAS Service Provider.

GSAS Service Providers handling multiple licenses must adhere to the following requirements:

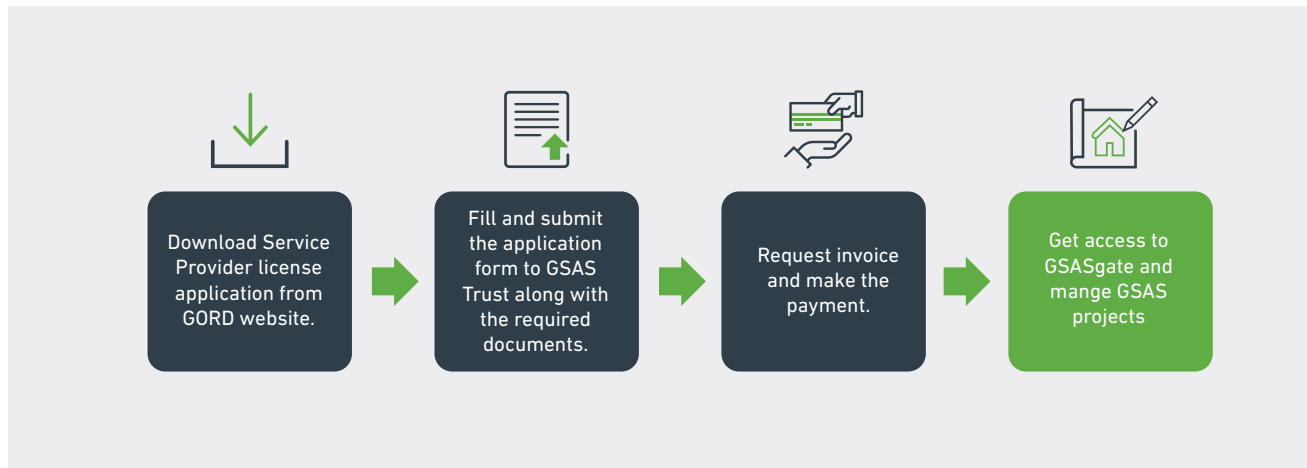
- GSAS Service Providers with multiple licenses for a mix of schemes (Common Schemes and any other specialized scheme) must have at least two CGPs.
- GSAS Service Providers with multiple licenses for various certifications (D&B, CM and OP) must have at least two CGPs.
- GSAS Service Providers having both (A) and (B) must have at least three CGPs.

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## 4.3 CORPORATE LICENSES PROCESS

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Organizations interested in obtaining corporate licenses are required to undertake the following steps:



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## 4.4 CORPORATE LICENSES VALIDITY

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- All corporate licenses for main GSAS Certifications including GSAS-D&B, GSAS-CM and GSAS-OP are valid for one year from the date of issuance.
- Other corporate licenses are valid for 2 years.

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## 4.5 CORPORATE LICENSES RENEWAL

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Corporates must renew their licenses on time in order to maintain their access to GSASgate and other services. To renew a corporate license, organizations are required to meet the following prerequisites:

- Submission of the applicable form available on GSAS Trust website, along with requested documents stipulated in the form.
- Payment of renewal fees.
- Possession of valid/updated company commercial license.
- Possession of valid affiliated Practitioner Accreditations relevant to the applied license.
- Proof of practitioners' legal affiliation with Service Provider through an official document issued by the local authority indicating employment with the GSAS Service Provider.





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