

HCV-HCSA ASSESSMENT MANUAL NOW AVAILABLE

Key facts for HCSA Member companies and ALS-licensed assessors

- All HCSA assessments must now be conducted as integrated HCV-HCSA assessments.
- Quality control of HCV-HCSA assessments will be led by the HCV Resource Network (HCVRN) Assessor Licensing Scheme (ALS). From the publication of the manual, all HCV-HCSA assessments must be led by an ALS-licensed assessor and must adhere to ALS rules and procedures.
- Peer reviews of HCSA-only assessments (coordinated by the HCSA Secretariat) will be gradually phased out.
- The new HCV-HCSA Assessment Manual highlights where and how FPIC procedures need to be included in an integrated assessment.
- Stand-alone HCV assessments (where HCSA is not applied) will continue as usual under the ALS.

Why do we need integrated HCV-HCSA assessments?

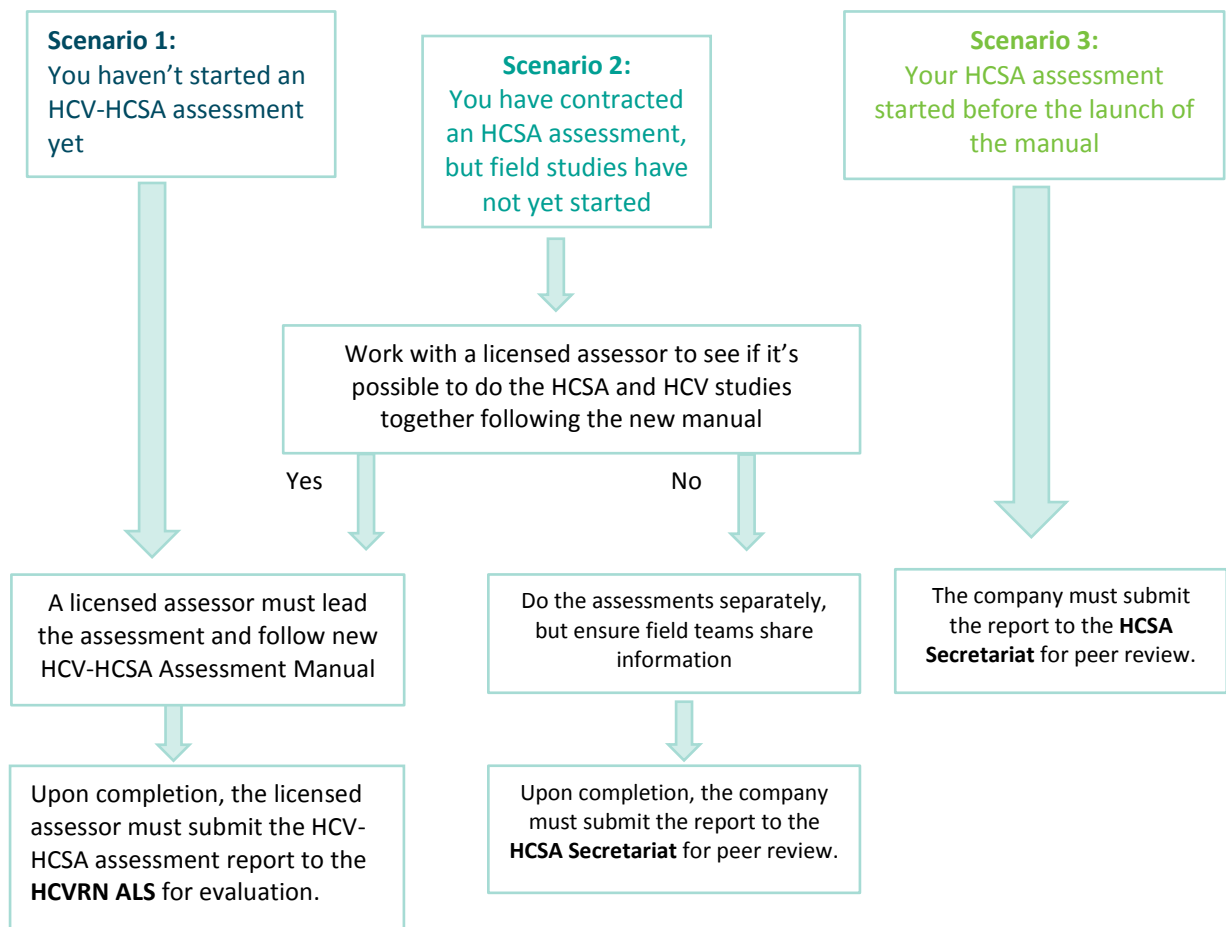
On the ground, HCV and HCSA assessments have been carried out separately, by different teams, and often at different times. Both the HCVRN and the HCSA Steering Group recognise that the integration of the two technical assessments and quality control processes will allow for greater efficiencies in team deployment, reduction of costs and avoidance of stakeholder confusion over multiple teams conducting consultations. Therefore, going forward, Members of the HCS Approach are required to conduct integrated HCV-HCSA assessments. Quality control of integrated assessment reports will be conducted by the HCVRN ALS.

Requirements for HCV-HCSA assessments

- HCV-HCSA assessments must follow the HCV-HCSA Assessment Manual. **You can download the manual [here](#).**
- HCV-HCSA assessments must be **led by an ALS-licensed assessor** and there must be HCSA registered practitioners on the team (see p. 42). HCVRN is training licensed assessors to make sure they are ready to lead these assessments.
- ALS quality control is different from the HCSA peer review system because now assessment reports will receive an overall 'satisfactory' or 'unsatisfactory' marking. The ALS will evaluate the main outcomes of the assessment: 1) identification of values (e.g. HCVs, HCS forests, peatlands, local peoples' lands), 2) maps and 3) management recommendations. Other sections of the assessment report will be considered **key issues** and must score as 'satisfactory' for the overall report to pass.

What does this mean for you?

If you are a company or licensed assessor, you might be part-way through an HCV or HCSA assessment, or about to start a new one. If so, it is important to understand what the launch of the HCV-HCSA Assessment Manual means for you. The flowchart (overleaf) can help you work this out.



We're here to help!

If you have any questions please contact us at secretariat@hcvnetwork.org or visit: www.hcvnetwork.org/als & highcarbonstock.org