



Gold Standard[®]
for the Global Goals

FORM

FORM - DEVIATION REQUEST SUBMISSION

PUBLICATION DATE: 12/11/2024

VERSION: 6.0

NEXT PLANNED UPDATE: 12/11/2026

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [Deviations Approval Requirements and Procedures](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

The Gold Standard Foundation
International Environment House 2
Chemin de Ballexert 7-9
1219 Châtelaine Geneva, Switzerland
Tel +41 22 788 70 80
Email help@goldstandard.org

1 | General Guidelines

1.1 | Applicability

- 1.1.1 | This form is to be completed for projects (project activities/PoAs/VPAs) seeking deviation or is/are at a risk of deviating from any [applicable requirements](#), GS4GG-specific requirements listed in the applicable [Methodologies](#) or any other deviations occurring in any of the various aspects of the project.
- 1.1.2 | Refer to the latest version of [Deviation Request Requirements and Procedures](#) for detailed information on the procedures and requirements.
- 1.1.3 | This form can be used in the following instances i.e.,
 - a. Deviation from GS4GG requirements and/or applicable methodologies prior to submission for certification with GS4GG.
 - b. Temporary changes to a certified project - which include changes from the registered monitoring plan, the applied methodologies or other standard documents - that are expected **not** to occur beyond a given monitoring period.
- 1.1.4 | For any permanent changes to a design certified project, the requirements set in [Design Change Approval Requirements and Procedures](#) shall be followed.

2 | Submission of deviation form

- 2.1.1 | This form shall be submitted in Microsoft Word (.doc) format to Gold Standard at deviations@goldstandard.org
- 2.1.2 | Forms with incomplete/inaccurate information shall not be considered for review and shall be returned to the applicant.

3 | Implementation of deviation decision

- 3.1.1 | The decision prescribed in this form shall be considered by the entity applying for deviation for further course of action.

Table of Content

1 General Guidelines	2
1.1 Applicability.....	2
2 Submission of deviation form	2
3 Implementation of deviation decision.....	2
4 Decision summary	4
4.1 General information	4
4.2 Decision.....	4
4.3 Applicability to other activities	5
5 Deviation Request Details	5
5.1 Submitted by	5
5.2 Details of the entity and its representative submitting the form	5
5.3 Background information.....	5
5.4 Project deviation history	6
6 Deviation detail.....	7
6.1 Standard document reference.....	7
6.2 Description of the deviation.....	7
6.3 VVB information.....	9
6.4 VVB's assessment.....	9
6.5 Documents:	9

4| Decision summary

To be completed by Gold Standard

4.1 | General information

DEVIATION REFERENCE NUMBER	DEVREQ-127
Date of decision	07/07/2025
Decision	☒ Approved [No precondition to apply the deviation decision] ☐ Conditionally approved [Decision is subject to compliance with the precondition defined below] ☐ Not approved [reason for rejection is provided in decision summary]

4.2 | Decision

4.2.1 | Decision Summary

The request is approved with the condition that the physical site visit is completed in April-May 2025 covering the monitoring period from 01/08/2022 to 31/03/2025. Project developer to ensure compliance in future periods. The delay was due to circumstances beyond the project developer's control, that include the ongoing Gold Standard Design Certification process and compliance requirements under Ghana's national carbon framework, which impacted the project timeline and delayed the verification process.

4.2.2 | Directions for the project developer/CME, if applicable

Ensure physical verification in the stated timeline. No further deviations on this requirement will be allowed.

The project developer shall report the deviation and its decision in relevant project documentation.

4.2.3 | Directions for the Validation and Verification Body (VVB), if applicable

Conduct thorough verification of the full monitoring period including site visit and validation of data for the period prior to the audit.

4.2.4 | Directions for the Gold Standard, if applicable

NA

4.3 | Applicability to other activities

Is this decision applicable to other projects under similar circumstances? ¹	☐ Yes ☒ No
Does this decision set a precedent for future projects with similar circumstances? ²	☐ Yes ☒ No
Precedent details (if applicable to other activities)	
NA	

5 | Deviation Request Details

To be completed by the entity requesting deviation - (Project Developer/Coordinating and Managing Entity and/or VVB)

5.1 | Submitted by

- ☒ Project developer
☐ CME
☐ VVB
☐ Other (specify...)

5.2 | Details of the entity and its representative submitting the form

Item	Information
Name ³ :	Nicholas Manu
Email ID ⁴ :	nicholas@cookclean.net
Organisation: ⁵	CookClean Ghana Limited
Are you an authorized project participant as per the cover letter submitted for this activity?	☒ Yes ☐ No

5.3 | Background information

Type	☒ Project activity	☐ PoA GSXXXX	☐ VPA
GS ID	GS11724	GS XXXX GS XXXX	GS XXXX GS XXXX

¹ If this is marked yes, this means that any other project (PoA/VPA/PA) in similar situation may apply the decision of this deviation to their project as well. The project developer/VVB may quote this deviation decision in the relevant certification documents. This is relevant to only the projects which have already entered the certification cycle with GS4GG.

² If this is marked yes, it means the decision is valid to all the future projects which will enter the certification cycle with the similar situation. This is relevant to all the projects which are not yet design certified with GS4GG or have not submitted their documents for preliminary review yet.

³ Name of the individual representing the entity requesting the deviation

⁴ Email ID for further correspondence related to the deviation request

⁵ The name of the entity requesting the deviation

Host country(ies)	Ghana			
Project Title	Improved Cookstoves and Sustainable Fuel Dissemination Program in Ghana			
Registry link	GSF Registry			
Scale	☐ Microscale (GS) ☐ Small scale ☒ Large scale ☐ Other, if applicable please specify below <i>Insert text here</i>			
Certification Status and corresponding date of latest status	☐ Listed <i>01/09/2022</i>	☒ Certified design <i>26/01/2024</i>	☐ Certified project <i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>	☐ Other <i>If other, specify here</i> <i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>
Applied version of Standard	☒ GS4GG ☐ Previous version of Gold Standard			
	Version no.			
	☐ 1.0	☐ 1.1	☐ 1.2	☐ 2.2
Transition date, if applicable	From previous GS version to GS4GG		<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>	
	From another standard to GS4GG		<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>	
	Name of another standard	☐ CDM ☐ Other Name of the Standard – Insert text here		
Applicable activity requirement	☐ Renewable Energy Activity Requirements ☒ Community Services Activity Requirements ☐ Land-use and Forests Activity Requirements ☐ Other <i>Insert name here</i>			

5.4 | Project deviation history

Is there any deviation request(s) for the same project activity/PoA/VPA(s) that was submitted to GS previously? If yes, below information.	☐ Yes ☒ No
Reference number	Insert Text here
Status of the deviation	☐ Approved ☐ Rejected ☐ Under review
Were there any findings (CL, CAR, FAR) raised during any certification step (preliminary review, design and/or performance review etc.) that are relevant to this deviation request?	☐ Yes ☐ No Summary of the findings <i>Summary of the CL, CAR, FAR not more than 200 words. Include reference to document, page number</i>

6 | Deviation detail

To be completed by the entity requesting deviation (Project Developer/Coordinating and Managing Entity and/or VVB)

6.1 | Standard document reference

Standard document reference	Title	SITE VISIT AND REMOTE AUDIT REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES
	Version	2.0
	Paragraph	Para 3.1.1

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Request to Deviate from the Requirement to Conduct Physical Site Visit within Two Years of Project Start Date	
Confirm the nature of changes related to deviation	☒ Temporary (e.g. not expected to occur beyond one monitoring period)	☐ Permanent (e.g. deviation from requirements prior to submission for certification)
	Insert Text here (if required) to support the selection	
Relevant monitoring period, if applicable	Start date	01/08/2022
	End date	31/03/2025
Summarise the changes	<i>Para 3.1.1 of the site visit and remote audit requirements and procedures v.2.0 requires that "At minimum, the VVB shall conduct physical site visit within two years of project start date".</i> <i>The start date of the project is 01/08/2022, and hence the project would have been required to complete a VVB audit by 31/07/2024.</i> <i>A remote VVB audit was conducted between 27/01/2023 to 31/01/2023.</i> <i>However, the project was not able to complete the VVB physical audit as the project was actively going through the Gold Standard Design Certification Process which was approved on 12/04/2024.</i> <i>Following the Gold Standard Certification, the project had to start the process of registration with the Ghana Carbon Registry in compliance with the host county requirements under the 'Ghana's framework on international carbon markets and non-market approaches'. This process impacted on the monitoring activities leading to delays and the verification process could not commence on time to meet the 2-year site visit requirement. For context:</i> <i>The project developer applied for Letter of Authorisation from the Ghana Carbon Registry (CMO) on 16/11/2023</i> <i>The CMO shared the review findings on 17/10/2024. Based on the comments raised the PD had to undertake new KPTs which delayed the verification process,</i>	

	<i>The project developer has since then completed the monitoring activities and KPTs and has contracted a VVB to conduct the verification which will entail a physical site visit. The onsite audit is planned to take place between April-May 2025.</i>						
Reason for deviation	Describe the reasons for requesting deviation from applicable rules/requirements. <i>The PD is requesting a deviation from the requirement to conduct a VVB physical site visit within two years of project start date because 2 years has since lapsed due to the reasons explained above. The deviation approval is needed to allow the VVB conduct a physical audit for the full monitoring period covering the period 01/08/2022 to 31/03/2025.</i>						
Proposed resolution	Describe the proposed resolution for example proposed alternative monitoring arrangements for the non-conforming monitoring period. Describe how proposed resolution complies with the related requirements, where applicable, the accuracy, completeness and conservativeness is ensured. Please include all relevant information in support of the request. <i>The project developer has contracted a VVB to complete the verification and an onsite audit will take place between April-May 2025. The audit will be conducted in line with applicable rules and requirements.</i> <i>This is a one-time deviation, and the project developer shall ensure compliance with the audit requirements going forward.</i>						
Is there any potential temporary or permanent impact of deviation on other aspects of the project?	Select the relevant area: ☐ Project design ☐ Local stakeholder consultation ☐ Safeguarding principles ☐ SDG assessment ☐ Regulatory compliance ☐ Additionality ☐ Applicability of methodology ☐ Annual emission reduction volume (if yes, fill the table below) <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation</th><th>Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>XYZ tCO₂e</td><td>XYZ tCO₂e</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> ☐ any other matrix, please specify...	Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation	XYZ tCO ₂ e	XYZ tCO ₂ e		
Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation						
XYZ tCO ₂ e	XYZ tCO ₂ e						

Summary of the impact	Describe the impact of the deviation on each relevant aspect of the project as selected above. Please substantiate the impact assessment with relevant and verifiable data/information.
No anticipated impact	

6.3 | VVB information

Is a VVB opinion on the deviation request required? <i>VVB opinion shall be included, where required by the requirements under Deviations Request Requirements and Procedures or request is submitted by the VVB.</i>	Yes ☐ No ☒ <i>If answer is yes, fill the information in section 6.4 below.</i>
--	--

6.4 | VVB's assessment

The below information is to be completed by VVB, if applicable.

VVB's assessment of deviation request	Please confirm the nature of deviation.	
VVB's assessment of impact of deviation request		
VVB recommendation		
VVB details	VVB name:	
	Auditor name(s):	
	Email (s):	

6.5 | Documents:

6.5.1 | List of documents provided (*note that once a decision has been made by Gold Standard, this deviation form will be made public on the Gold Standard website. Kindly refrain from including any confidential information in the form.*)

Document 1. CONFIDENTIAL_ Application Letter for Authorisation

Document 2. CONFIDENTIAL_241022 FARs_CRs_CCGL_ICFSD_F_accompanying letter

Document n.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

VERSION NUMBER	RELEASE DATE	DESCRIPTION
6.0	12.11.2024	Editorial and structural changes to the template
5.0	11.04.2022	Additional information added: - date of listing, design certification, transition - standard version - specific reference to a requirement deviated from - any previous deviations/design changes approved - Guidance on VVB opinion
4.0	14.01.2021	Editorial changes
3.0	16.07.2020	Editorial changes
2.0	03.05.2018	Editorial changes
1.0	01.07.2017	Initial adoption