



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

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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.

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4| Decision summary

To be completed by Gold Standard

4.1 | General information

DEVIATION REFERENCE NUMBER	DEVRQ-207
Date of decision	05/09/2025
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 Deviation Request is Approved.

The CME can submit a single monitoring report for the 86 VPAs in the PoA with different end dates of the last monitoring periods.

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

The CME shall note that the decision is based on the information provided in the deviation request form and only against the applicable standard requirement quoted in the form below by the project developer. The CME shall comply with all other applicable standard requirements until unless specifically mentioned in the deviation decision. The CME shall document the deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision in the appropriate section of the project document.

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

The validating VVB shall, through appropriate means at disposal, evaluate that the project's compliance with the above-mentioned conditions and provide VVB opinion in the validation report.

4.2.4 | Directions for the Gold Standard, if applicable

The review team shall check the information reported by the CME and the VVB for appropriateness, accuracy and consistency.

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)	

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.

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 :	Martin Dilger
Email ID ⁴ :	mdilger@upm-cdm.eu
Organisation: ⁵ :	UPM Umwelt-Projekt-Management GmbH
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	GSXXXX GSXXXX	GS 1239 GS XXXX	GS 2566 to GS 2585 GS 3588 to GS 3601	
Host country(ies)	China			
Project Title	Sichuan Rural Poor-Household Biogas Development Programme			
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects?q=1239&page=1			
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 dd/mm/yyyy	☒ Certified design 22/04/2012	☒ Certified project 15/12/2024	☐ Other <i>If other, specify here</i> dd/mm/yyyy

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

Applied version of Standard	☒ GS4GG			
	☐ Previous version of Gold Standard	Version no.		
		☐ 1.0	☐ 1.1	☐ 1.2
Transition date, if applicable	From previous GS version to GS4GG		dd/mm/yyyy	
	From another standard to GS4GG		dd/mm/yyyy	
	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	Programme of Activity Requirements and Procedures
	Version	V3.0
	Paragraph	paragraph 8.4.13.b

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Verification of GS VERs for VPAs with same monitoring period in a single verification report	
	☒ Temporary	☐ Permanent

Confirm the nature of changes related to deviation	(e.g. not expected to occur beyond one monitoring period)	(e.g. deviation from requirements prior to submission for certification)									
	This is the last monitoring period of the included VPAs. No new VPAs will be included. There will be no renewal of POA and VPAs. All included VPAs have been ended by 01/31/2025.										
Relevant monitoring period, if applicable	Start date	01/01/2024									
	End date	31/01/2025									
Summarise the changes	The monitoring period of this verification and issuance request is 01/01/2024 to 31/01/2025 for the included 34 VPAs (GS2566 to GS2585, and GS3588 to GS3601), while GS2566 to GS2585 crediting period ended on 23/03/2024. Therefore, the applicable monitoring period of the included VPAs for this issuance request are as follows: <table border="1" data-bbox="475 786 1447 978"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>End of Crediting period</th> <th>Applicable monitoring period</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>GS2566 to GS2585</td> <td>23/03/2024</td> <td>01/01/2024 to 23/03/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GS3588 to GS3601</td> <td>31/01/2025</td> <td>01/01/2024 to 31/01/2025</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> As per para 8.4.13, Programme of Activity Requirements and Procedures, version 3.0, "iii. Combined inclusion and issuance of real-case and regular VPAs <i>8.4.13 This pathway allows for inclusion and issuance of GSVERs for implemented VPAs in the PoA for achieving. This pathway entails the following three phases:</i> b. Verification: <i>The VVB shall conduct a verification of all new VPAs and/or any existing VPA. The VVB may combine verification assessment for all VPAs with same monitoring period start and end date in a single Verification Report. Also, the VVB may carry out a combined site visit for both validation and verification process."</i> The VVB had the verification assessment for the above VPAs (GS2566 to GS2585, and GS3588 to GS3601) with the monitoring period 01/01/2024 to 31/01/2025 in a single verification report.			End of Crediting period	Applicable monitoring period	GS2566 to GS2585	23/03/2024	01/01/2024 to 23/03/2024	GS3588 to GS3601	31/01/2025	01/01/2024 to 31/01/2025
	End of Crediting period	Applicable monitoring period									
GS2566 to GS2585	23/03/2024	01/01/2024 to 23/03/2024									
GS3588 to GS3601	31/01/2025	01/01/2024 to 31/01/2025									
Reason for deviation	During the GS performance review (round 1, on 07/08/2025) of the issuance request for the included VPAs (GS2566 to GS2585, and GS3588 to GS3601) with the monitoring period 01/01/2024 to 31/01/2025, GS comment was raised: - VVB shall clarify how crediting period of all VPAs align with current monitoring period 01/01/2024 to 31/01/2025. GS2566-GS2585 crediting period expires on 23/03/2024. - The VVB shall confirm (w.r.t. comment 1 above) how it ensures compliance with paragraph 8.4.13.b of Programme of Activity Requirements and Procedures Ver 3.0, which requires all VPAs in a single Verification Report to have identical monitoring period										

	start and end dates. Currently, the monitoring period end dates of VPAs included in the same verification report differ from each other.				
Proposed resolution	As mentioned above, crediting period of GS2566 to GS2585 was ended on 23/03/2024, therefore, GS VERs are claimed for the monitoring period 01/01/2024 to 23/03/2024 accordingly. The operation status of these VPAs is nothing to do with the end of crediting period. The end of monitoring period is only defined due to the end of crediting period of these VPAs. In addition, in this monitoring period, the monitoring was carried out for vintage year 2024 and vintage year 2025, respectively. This monitoring period is the last monitoring period for the covered existing VPAs under the POAs. The crediting period of all the included VPAs has been ended by 31/01/2025. There will be no new VPAs inclusion under this POA. There will be no POA renewal or VPAs renewal under this POA. During last issuance request of this POA, the verification of the above 86 VPAs is done in a single verification report, for the 86 VPAs GS1693 to GS1745, GS2566 to GS2585, and GS3588 to GS3601, with the monitoring period 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023. The crediting period of GS1693 to GS1745 has been ended on 10/04/2023 (i.e the applicable monitoring period GS1693 to GS1745 is 01/01/2023 to 10/04/2023). The GS VERs issuance of the above 86 VPAs for the monitoring period 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023 has been approved by GS on 15/12/2024. Please refer to issuance records of the last issuance request (MR and FVR). Based on above, the verification for the VPAs (GS2566 to GS2585, and GS3588 to GS3601) with the current monitoring period 01/01/2024 to 31/01/2025 could be done in a single report as well.				
Is there any potential temporary or permanent impact of deviation on other aspects of the project?	NO area is selected, as none is affected by the deviation. Select the relevant area: ☐ Project design ☐ Local stakeholder consultation ☐ Safeguarding principles ☐ SDG assessment ☐ Regulatory compliance ☐ Additionality ☐ Applicability of methodology ☐ Annual emission reduction volume <i>(if yes, fill the table below)</i> <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> </tbody> </table>	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				

	☐ any other matrix, please specify...
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.

The deviation has no impact on each aspect above. The project design is not changed, stakeholder consultation, safeguarding principles and SDGs assessments, additionality are not affected. The regulatory compliance is still met. The methodology is not changed, annual emission reduction volume is not changed.

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>
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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. 20240805 GS1239 POA vintage2023 Monitoring Report.pdf

Document 2. A+SH_SYST_GS_PoA_VER_1824 GS VerificationReport-Clean.pdf

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