



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.

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	4
5 Deviation Request Details.....	6
5.1 Submitted by.....	6
5.2 Details of the entity and its representative submitting the form	6
5.3 Background information.....	6
5.4 Project deviation history	7
6 Deviation detail	7
6.1 Standard document reference.....	7
6.2 Description of the deviation.....	7
6.3 VVB information.....	10
6.4 VVB's assessment	10
6.5 Documents:	11

4| Decision summary

To be completed by Gold Standard

4.1 | General information

DEVIATION REFERENCE NUMBER	DEVREQ-223
Date of decision	22/09/2025
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 Request is approved.

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

The Project Developer shall ensure that the next monitoring surveys are conducted on time and in line with the annual requirements of the applied methodology Emission Reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply, Version 1.0

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

The VVB shall confirm that the delayed monitoring surveys were implemented according to the approved sampling plan and methodology requirements (except timing).

The VVB shall also confirm that the applied data is representative of project conditions across the full monitoring period.

A VVB shall carefully assess the situation and future applicable conditions and if needed FAR could be issued to ensure the next monitoring surveys are completed within the annual timeframe.

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
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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.

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

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 :	Johanna Grosssteinbeck
Email ID ⁴ :	johanna.grosssteinbeck@co2balance.com
Organisation: ⁵ :	CO2balance UK Ltd
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	GS XXXX	GS 7591	GS 12115
Host country(ies)	Nigeria		
Project Title	GS7591 VPA 51 Safe Water Supply Nigeria		
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/4198		
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 15/12/2024	☐ Certified project dd/mm/yyyy
			☐ 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	Emission Reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply
	Version	V1.0
	Paragraph	SDWS 19
		SDWS 22 SDWS 25 SDWS 26

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Delay in conducting the monitoring survey
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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	04/10/2023
	End date	31/12/2024
Summarise the changes	This request seeks approval for a deviation from the annual monitoring requirements outlined in the methodology <i>Emission Reductions from Safe Drinking Water, Version 1.0</i> for the first monitoring period of the project. The methodology requires some parameters to have data collected on an annual basis through monitoring surveys. For the 15-month monitoring period (04/10/2023 – 31/12/2024), the relevant surveys were conducted once, between 29 November and 17 December 2024. This falls outside of the first 12-month period of annual surveying. The monitoring was conducted later than expected and fell outside of the first 12-month period of annual surveying, this constitutes a deviation from the methodological requirement for SDWS 19, 22, 25 and 26 data to be conducted.	
Reason for deviation	The deviation arose from contextual challenges in the project location. During 2024, the region was affected by protests, unrest, and violent conflict, which can make household monitoring unsafe and logistically unfeasible. Independent reporting confirms these security concerns, including: - <u>Reuters – Violent protests in Nigeria (August 2024)</u> - <u>Reuters – Armed attacks in North Central Nigeria (May 2024)</u> Ensuring the safety of all field team members is vital in locations such as the area of this project. Allowing sampling for communities covering the project area is also required to ensure accuracy of the monitoring data. Hence, logistical challenges delayed household survey collection until after the end of the first 12-month period.	
Proposed resolution	The data collected during November–December 2024 is both conservative and representative, for the following reasons. 1. Technology implementation in the VPA (water point rehabilitation and installation), continued until July 2024. By conducting the surveys at the end of the monitoring period, the data reflects the full project rollout and all end users reached, rather than an incomplete set of the total population. Moreover, this timing provided improved proportional representation, since the randomly selected sample more accurately mirrored the distribution of end users across the project. In addition, by waiting until unrest had	

died down, the monitoring team was able to safely access a broader range of communities, increasing coverage and representativeness.

2. The main parameters using data collected in the monitoring surveys, " $X_{\text{cleanboil},y}$ ", " $HN_{p,y}$ ", " $HH_{p,y}$ " and " $U_{p,y}$ " are more accurately represented by data collected once the project had reached its full operational scale. Surveys being conducted at the end of the monitoring period more accurately reflects actual project conditions and therefore produces more reliable data.

For these parameters, the data being gathered after the first 12 months of the project has no impact to emission reductions or SDG contributions:

- a. $X_{\text{Cleanboily}}$ – there is no reason why a household is less likely to boil clean water later in the monitoring period

Value obtained from the Project Survey is applied.

- b. $HN_{p,y}$ – the number of individuals per premise type is not impacted by the timing of the data collection. Hence, Emission Reductions are not affected

Value obtained from the Project Survey is applied

- c. $HH_{p,y}$ – the quantity of premises using the project water point is not impacted by the timing of the data collection. Hence, Emission Reductions are not affected

Value obtained from the Usage Survey is applied. A self-imposed cap of 95% has also been applied to the frequency of use

- d. $U_{p,y}$ – the frequency of use of the project water point is more conservative by being at the end of the monitoring period. If there was a drop-off usage, this would be captured by the data being collected in the final month of the respective period.

Value obtained from the Usage Survey is applied. A self-imposed cap of 95% has also been applied to the frequency of use

3. The sampling approach exceeded methodological requirements. In line with paragraph 4.2.3 of the methodology and the *Guidelines for sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and*

	<i>programmes of activities</i>, both project and usage surveys surpassed the minimum threshold of 100 respondents. The achieved sample sizes were statistically valid, with the usage survey reaching a relative precision of 2.5% and the project survey 2.6%, well within the 90/10 precision requirement, ensuring the robustness and representativeness of the results. For this monitoring period, the values obtained from the November–December 2024 Project and Usage Surveys will be applied across the entire monitoring period (04/10/2023 – 31/12/2024). The project proponent and local implementor will ensure that future monitoring is conducted on time and in line with the methodological annual requirements.						
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 (<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> <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							
The deviation has not resulted in any direct impact on the aspects of the project described above.							

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.

Document 2.

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