



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-235
Date of decision	25/03/2026
Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved [No precondition to apply the deviation decision] <input type="checkbox"/> Conditionally approved [Decision is subject to compliance with the precondition defined below] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not approved [reason for rejection is provided in decision summary]

4.2 | Decision

4.2.1 | Decision Summary

The deviation request is **not approved**. The deviation request was presented to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for final decision. The TAC does not consider the reasons provided by the Project Developer/CME to be sufficient justification for waiving the requirement of holding a grouped Local Stakeholder Consultation within two years of the first physical meeting for including VPAs in the PoA.

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

The TAC has decided not to approve this deviation request. Accordingly, the VPAs presented in this document, which includes GS23336 and all future VPAs, shall comply with Clause 4.9.3 and 4.9.4 of [Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements – Gold Standard for the Global Goals](#) by conducting a new physical stakeholder consultation prior to their inclusion in the PoA.

However, as the CME has already conducted two stakeholder meetings in line with the GS4GG requirements, they are not required to fulfil all provisions outlined in the [Stakeholder Consultation and Requirements document](#). Instead, the consultation shall be conducted as an additional session to re-engage and update all stakeholders. This deviation decision shall be appropriately reported in the relevant section of the Validated PDD.

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

The validating VVB, through appropriate means at disposal, shall evaluate 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 project developer/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	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does this decision set a precedent for future projects with similar circumstances? ²	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Precedent details (if applicable to other activities) NA	

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 :	Stephen Morris
Email ID ⁴ :	Stephen.morris@co2balance.com
Organisation: ⁵ :	CO2balance
Are you an authorized project participant as per the cover letter submitted for this activity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

5.3 | Background information

Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Project activity	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA GSXXXX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VPA	
GS ID	GSXXXX GSXXXX	GS XXXX GS XXXX	GS12115 GS23336	
Host country(ies)	Federal Republic of Nigeria			
Project Title	GS7591 VPA 51 Safe Water Supply in Nigeria GS7591 VPA 69 Safe Water Supply in Nigeria			
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/4198			
Scale	<input type="checkbox"/> Microscale (GS) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small scale <input type="checkbox"/> Large scale <input type="checkbox"/> Other, if applicable please specify below <i>Insert text here</i>			
Certification Status and corresponding date of latest status	<input type="checkbox"/> Listed <i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified design <i>15/12/2024</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Certified project <i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <i>VPA Inclusion</i> <i>10/07/2025</i>

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GS4GG			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Previous version of Gold Standard	Version no.		
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1.0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1.1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1.2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.2
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	<input type="checkbox"/> CDM <input type="checkbox"/> Other Name of the Standard – Insert text here		
Applicable activity requirement	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy Activity Requirements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Services Activity Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Land-use and Forests Activity Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Other Insert name here			

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.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Reference number	DEVRQ-223		
Status of the deviation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> 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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
	Summary of the findings Summary of the CL, CAR, FAR not more than 200 words. Include reference to document, page number		

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	Stakeholder-Consultation-Requirements
	Version	V2.1
	Paragraph	4.9.3

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Waiver of 2-year regular VPA submission from first LSC date requirement		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permanent	

<p>Confirm the nature of changes related to deviation</p>	<p>(e.g. not expected to occur beyond one monitoring period)</p>	<p>(e.g. deviation from requirements prior to submission for certification)</p>
<p>Relevant monitoring period, if applicable</p>	<p>Start date</p>	<p>Inclusion date of GS23336 Inclusion date of future regular case VPAs</p>
	<p>End date</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Summarise the changes</p>	<p>Section 4.9.3 of Stakeholder Consultation Requirements v2 states a stakeholder consultation meeting can be organised for real case VPAs and regular case VPAs, provided the VPAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. correspond to the same real case VPAs, and</i> <i>b. are to be implemented within the same host country, and</i> <i>c. are to be implemented within the geographical boundary, applicable to the group defined for a single consultation. The applicable geographical boundary is defined at the time of the first physical meeting of the specific grouped consultation, and</i> <i>d. are included in the PoA within two years of the first physical meeting conducted for grouped consultation.</i> <p>Two LSCs were conducted to cover GS12115 and 10 future regular case VPAs; the first in January 2023 and the second in September 2023.</p> <p>Following expansion of the project, a regular case VPA GS23336 was created in July 2025. The start date of this VPA is July 2024. The inclusion of the homogenous regular case GS23336 meets criteria <i>a-c</i>. However, the submission for VPA inclusion for GS23336 was on 10/07/2025, over two years from the date of the first LSC (January 2023).</p> <p>This deviates from criterion <i>d</i> of section 4.9.3 of the Stakeholder Consultation Requirements which require the VPAs to be included in the PoA within two years of the first physical meeting.</p> <p>Furthermore, future homogenous regular VPAs included under the real case VPA would deviate from criterion <i>d</i>.</p>	
<p>Reason for deviation</p>	<p>1. The start date of the real case VPA GS12115 was pushed back from Sept 2022 to Oct 2023 to ensure project design was correct and appropriate, reducing the number of initial water points in the real case VPA and delaying the filling of this first VPA. This resulted in GS23336 being required at a later date than expected and hence the date of inclusion was later than expected. This also had a knock-on effect for future regular case VPAs included under the real case VPA.</p> <p>2. It was not deemed necessary to conduct a new LSC with the same stakeholders for a completely homogenous project. There would be limited benefit from repeating the same meeting as Jan 2023 to meet</p>	

	<p>this requirement as the project area has remained the same throughout the project lifetime. All aspects of the project (implementation, monitoring, etc) are homogenous between the respective real and regular case VPAs. An additional LSC to meet criterion d was deemed unnecessary.</p> <p>3. In Sept 2023, a new LSC was conducted to include stakeholders from a wider project area. The inclusion of GS23336 would be within two years of this second LSC, so this was deemed sufficient. This second LSC reiterated the project activities to stakeholders.</p> <p>4. The start date of the regular VPA is 1 year before the date of VPA inclusion, hence the water points were installed well within the two-year requirement, and a new LSC was deemed unnecessary. These project activities began before the VPA was submitted for inclusion as the project activities are homogenous and follow the real case VPA, with the start date of the VPA considered more relevant to the requirements compared to the date of regular case VPA inclusion to the PoA.</p> <p>5. Updates to fNRB have increased the quantity of water points required per VPA, and hence have delayed the expected inclusion of future regular case VPAs. This update was outside the PDs control and has resulted in the requirement not being met for future VPA inclusion.</p>
<p>Proposed resolution</p>	<p>The resolution is for the two LSCs (Jan 2023 and Sept 2023) to be valid for GS12115 and GS23336.</p> <p>Further, future regular case VPAs are eligible to use the first two LSCs when submitting for VPA inclusion.</p> <p>As the project water points are being continually installed, the date of when the first water point is installed in that regular case VPA is more applicable than when the VPA is submitted for VPA inclusion.</p> <p>The date of VPA inclusion is immaterial. Regular case VPAs can be included under a real case, and the start date of the VPA can be moved by up to one year with no justification or approval required (3.1.1 Design Change Requirements v2). Hence, a regular case VPA could be established and the theoretical start date put to over two years from the date of the first LSC, yet this is accepted within the current requirements.</p> <p>For example, these VPAs could have been submitted for inclusion six months ago and the start date of the VPAs changed to a date beyond two years from the January 2023 LSC, and this would have been within the requirements.</p> <p>The additional LSC would have limited benefits to relevant stakeholders, as they would have also been present in the previous LSCs.</p>

	<p>Using the two LSCs for regular case VPAs in this project has no impact on ERs and does not reduce conservativeness.</p> <p>The information disseminated at the meetings remains relevant and accurate. The project has not changed design since the first LSC.</p> <p>All relevant aspects of the project were discussed in the two LSCs. Stakeholders were satisfied with both events. Therefore, the completeness of the project is unaffected.</p> <p>Hence, there is clear justification and rationale for the two previous LSCs being eligible for GS23336 and future regular case VPAs included under GS12115.</p>				
<p>Is there any potential temporary or permanent impact of deviation on other aspects of the project?</p>	<p>Select the relevant area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Project design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local stakeholder consultation <input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding principles <input type="checkbox"/> SDG assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory compliance <input type="checkbox"/> Additionality <input type="checkbox"/> Applicability of methodology <input type="checkbox"/> Annual emission reduction volume <i>(if yes, fill the table below)</i> <table border="1" data-bbox="464 1077 1452 1234"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="464 1077 951 1189">Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation</th> <th data-bbox="951 1077 1452 1189">Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="464 1189 951 1234">XYZ tCO₂e</td> <td data-bbox="951 1189 1452 1234">XYZ tCO₂e</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><input type="checkbox"/> any other matrix, please specify...</p>	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				
<p>Summary of the impact</p>	<p>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.</p>				

The first LSC was conducted more than 2 years from the inclusion of the regular case VPAs for the project. However, there is no material impact from this deadline not being met. There is no impact to ERs from this deviation.

6.3 | VVB information

<p>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></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>If answer is yes, fill the information in section 6.4 below.</i></p>
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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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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