



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	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.....	8
6.2 Description of the deviation	8
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	DEVQR-251
Date of decision	11/12/2025
Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved [No precondition to apply the deviation decision] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conditionally approved [Decision is subject to compliance with the precondition defined below] <input type="checkbox"/> Not approved [reason for rejection is provided in decision summary]

4.2 | Decision

4.2.1 | Decision Summary

The request is conditionally approved.

As per the applied methodology requirements, compliance with host country microbial water quality standards remains mandatory. Therefore, this deviation is approved strictly as a temporary deviation applicable only to the given specified monitoring period and shall not be construed as a general exemption from national testing requirements.

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

From the next monitoring period onwards, testing for E. coli, Salmonella spp., and Shigella spp. shall be conducted in alignment with Uganda National Standard US EAS 12.

For future monitoring periods, the project developer shall seek clarification from GS on the scope of testing and minimum sample size.

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

VVB shall verify conservative applications and future compliance.

...

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
---	--

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

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	

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 :	Mr Abhishek Goyal
Email ID ⁴ :	abhishek.goyal@agscarbon.com
Organisation: ⁵ :	AGS Carbon Advisory
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PoA GSXXXX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VPA
GS ID	GSXXXX GSXXXX	GS 11638	GS 11640 GS 11861
Host country(ies)	Republic of Uganda		
Project Title	GS 11640: GS11638 VPA-2 SPOUTS Water Purifier Programme in Africa- WPS in Uganda by TASC-VPA 2 GS 11861: GS11638 GS11640 RVPA-1 SPOUTS Water Purifier Programme in Africa- WPS in Uganda by TASC- VPA 3		
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3639 https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3746		
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>		

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

Certification Status and corresponding date of latest status	<input type="checkbox"/> Listed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified design	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified project	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>If other, specify here</i>
	<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>		GS11640: 03/01/2023 GS11861: 01/06/2023	<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>
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
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	<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 <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.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Reference number	DEVREQ-166		
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		
	No		

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	Methodology for Emission Reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply
	Version	Version 1.0
	Paragraph	Section 4.1 a) SWDS 18

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Consideration of non-compliance with host country requirements on microbial quality standard for drinking water but compliance with WHO guidelines, for this Monitoring period	
Confirm the nature of changes related to deviation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temporary (e.g. not expected to occur beyond one monitoring period)	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 (GS 11640)	01/05/2024
	End date (GS 11640)	30/04/2025
	Start date (GS 11861)	01/05/2024
	End date (GS 11861)	30/04/2025
Summarise the changes	<p>SPOUTS International (PoA Implementer) has implemented 2 VPAs⁶ (GS 11640 and GS 11861) which involve distribution of 'Purifaaya Regular' water filter technology to the underserved communities in western Uganda.</p> <p>These communities were earlier dependent on conventional stoves for boiling water/were directly drinking contaminated water without any kind of treatment. The aforementioned VPAs are now undergoing performance review for which this deviation is being sought from GS4GG:</p> <p><u>GS 11640 and GS11861 (3rd Monitoring period):</u></p> <p>For the VPAs, GS 11640 and GS11861 cross-VPA sampling for the 3rd monitoring period was conducted from 23rd April 2025 to 2nd May 2025. For the parameter Mqy only E.coli test were performed for 30 Households during the current Monitoring period. However, as per methodology "Methodology for Emission Reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply, version 1.0" section 4.1) SWDS 18, CME is either supposed to follow the relevant microbial quality standard for drinking water of the host country or in absence of National Standard the water quality shall comply with WHO Guidelines. The National water quality Standard available for Uganda is The Uganda Standard⁷ which</p>	

⁶ The regular VPAs have been included under the registered [PoA GS11638](#)

⁷ <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/uga205721.pdf> - pg 10

	<p>mentions the minimum microbial quality monitoring requirements to be E.coli, Salmonella spp and Shigella spp.</p> <p>During the current monitoring period, CME has however complied with the WHO guidelines by testing only E.coli presence in the drinking water from the project water filters. Therefore, CME would like to seek deviation, since the testing was already performed for this MP in line with the testing being carried out for last two verifications and WHO minimum requirements, to allow conducting the additional tests for Salmonella spp and Shigella spp from next Monitoring periods onwards to align with methodology requirement.</p>
Reason for deviation	<p>As per first round finding from GS for the Monitoring period 1/05/2024-30/04/2025, GS has raised a query to comply with the National water quality Standard. For the Mq,y parameter, water samples were collected from 30 households and tested for E. coli only as per the WHO guideline from last three Verifications. However, as per the Uganda standard (US EAS 12) the minimum parameters for water testing include Shigella spp and Salmonella spp as well (section 5.2 – Table 8: Physico-chemical and microbiological parameters required for minimum monitoring). The testing for these two parameters was not conducted for the sampled households. We therefore request a deviation for not conducting 100% Shigella spp and Salmonella spp testing for this Monitoring period.</p> <p>CME requests the deviation should be allowed as the buyer for this project has already been finalized, with a confirmed delivery commitment in December'25. Incorporating this additional testing requirement at this stage would significantly delay the process as these tests are not normally required for testing in the host country – very few laboratories can test for these parameters and rely on E. Coli testing. Also, the additional testing for Shigella spp and Salmonella spp at this stage would impose significant financial burden on the Project Developer (PD) as the field staff would be sent again to these remotely located sample households to collect water samples and additional laboratory costs.</p> <p>To justify, the same testing approach was approved during the previous two Verification cycles and was in compliance with WHO norms for minimum testing requirements. Also, the water filters distributed under this project comply with WHO Standards. This was done by testing the project water filters at WHO designated testing laboratory confirming the compliance of treated water with WHO International scheme for bacteria, protozoa and viruses which was verified at the time of design certification of the VPA as well. Also, the Project survey results under SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) show a decline in reported illness among end users, thereby indicating effective treatment and improved water quality through the implemented technology.</p>

	All the above factors show that the additional testing would significantly delay the process and put financial burden on the project developer when the project technology has also been proven to be meeting the International norms and has direct health benefits for the end users.
Proposed resolution	<p>The proposed resolution has been described as follows:</p> <p><u>GS11640 and GS11861:</u></p> <p>For shigella spp and Salmonella spp testing, the accredited laboratories in Uganda western region do not have the capacity to test the water for these contaminants as they are not the regular tests being done in the country, thereby making the testing process expensive (the project developer will also have to bear the additional cost related to the storage and transportation of the water samples to these accredited laboratories). Therefore, for this current Monitoring period, CME would consider the E.coli test results in line with WHO requirements and get the additional testing for Salmonella and Shigella spp done for 20% sample households for which E.coli tests were performed. Further from next monitoring period onwards, we propose to perform the tests for all the three parameters — E. coli, Shigella spp, and Salmonella spp with atleast 20% of Shigella and Salmonella spp testing of the total required samples for Mq,y to control the expenses and at the same time ensuring compliance with the National water quality testing norms. For changes proposed from next Monitoring period shall be reflected during the Design Change of both the VPA-DDs next year.</p>
Summary of the impact	The value of the Mq,y parameter will be based on the tests already conducted for E.coli and additional tests (for Shigella and Salmonella spp) for this Monitoring period for Emission Reduction calculations.
The proposed deviation will not have any impact on other aspects of the project including project design, local stakeholder consultation, safeguarding principles, SDG assessment, regulatory compliance, additionality or applicability of methodology.	

6.3 | VVB information

<p>Is a VVB opinion on the deviation request required?</p> <p><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"/></p> <p><i>If answer is yes, fill the information in section 6.4 below.</i></p>
---	---

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. Emails to different laboratories seeking quotation for testing Shigella and Salmonella spp

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