



## FORM

# FORM - DEVIATION REQUEST SUBMISSION

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## 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](mailto: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-251  |
| Date of decision           | 11/12/2025   |
| Decision                   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Approved</b> [No precondition to apply the deviation decision]<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Conditionally approved</b> [Decision is subject to compliance with the precondition defined below]<br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Not approved</b> [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? <sup>1</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
|---|--|

<sup>1</sup> 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? <sup>2</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
|---|--|

Precedent details (if applicable to other activities)

NA

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relevant certification documents. This is relevant to only the projects which have already entered the certification cycle with GS4GG.

<sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>3</sup> :  | Mr Abhishek Goyal  |
| Email ID <sup>4</sup> :  | abhishek.goyal@agscarbon.com   |
| Organisation <sup>5</sup> :  | AGS Carbon Advisory  |
| Are you an authorized project participant as per the cover letter submitted for this activity? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><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<br>GSXXXX   | GS 11638                                       | GS 11640<br>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<br>GS 11861: GS11638 GS11640 RVPA-1 SPOUTS Water Purifier Programme in Africa- WPS in Uganda by TASC- VPA 3   |  |   |
| Registry link     | <a href="https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3639">https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3639</a><br><a href="https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3746">https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3746</a> |  |   |
| Scale             | <input type="checkbox"/> Microscale (GS)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small scale<br><input type="checkbox"/> Large scale<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other, if applicable please specify below<br><i>Insert text here</i>                           |  |   |

<sup>3</sup> Name of the individual representing the entity requesting the deviation

<sup>4</sup> Email ID for further correspondence related to the deviation request

<sup>5</sup> The name of the entity requesting the deviation

|   |   |  |   |   |  |             |  |  |  |  |                              |                              |                              |                              |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|-------------|--|--|--|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Certification Status<br>and corresponding date of latest status | <input type="checkbox"/> Listed<br><br><i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified design<br><br><i>GS11640: 03/01/2023</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified project<br><br><i>GS11861: 01/06/2023</i>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other<br><i>If other, specify here</i> |  |             |  |  |  |  |                              |                              |                              |                              |
| Applied version of Standard                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GS4GG<br><br><table border="1"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Previous version of Gold Standard</td> <td colspan="4">Version no.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 1.0</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 1.1</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 1.2</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 2.2</td> </tr> </table> |  |   |   | <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 |
| <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<br>From another standard to GS4GG   |  |   | <i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>   |  |             |  |  |  |  |                              |                              |                              |                              |
| Applicable activity requirement                                 | Name of another standard<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> CDM<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Other<br><br>Name of the Standard – Insert text here   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy Activity Requirements<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Services Activity Requirements<br><input type="checkbox"/> Land-use and Forests Activity Requirements<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other<br><br><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<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Reference number   | DEVRQ-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<br><br>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<br>(e.g. not expected to occur beyond one monitoring period)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent<br>(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   | SPOUTS International (PoA Implementer) has implemented 2 VPAs <sup>6</sup> (GS 11640 and GS 11861) which involve distribution of 'Purifaaya Regular' water filter technology to the underserved communities in western Uganda.<br>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: |  |
| <b><u>GS 11640 and GS11861 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monitoring period):</u></b>  |   |  |
| For the VPAs, GS 11640 and GS11861 cross-VPA sampling for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> monitoring period was conducted from 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025 to 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 Standard <sup>7</sup> which |   |  |

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

<sup>7</sup> <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><b><u>GS11640 and GS11861:</u></b></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 | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>  |

### 6.3 | VVB information

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Is a VVB opinion on the deviation request required?<br><br><i>VVB opinion shall be included, where required by the requirements under <a href="#">Deviations Request Requirements and Procedures</a> or request is submitted by the VVB.</i> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br><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. 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"><li>- date of listing, design certification, transition</li><li>- standard version</li><li>- specific reference to a requirement deviated from</li><li>- any previous deviations/design changes approved</li><li>- Guidance on VVB opinion</li></ul> |
| 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   |