



Gold Standard[®]
for the Global Goals

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
- 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-261
Date of decision	27/03/2026
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 "Methodology for Emission Reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply, Version 1.0", Section 4.1(a), SWDS 18, compliance with host country microbial water quality standards remain mandatory where such standards exist.

Rwanda National Standard EAS 12:2018 specifies testing for E. coli, Salmonella spp., and Shigella spp. as minimum monitoring parameters

Therefore, this deviation is approved strictly as a temporary deviation applicable only to the specified monitoring period (GS 11639:01/06/2024–30/06/2025; GS 12308:01/01/2025–30/06/2025) and shall not be construed as a general exemption from national testing requirements

The proposal to limit Salmonella spp. and Shigella spp. testing to 20% of samples in future monitoring periods is not approved.

Note: Gold Standard clarifies that host country requirements remain mandatory, and no further temporary deviations from national microbial water quality standards will be entertained for this project in future.

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

1. For the current monitoring period, the PD shall:

- Conduct additional testing for Salmonella spp. and Shigella spp. for a minimum of 30 samples, consistent with the total sample size applied for E. coli testing;
- Complete the additional testing within 3 months from the date of this decision;
- ensure testing is undertaken by an appropriately accredited or nationally recognized laboratory. Where accreditation is not available, documented justification of laboratory competence and independence shall be provided.

2. If any samples test positive for Salmonella spp. or Shigella spp., the deviation shall be considered not applicable, and the PD shall :

- reassess the monitoring results,
- apply conservative adjustments where required and
- implement corrective measures, as applicable

3. From the next monitoring period onwards, testing for E. coli, Salmonella spp., and Shigella spp. shall be conducted in full alignment with Rwanda National Standard EAS 12:2018 and the applied methodology requirements.

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

1. Verify completion of additional pathogen testing within the specified timeline
2. Ensure full compliance with national microbial standards in subsequent monitoring periods.

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
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 :	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 11639 GS 12308
Host country(ies)	Republic of Rwanda		
Project Title	GS 11639: GS11638 VPA-1 SPOUTS Water Purifier Programme in Africa- WPS in Rwanda-VPA 1 GS 12308: GS11638 GS11639 RVPA-1 SPOUTS Water Purifier Programme in Africa- WPS in Rwanda- VPA 6		
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>		GS11639: 03/01/2023 GS12308: 08/09/2023	<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	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.2
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	DEVQR-166 for GS11639 and DEVQR-69		
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 11639)	01/06/2024
	End date (GS 11639)	30/06/2025
	Start date (GS 12308)	01/01/2025
	End date (GS 12308)	30/06/2025
Summarise the changes	<p>SPOUTS International (PoA Implementer) has implemented 2 VPAs⁶ (GS 11639 and GS 12308) which involve distribution of 'Purifaaya Regular' water filter technology to the underserved communities in western Rwanda.</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 11639 and GS12308 (2nd Monitoring period):</u></p> <p>For the VPAs, GS 11639 and GS12308 sampling for the 2nd monitoring period for the Mq,y parameter was conducted in 20th June 2025 and 17th January 2025 respectively. For the parameter Mqy only E.coli test were performed for 30 Households for both the VPAs. 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 Rwanda is the Rwanda Standard⁷ which</p>	

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

⁷ RS EAS 12 2018 Potable water—COMBINED.pdf submitted as attachment

	<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 the previous 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>
<p>Reason for deviation</p>	<p>Since we have received the finding on complying with National host country requirements for other Spouts GS11638 VPAs for the Mq,y parameter, CME would like to align these VPAs as well. The water samples were collected from 30 households and tested for E. coli only as per the WHO guideline in previous Verification. However, as per the Rwanda standard (EAS 12: 2018) the minimum parameters for water testing include Shigella spp and Salmonella spp as well (section 7.2 – Table : Parameters required for minimum monitoring). The testing for these two parameters was not conducted for the sampled households during current MP. We therefore request a deviation for not conducting 100% Shigella spp and Salmonella spp testing for this and future Monitoring periods.</p> <p>CME requests the deviation should be allowed 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 laboratory costs are very high for these bacterial sp which are not part of regular testing in the host country.</p> <p>To justify, the same testing approach was approved during the previous Verification cycle 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>GS11639 and GS12308:</u></p> <p>For Shigella spp and Salmonella spp testing, the accredited laboratories in Rwanda 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. 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? <i>VVB opinion shall be included, where required by the requirements under <u>Deviations Request Requirements and Procedures</u> 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. Emails to different laboratories seeking quotation for testing Shigella and Salmonella spp

Document 2. WHO designated testing laboratory tests for compliance of filter treated water with WHO International scheme for bacteria, protozoa and viruses

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