

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 Balxert 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	5
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	8
6.3 VVB information.....	9
6.4 VVB's assessment	9
6.5 Documents:	14

4| Decision summary

To be completed by Gold Standard

4.1 | General information

DEVIATION REFERENCE NUMBER	DEVQR-294
Date of decision	16/05/2026
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 proposed deviation request for VPAs GS11644, GS11645, GS11646 is approved with the following conditions.

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

1. The Project Developer /CME must comply to Annex B – Conflict and Emergency Zones of latest [Principles & Requirements – Gold Standard for the Global Goals](#) and appoint an Objective Observer (OO) retained by the PD/CME who will conduct the on-site visit for the VVB.
2. The CME shall ensure that the Objective Observer (OO) has been selected for the audit as required by para 2.1.2 of Annex B of [Principles & Requirements – Gold Standard for the Global Goals](#), version 2.1 and have conducted the audit under the guidance of a Gold Standard approved VVB. The relationship between and among the CME, the Objective Observer and Gold Standard shall be established in a Memorandum of Understanding that must be signed by all parties. The CME shall document the deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision in the appropriate section of the GS Monitoring Report (for the relevant MP).

Note – The CME shall note that the decision is based on the information provided in the deviation request form and only against the applicable standard requirement quoted in the form below. The CME shall comply with all other applicable standard requirements unless specifically mentioned in the deviation decision.

3. PD/CME shall send Photographic/videographic evidence of the project to the **VVB** as well as **Gold Standard**.

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

The verifying VVB shall provide a checklist to the selected Objective Observer before the site visit, to assist the Objective Observer in assessing the relevant aspects

related to the Project's Verification. The checklist must be limited to issues that the VVB thinks would be necessary to check on-site to form the Verification opinion.

The verifying VVB shall ensure the following:

- The Objective observer (OO) is selected to conduct the assessment as per the checklist provided.
- The site visit conducted by the OO during the verification shall confirm the status of the project operation and the mitigation plans in place to tackle the negative impacts of the project.
- Assess and demonstrate how the selected OO has prior experience working in conflict zones/areas that pose a high risk to life and/or health. The VVB shall also demonstrate OO's involvement in other activities within the project's geographical area.

The Verifying VVB shall, through appropriate means at its disposal, evaluate the Project's compliance with the above-mentioned conditions and provides its opinion in the Verification Report.

4.2.4 | Directions for the Gold Standard, if applicable

The assurance team shall review both the CME's response and the VVB's assessment/opinion and take appropriate steps. The Assurance team shall ensure that the project developer has shared Photographic/videographic evidence to Gold Standard which depicts the on-ground implementation of the project and assess the same along with other submitted evidence during Gold Standard review.

4.3 | Applicability to other activities

Is this decision applicable to other projects under similar circumstances? ¹	☐ Yes ☒ No
Does this decision set a precedent for future projects with similar circumstances? ²	☐ Yes ☒ No
Precedent details (if applicable to other activities)	
N/A	

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 :	Shailendra Kewat
Email ID ⁴ :	Shail.kewat06@gmail.com
Organisation: ⁵ :	Soneva Foundation
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 GS1729	☒ VPA
GS ID	GSXXXX GSXXXX	GS1729 GS XXXX	GS11644, GS11645, GS11646
Host country(ies)	Republic of the Union of Myanmar		
Project Title	GS1729 Myanmar Stoves Campaign		
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1498		
Scale	☒ Microscale (GS) ☐ Small scale ☐ Large scale ☐ Other, if applicable please specify below <i>Insert text here</i>		
Certification Status and corresponding	☐ Listed	☐ Certified design	☒ Certified project ☐ Other <i>If other, specify 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

date of latest status	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy	08/03/2015	dd/mm/yyyy
Applied version of Standard	☒ GS4GG ☐ Previous version of Gold Standard			
	Version no.			
	☐ 1.0	☐ 1.1	☐ 1.2	☐ 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	☐ 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 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.	☒ Yes ☐ No
Reference number	DEVREQ_181
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 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	SITE VISIT AND REMOTE AUDIT REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES"
		Rule update on APPLICABILITY OF MINIMUM SITE VISIT REQUIREMENTS BY VVB
	Version	version-2
	Paragraph	section 3.1.2 and section 2.2.3

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Seeking deviation from the mandatory physical site visit.	
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	07/09/2022
	End date	30/12/2024
Summarise the changes	As per the requirement of the section 3.1.2 "SITE VISIT AND REMOTE AUDIT REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES" version-2 a physical site visit by VVB is mandatory once within every three years after the first physical site visit date. Also, as per the section 2.2.3 of the APPLICABILITY OF MINIMUM SITE VISIT REQUIREMENTS BY VVB "In case follow-up site visits are not conducted within three years after the previous site visit, and the delays were due to: i. Force Majeure, the VVB shall submit a request for deviation to Gold Standard. The VPAs involved in the current verifications are VPA018, 019 & 020 which has monitoring period of 07/09/2022 – 30/12/2024.	
Reason for deviation	Since the project region is under the military coup and movement is restricted CME seeks exemption from the mandatory physical site visit for the project. To substantiate our claim CME has given the link of news articles which states about instability and violence in the project region. Also CME seeks deviation from the section 2.2.3 of the APPLICABILITY OF MINIMUM SITE VISIT REQUIREMENTS BY VVB ", since delay in site visit is due to force majeure.	
Proposed resolution	The deviation requested as per the section 2.1.1, of the APPLICABILITY OF MINIMUM SITE VISIT REQUIREMENTS BY VVB. A remote audit has been proposed for the current verification.	
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>)	

	Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation XYZ tCO_{2e} XYZ tCO_{2e}
	☐ any other matrix, please specify...
Summary of the impact	In the current situation of restricted travel, the above arrangement is the best possible option to get credible data from end-users. This will not have any impact on the quality of data received. The deviation will not affect the project design, SDGs, emission reductions, safeguarding principles and data quality. A remote audit as per the GS4GG guidelines will provide the credible data for the assessment.

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>
--	--

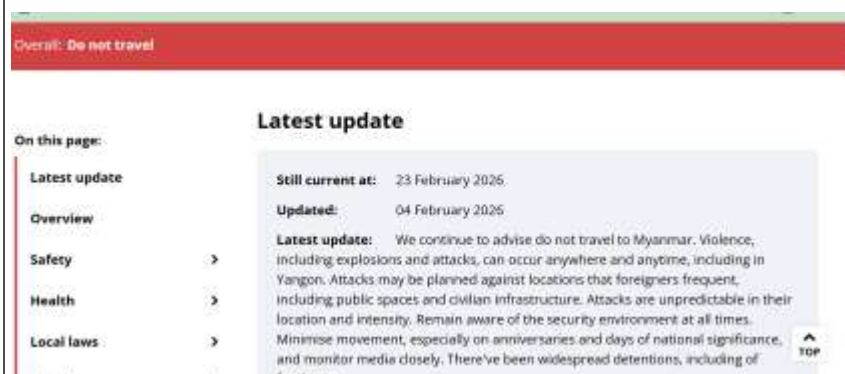
6.4 | VVB's assessment

The below information is to be completed by VVB, if applicable.	
VVB's assessment of deviation request	The VVB, VKU Certification Private Limited, has reviewed the deviation request submitted by the CME for GS1729 (Myanmar Stoves Campaign) in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, specifically for VPA018, VPA019 and VPA020 covering the monitoring period 07/09/2022 – 30/12/2024. As per Section 3.1.2 of the "Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures (v2)", a physical site visit by the VVB is mandatory at least once every three years after the first physical site visit. Further, as per Section 2.2.3 "Follow-up site visits" under the <i>Rule Update – Applicability of Minimum Site Visit Requirements by VVB</i>, where follow-up site visits are not conducted within three years after the previous site visit:

- If the delay is due to **Force Majeure**, the VVB shall submit a deviation request to Gold Standard;
- If the delay is due to **Non-Force Majeure**, the VVB shall not verify the monitoring period falling before three years of the site visit date.

The VVB notes that the current monitoring period (07/09/2022 – 30/12/2024) exceeds three years from the date of the last physical site visit conducted for the concerned VPAs. Therefore, in the absence of an approved deviation under Force Majeure provisions, the VVB would not be permitted to verify emission reductions for the portion of the monitoring period beyond the three-year threshold.

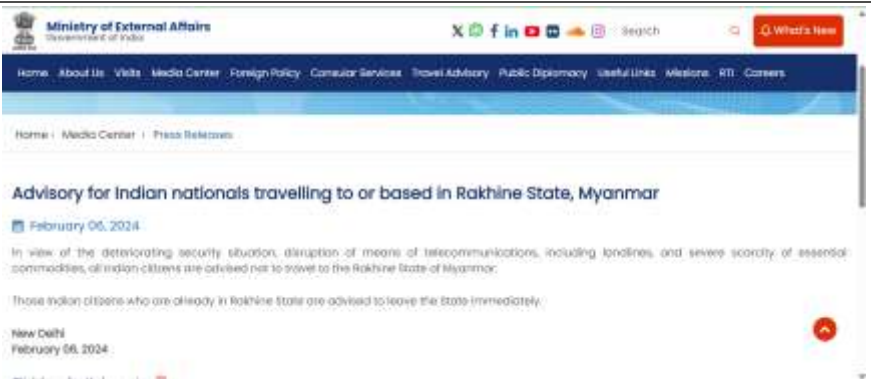
The VVB confirms that since the military coup of February 2021, Myanmar has been experiencing prolonged political instability, armed conflict, and significant security concerns across multiple regions, including Magway, Mandalay, Ayeyarwady, Kachin and Rakhine. International travel advisories, including that of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Smartraveller)⁶, currently advise against all travel to Myanmar due to civil unrest, armed conflict and arbitrary enforcement of laws.



Additionally, the Ministry of External Affairs (Government of India)⁷ has issued and continues to maintain a travel advisory discouraging travel to Myanmar due to the prevailing security situation. This advisory remains valid at the time of submission of this deviation request.

⁶ <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations/asia/myanmar>

⁷ <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/37568>



Based on publicly available information from national and international media sources such as The Irrawaddy⁸ and Myanmar Now⁹, the VVB notes continued reports of armed clashes, aerial bombardments, curfews, internet shutdowns, and restrictions on movement in several regions where the VPAs are implemented.



8

https://x.com/IrrawaddyNews/status/2025808685348642894?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Etweet

⁹ <https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/air-and-naval-strikes-kill-at-least-15-civilians-in-kyaukphyu/>

← Post



The Myanmar junta carried out airstrikes in Momauk Township, Kachin State and Homalin Township, Sagaing Region on Sunday, resulting in civilian deaths, locals said. Photo: Aftermath of junta aerial attack on civilians in Homalin on Sunday / CJ [#WhatsHappeningInMyanmar](#)



11:13 AM · Feb 23, 2026 · 89 Views

These conditions present significant safety risks to VVB personnel and local stakeholders and materially restrict the feasibility of conducting an independent and safe physical site visit.

The VVB therefore acknowledges that the inability to conduct the mandatory physical site visit is attributable to circumstances beyond the control of the CME and the VVB, and is consistent with the definition of Force Majeure under Gold Standard procedures.

Under the prevailing circumstances, the VVB proposes to conduct a remote site visit through telephonic interviews and video conferencing (where internet access is available). It is noted that certain project implementation areas experience intermittent internet shutdowns; therefore, verification activities will be adapted accordingly, including the use of telephone-based interviews and coordination with local implementing partners to facilitate evidence collection where direct connectivity is limited.

VVB's assessment of impact of deviation request

The VVB has assessed the potential impact of replacing the physical site visit with a remote audit for the current monitoring period and concludes the following:

	• The deviation is temporary in nature and linked to the prevailing security situation. • The project design, monitoring plan, emission reduction calculations, safeguarding principles, SDG contributions, and regulatory compliance remain unchanged. • The emission reduction calculation methodology and parameters are not affected by the deviation. • The proposed remote audit will include: ○ Remote interviews with CME staff and implementing partners. ○ Remote interviews with a representative sample of end-users. ○ Geotagged photographic and video evidence collected by PD during remote audit. ○ Review of monitoring databases and distribution records. ○ Cross-verification of ICS serial numbers and usage data where applicable. While a physical site visit is generally preferred to enhance assurance, under the current security constraints in Myanmar, a remote audit constitutes a reasonable and proportionate alternative to maintain assurance without compromising auditor safety. The VVB concludes that, provided enhanced remote verification measures are applied and transparently documented in the Verification Report, the credibility and reliability of emission reductions can be reasonably maintained.						
VVB recommendation	Based on the above assessment, the VVB recommends that Gold Standard: • Approve the requested deviation on a temporary basis for the monitoring period 07/09/2022 – 30/12/2024.						
VVB details	<table><tr><td>VVB name:</td><td>VKU Certification Private Limited</td></tr><tr><td>Auditor name(s):</td><td>Anil Dhankar – Team Leader/Technical Expert T.A 3.1</td></tr><tr><td>Email (s):</td><td>anil.dhankar@vkucertification.com</td></tr></table>	VVB name:	VKU Certification Private Limited	Auditor name(s):	Anil Dhankar – Team Leader/Technical Expert T.A 3.1	Email (s):	anil.dhankar@vkucertification.com
VVB name:	VKU Certification Private Limited						
Auditor name(s):	Anil Dhankar – Team Leader/Technical Expert T.A 3.1						
Email (s):	anil.dhankar@vkucertification.com						

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.*)

List of documents provided

Web-links:

<https://yktnews.com/2025/07/220058/> - Magway region

[https://myanmar.gov.mm/news-media/news/latest-news/-/asset_publisher/idasset354/content/%25E1%2580%2599%25E1%2580%2580%25E1%2580%25BD%25E1%2580%25B1%25E1%2580%25B8%25E1%2580%2590%25E1%2580%25AD%25E1%2580%25AF%25E1%2580%2584%25E1%2580%25BA%25E1%2580%25B8%25E1%2580%2592%25E1%2580%25B1%25E1%2580%259E%25E1%2580%2580%25E1%2580%25BC%25E-373?refererPlid=95545& com liferay asset_publisher web portlet AssetPublisherPortlet INSTANCE idasset354 redirect=https%3A%2F%2Fmyanmar.gov.mm%2Fnews-media%2Fnews%2Flatest-news%3Fp_p_id%3Dcom_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet INSTANCE idasset354%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26refererPlid%3D95545%26 com liferay asset_publisher web portlet AssetPublisherPortlet INSTANCE idasset354 cur%3D94%26 com liferay asset_publisher web portlet AssetPublisherPortlet INSTANCE idasset354 delta%3D10%26p_r_p_resetCur%3Dfalse%26 com liferay asset_publisher web portlet AssetPublisherPortlet INSTANCE idasset354 assetEntryId%3D466149032](https://myanmar.gov.mm/news-media/news/latest-news/-/asset_publisher/idasset354/content/%25E1%2580%2599%25E1%2580%2580%25E1%2580%25BD%25E1%2580%25B1%25E1%2580%25B8%25E1%2580%2590%25E1%2580%25AD%25E1%2580%25AF%25E1%2580%2584%25E1%2580%25BA%25E1%2580%25B8%25E1%2580%2592%25E1%2580%25B1%25E1%2580%259E%25E1%2580%2580%25E1%2580%25BC%25E-373?refererPlid=95545& com liferay asset_publisher web portlet AssetPublisherPortlet INSTANCE idasset354 redirect=https%3A%2F%2Fmyanmar.gov.mm%2Fnews-media%2Fnews%2Flatest-news%3Fp_p_id%3Dcom_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_idasset354%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26refererPlid%3D95545%26 com liferay asset_publisher web portlet AssetPublisherPortlet INSTANCE idasset354 cur%3D94%26 com liferay asset_publisher web portlet AssetPublisherPortlet INSTANCE idasset354 delta%3D10%26p_r_p_resetCur%3Dfalse%26 com liferay asset_publisher web portlet AssetPublisherPortlet INSTANCE idasset354 assetEntryId%3D466149032) - Magway region

https://www.myanmar.gov.mm/news-media/archives/-/asset_publisher/UJq2TSBOMQ7q/content/%25E1%2580%2599%25E1%2580%2594%25E1%2580%25B9%25E1%2580%2590%25E1%2580%259C%25E1%2580%25B1%25E1%2580%25B8%25E1%2580%2590%25E1%2580%25AD%25E1%2580%25AF%25E1%2580%2584%25E1%2580%25BA%25E1%2580%25B8%25E1%2580%2592%25E1%2580%25B1%25E1%2580%259E%25E-790? com liferay asset_publisher web portlet AssetPublisherPortlet INSTANCE UJq2TSBOMQ7q redirect=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.myanmar.gov.mm%2Fweb%2Fquest%2Fnews-media%2Farchives%3Fp_p_id%3Dcom_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet AssetPublisherPortlet INSTANCE UJq2TSBOMQ7q%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26 com liferay asset_publisher web portlet A

[ssetPublisherPortlet INSTANCE UJg2TSBOMQ7q cur%3D0%26p_r_p_resetCur%3Dfalse%26_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet AssetPublisherPortlet INSTAN](#)
[CE UJg2TSBOMQ7q assetEntryId%3D469996860](#) – Mandalay region
<https://yktnews.com/2025/07/221892/> - Magway region
https://myanmar.gov.mm/news-media/news/latest-news/-/asset_publisher/idasset354/content/%25E1%2580%25A7%25E1%2580%259B%25E1%2580%25AC%25E1%2580%259D%25E1%2580%2590%25E1%2580%25AE%25E1%2580%2590%25E1%2580%25AD%25E1%2580%25AF%25E1%2580%2584%25E1%2580%25BA%25E1%2580%25B8%25E1%2580%2592%25E1%2580%25B1%25E1%2580%259E%25E1%2580%2580%25E-511?_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet AssetPublisherPortlet INSTANCE idasset354 redirect=https%3A%2F%2Fmyanmar.gov.mm%2Fhome%3Fp_p_id%3Dcom_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet AssetPublisherPortlet INSTANCE bGKbAOPbVS3E%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet AssetPublisherPortlet INSTANCE bGKbAOPbVS3E cur%3D0%26p_r_p_resetCur%3Dfalse%26_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet AssetPublisherPortlet INSTANCE bGKbAOPbVS3E assetEntryId%3D476259744%26p_p_auth%3DSuk2Ijh&p_p_auth=SSuk2Ijh – Ayeyarwady region
<https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/war-against-the-junta/clashes-continue-after-myanmar-junta-flotilla-arrives-in-bhamo.html> - Kachin Region
https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-junta-bombs-civilians-while-thai-air-force-drops-aid.html#google_vignette
<https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/category/news/>
<https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations/asia/myanmar>
<https://www.stimson.org/2025/the-arakan-axis-insurgency-intensifies-in-southwest-myanmar/> - Rakhine Region

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