



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-307
Date of decision	05/01/2026
Decision	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Not approved [reason for rejection is provided in decision summary]

4.2 | Decision

4.2.1 | Decision Summary

The deviation request for exemption from paragraph 4.2.1 of the "RULE UPDATE-REVISIONS TO MICROSCALE SCHEME REQUIREMENTS" is approved given that the crediting period renewal review was ongoing until Dec 2025.

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

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 by the CME. The CME shall comply with all other applicable standard requirements until unless specifically mentioned in the deviation decision. The CME shall document the deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision in the appropriate section of the project document.

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

The verifying VVB shall, through appropriate means at disposal, evaluate that the project's compliance with the above-mentioned conditions and provide VVB opinion in the verification report.

4.2.4 | Directions for the Gold Standard, if applicable

The review team shall check the information reported by the 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 type="checkbox"/> No
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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.

Does this decision set a precedent for future projects with similar circumstances? ²	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Precedent details (if applicable to other activities)

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 :	Katienne Miranda
Email ID ⁴ :	katienne.miranda@gmail.com
Organisation: ⁵ :	CO2balance UK Ltd
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 type="checkbox"/> VPA
GS ID	GSXXXX GSXXXX	GS 1247 GS XXXX	GS7135 GS7136 GS7470 GS7472 GS7474
Host country(ies)	Mozambique		
Project Title	GS7135- GS1247 VPA 162 Improved Kitchen Regimes Manica Province Safe Water (Mozambique)		
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1413		
Scale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Microscale (GS) <input type="checkbox"/> Small scale <input type="checkbox"/> Large scale <input type="checkbox"/> Other, if applicable please specify below		

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

Insert text here

Certification Status and corresponding date of latest status	<input type="checkbox"/> Listed	<input 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>	<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>	<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>	<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	DEV_374		
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		
	<p>Summary of the findings</p> <p>The deviation raised for MP3, regarding conducting annual monitoring beyond at the start of the monitoring period instead of the 6 months closer to the end of the monitoring period due to the rainy season reducing accessibility during the end of the MP3. This deviation was approved, as PD would take on a more conservative values for SDG parameters with the VVB assessing the same during the verification review.</p>		

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	REVISIONS TO MICROSCALE SCHEME REQUIREMENTS
	Version	1.0
	Paragraph	4.1.2.b

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Request to deviate from the requirement to conduct a physical site audit by the end of 30/11/2025.	
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	10/06/2024
	End date	31/12/2025
Summarise the changes	<p><i>As per the Design Certification Renewal (DCR) Review, for the Real Case GS7135, the FAR raised states that- "If no physical site visit by the OO or VVB has been conducted in the past three years, the next verification must include a physical site visit no later than two years from the entry into force of these requirements, specifically by November 30, 2025."</i></p> <p><i>This FAR is referring to the rules update for microscale projects reported in Para 4.2.1 of the GS doc "revisions to microscale scheme requirements": The first physical site visit required for microscale projects/VPAs after the entry into force of these requirements (subject to sampling requirements for PoAs) shall be conducted as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Within 3 years of the last Objective Observer(OO) or VVB physical site visit</i> <i>b. If no OO or VVB physical site visit was conducted in the past 3 years, then the next verification shall include a physical site visit, no later than 2 years of entry into force of these requirements, i.e., 30/11/2025. Note the length of the monitoring period that may be verified through a site visit as per Rule Update</i> <p>The project was not able to complete the Verification physical site audit by 30/11/2025 as the project was actively going through Gold Standard Design Certification Review which, for the real case VPA, was only approved in December 2025 (please note, few regular cases VPAs, link to the real case one, are still undergoing DCR).</p>	

	<p>PD would also like to note that, during the project’s fourth monitoring period verification review (MP4), the PD had an Objective Observer (OO) site visit.</p> <p>The MP4 OO audit was conducted on 21/11/2023-23/11/2023.</p> <p>This OO site visit is in accordance with "Microscale Project Requirements v1.2" where PD has complied with Section 11.1.2 "A microscale project must be subjected to an Objective Observer appraisal and site visit at least once within two years of date of Design certification or the start of certification/crediting period, whichever is later."</p> <p>Due to the project being a micro-scale, this was done as an "internal verification" by SustainCert, who was the approved and designated VVB/auditor for GS4GG projects. PD has shared the documents "OO audit email thread CONFIDENTIAL" and "T-PerfCert_V1.2-Microscale-Verification-Appraisal-Report-evidence" detailing the OO auditor selection process followed by SustainCert auditing team, and the final OO appraisal.</p> <p>Hence, the OO auditor was selected following the requirements detailed by Gold Standard and SustainCert, by following the applicable rules of the time.</p>
Reason for deviation	<p>The PD is requesting for a deviation from the following requirement, which raised the FAR in CPR of the real case VPAs GS7135: <i>Para 4.2.1 of the GS doc "revisions to microscale scheme requirements": The first physical site visit required for microscale projects/VPAs after the entry into force of these requirements (subject to sampling requirements for PoAs) shall be conducted as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Within 3 years of the last Objective Observer(OO) or VVB physical site visit</i> <i>b. If no OO or VVB physical site visit was conducted in the past 3 years, then the next verification shall include a physical site visit, no later than 2 years of entry into force of these requirements, i.e., 30/11/2025. Note the length of the monitoring period that may be verified through a site visit as per Rule Update</i> <p>Due to the extended timeline of the DCR, overpassing the 30/11/2025 deadline, verification review with the VVB could not begin in 2025. Therefore, the proposed deadline provided in the FAR was not achieved.</p>
Proposed resolution	<p>Throughout the 2024-2025 period, PD has conducted the required monitoring activities such as Annual Monitoring surveys, HHWQT, WASH and FUVs, water points maintenance and repairs.</p> <p>The project water points continued to operate as planned, supplying safe drinking water to the beneficiary end-users during the entire period, as they continue to do so.</p>

	<p>The project’s activities will be assessed during the next verification review (which will cover the first monitoring period of the second crediting period of the projects).</p> <p>As mentioned in the “summary of changes” section, an OO site visit was conducted on 21/11/2023-23/11/2023, which means the project aligns with the requirement mentioned in the rule update <i>“If no OO or VVB physical site visit was conducted in the past 3 years, then the next verification shall include a physical site visit, no later than 2 years of entry into force of these requirements, i.e., 30/11/2025”</i>.</p> <p>The PD has also contracted the VVB to start Verification Review in Q1 2026, with a physical site visit being conducted in Q1 2026/beginning of Q2 2026, when the rainy season will be nearing the end in Mozambique.</p> <p>This approach confirms once again that PD is in line with the site visit requirements as the upcoming physical site visit will be conducted within 3 years of the last OO visit.</p> <p>The audit will be conducted in line with applicable rules and requirements.</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 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 1518 1439 1680"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="464 1518 949 1637">Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation</th> <th data-bbox="949 1518 1439 1637">Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="464 1637 949 1680">XYZ tCO₂e</td> <td data-bbox="949 1637 1439 1680">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>				
<p>Insert text here</p>					

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 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. *OO audit email thread CONFIDENTIAL*

Document 2. *T-PerfCert_V1.2-Microscale-Verification-Appraisal-Report-evidence*

Document 3. *Microscale Project Requirements v1.2*

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