



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.

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.....	7
6.2 Description of the deviation	7
6.3 VVB information.....	10
6.4 VVB’s assessment	10
6.5 Documents:	10

4| Decision summary

To be completed by Gold Standard

4.1 | General information

DEVIATION REFERENCE NUMBER	DEVRQ-310
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 is approved.

The CME shall comply with the requirements stated in Annex B – Conflict and Emergency Zones of the latest [Gold Standard Principles and Requirements](#).

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

The CME shall ensure that the Objective Observer (OO) has been selected for the on-site audit as required by para 2.1.2 of the Annex B of Principles and Requirements version 2.1 and have conducted the audit under the guidance of a GS approved VVB. The CME will be responsible for contracting and covering the costs of the Objective Observer. 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 by the developer. The CME shall comply with all other applicable standard requirements unless specifically mentioned in the deviation decision.

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

The 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 of the same and take appropriate steps.

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

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 :	Rohit Lohia
Email ID ⁴ :	rohit.lohia@climate-secure.com
Organisation: ⁵ :	Climate Secure
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 3112	GS 11744	
Host country(ies)	Republic of Bangladesh			
Project Title	PoA(GS 3112): GHG Emission Reduction through use of Bondhu Chula (Improved Cook Stoves) in Bangladesh VPA(GS 11744): VPA 47 - GHG Emission Reduction through use of Bondhu Chula (Improved Cook Stoves) in Bangladesh			
Registry link	PoA: GS 3112: https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/537 VPA: GS 11744: https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3807			
Scale	<input type="checkbox"/> Microscale (GS) <input type="checkbox"/> Small scale <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large scale <input type="checkbox"/> Other, if applicable please specify below <i>Insert text here</i>			
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>
	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy	17/10/2023	dd/mm/yyyy
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GS4GG			

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

Applied version of Standard	<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		dd/mm/yyyy		
	From another standard to GS4GG		dd/mm/yyyy		
	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 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.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Reference number	No Deviation has been taken for GS 11744 earlier.	
Status of the deviation	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> 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
	Version	2.0
	Paragraph	4.1.1 b

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Request for Remote Site Visit Due to Security and Travel Restrictions in Bangladesh	
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)
	Deviation sought due to current safety / travel risk situation in the host country	
Relevant monitoring period, if applicable	Start date	15/11/2023
	End date	31/12/2025
Summarise the changes	Conduct the verification audit site visit remotely, due to the exceptional circumstances outlined below.	
Reason for deviation	Bangladesh Bondhu Foundation (BBF), the CME of the PoA (GS 3112) and the VPA (GS 11744), intends to undertake the verification for the	

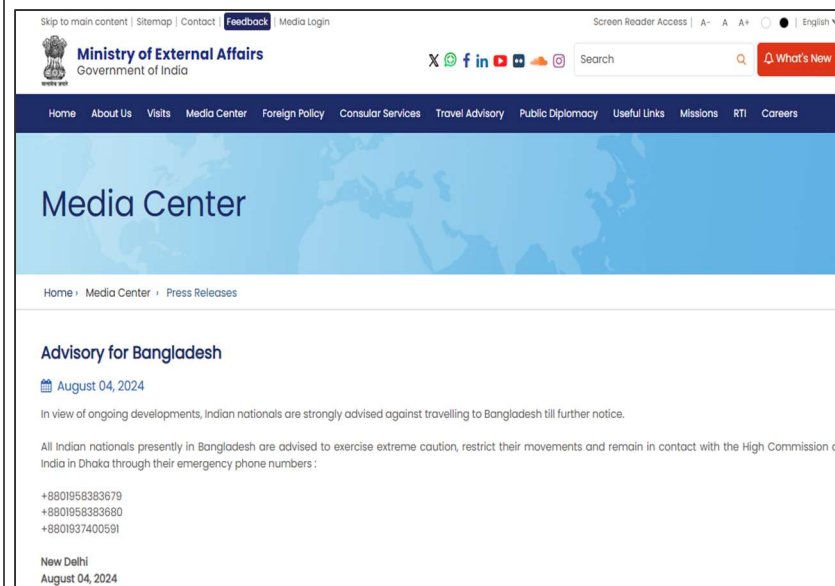
monitoring period 15/11/2023 to 31/12/2025. CME has contracted Carbon Check India Pvt. Ltd. as the VVB for the concerned verification.

As per Section 4.1.1(b) of the Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures dated 30/05/2023, remote audits for PoA/VPA verification are permitted only when the verified emission reductions for the audit instance are below 200,000 tCO_{2e}.

Since the verified emission reductions, for the concerned VPA exceeds this threshold, VVB is mandated to conduct a physical on-site audit visit, which was tentatively planned for the second week of January 2026.

However, the current situation in Bangladesh is not deemed safe for physical travel. Following the violent regime change in Aug 2024, Government of India issued a Travel Advisory on 04/08/2024, strongly advising Indian nationals against travelling to Bangladesh until further notice. The advisory further instructs Indian nationals currently in Bangladesh to exercise extreme caution, restrict movement, and remain in close contact with the High Commission of India in Dhaka. As at date, the advisory still remains valid, as listed below:.

Link_1:	https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/38095/Advisory_for_Bangladesh
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In addition to the above travel restrictions, the overall security situation in Bangladesh has further deteriorated. Recent incidents, including the deaths of political leaders, have triggered widespread protests and violent unrest across the country.

Link 2:	https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c623rzzenmyo
Link 3	https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/world/days-after-osman-hadis-killing-another-bangladesh-student-leader-shot-in-head/ar-AA1SO1GK?ocid=BingNewsSerp

Furthermore, due to unforeseen circumstances, all consular services and visa issuance at the Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi have been suspended. These services will remain halted until further notice, making travel arrangements impossible.

	<table border="1" data-bbox="472 188 1441 255"> <tr> <td>Link 4:</td> <td>https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/26qzwwjowg7</td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="472 322 1441 450">There have also been multiple incidents of mob violence across Bangladesh, posing serious security risks to foreign nationals. Several recent reports highlight incidents of lynching, targeted attacks, and violence linked to political and social unrest.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="472 486 1441 613"> <tr> <td>Link 5:</td> <td>https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/bangladesh-hindu-man-dipu-chandra-das-lynching-shocking-details-colleagues-handed-him-over-to-islamists-2839729-2025-12-22</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="472 618 1441 716"> <tr> <td>Link 6:</td> <td>https://news.abplive.com/news/world/bangladesh-women-attacked-for-not-wearing-hijab-after-osman-hadi-s-killing-1817583</td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="472 748 1441 943">Similarly, the U.S. Government Travel Advisory reissued on 18 April 2025, classified Bangladesh under Level 4: Do Not Travel due to ongoing civil unrest, crime, terrorism, and security risks. While large-scale unrest has reduced following the formation of the Interim Government, sporadic protests and violent incidents continue, with the situation remaining volatile and subject to rapid change.</p> <p data-bbox="472 974 1441 1041">Similarly, the UK government’s travel advisory advises against all but essential travel to parts of Bangladesh.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="472 1070 1441 1137"> <tr> <td>Link 7:</td> <td>Bangladesh Travel Advisory</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="472 1142 1441 1209"> <tr> <td>Link 8:</td> <td>Safety and security - Bangladesh travel advice - GOV.UK</td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="472 1240 1441 1435">Given the continued political uncertainty, upcoming national elections scheduled for 12 February 2026, and the ongoing occurrence of political rallies, demonstrations, and strikes (hartals), the security situation remains highly unpredictable and volatile. Such events frequently escalate into violence, including arson, vandalism, and clashes in towns and cities across the country, with a potential to result in fatalities.</p>	Link 4:	https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/26qzwwjowg7	Link 5:	https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/bangladesh-hindu-man-dipu-chandra-das-lynching-shocking-details-colleagues-handed-him-over-to-islamists-2839729-2025-12-22	Link 6:	https://news.abplive.com/news/world/bangladesh-women-attacked-for-not-wearing-hijab-after-osman-hadi-s-killing-1817583	Link 7:	Bangladesh Travel Advisory	Link 8:	Safety and security - Bangladesh travel advice - GOV.UK
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Link 7:	Bangladesh Travel Advisory										
Link 8:	Safety and security - Bangladesh travel advice - GOV.UK										
Proposed resolution	<p>Considering the active travel advisory (closure of VISA service) and the unstable security environment, conducting a physical site visit is not possible and poses significant safety and security risk. Therefore, the CME hereby seeks approval to host the verification audit site visit remotely in line with GS4GG Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures ver 2.0, dated 30/05/2023.</p>										
Is there any potential temporary or permanent impact of deviation on other aspects of the project?	<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="472 1989 1441 2085"> <tr> <td>Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation</td> <td>Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation</td> </tr> </table>	Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation								
Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation										

	XYZ tCO ₂ e	XYZ tCO ₂ e
	<input type="checkbox"/> any other matrix, please specify...	
Summary of the impact	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.	
This deviation will have no impact on the aspects of the PoA/VPAs listed above, as it involves merely conducting verification audit site visit remotely.		

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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <i>If answer is yes, fill the information in section 6.4 below.</i>
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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	According to travel advisories issued by the Ministry of external affairs, Government of India ^{6,7} and by the US Department of State ⁸ , traveling to Bangladesh is considered unsafe due to significant safety and security risks, crime, civil unrest and terrorism and poses risk to life of visiting personnel. Also, closure of consular services and visa issuance at the Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi also makes it impossible to make a physical visit to Bangladesh by Indian Citizen.						
VVB's assessment of impact of deviation request	"Site Visit And Remote Audit Requirements And Procedures" version 2, para 4.1.1(b) allows remote audits for PoA/VPA verification only when the verified emission reductions for the audit instance are below 200,000 tCO ₂ e. Given, the expected ERs for the concerned monitoring period is more than 200,000 tCO ₂ e, hence the deviation is being sought. The deviation does not pose any temporary or permanent impact on the relevant areas. The VVB shall apply necessary ICT measures to objectively verify the CME's assertion with reasonable level of assurance.						
VVB recommendation	Physical travel to the project location poses significant security and safety risk (potential risk to life) to the VVB personnel as highlighted in the assessment provided above.						
VVB details	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>VVB name:</td> <td>Carbon Check (India) Private Limited</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Auditor name(s):</td> <td>Pankaj Kumar</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Email (s):</td> <td>pankaj@carboncheck.co.in</td> </tr> </table>	VVB name:	Carbon Check (India) Private Limited	Auditor name(s):	Pankaj Kumar	Email (s):	pankaj@carboncheck.co.in
VVB name:	Carbon Check (India) Private Limited						
Auditor name(s):	Pankaj Kumar						
Email (s):	pankaj@carboncheck.co.in						

6.5 | Documents:

6.5.1 | Links of media reports and travel advisory mentioned above:

⁶ [Bangladesh | Travel Advisory | Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India](#)

⁷ [Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi temporarily suspends all consular services | DD News On Air](#)

⁸ [Bangladesh Travel Advisory](#)

Link 1	https://www.mea.gov.in/bangladesh-travel-advisory.htm
Link 2	https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/38095
Link 3	https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/26gzwjowq7
Link 4	https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/bangladesh-hindu-man-dipu-chandra-das-lynching-shocking-details-colleagues-handed-him-over-to-islamists-2839729-2025-12-22
Link 5	https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/world/days-after-osman-hadis-killing-another-bangladesh-student-leader-shot-in-head/ar-AA1SO1GK?ocid=BingNewsSerp
Link 6	https://news.abplive.com/news/world/bangladesh-women-attacked-for-not-wearing-hijab-after-osman-hadi-s-killing-1817583
Link 7	Bangladesh Travel Advisory
Link 8	Safety and security - Bangladesh travel advice - GOV.UK

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