



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	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.....	7
6.3 VVB information.....	11
6.4 VVB’s assessment	11
6.5 Documents:	11

4| Decision summary

To be completed by Gold Standard

4.1 | General information

DEVIATION REFERENCE NUMBER	DEVRQ-315
Date of decision	20/01/2026
Decision	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not approved [reason for rejection is provided in decision summary]

4.2 | Decision

4.2.1 | Decision Summary

The deviation request is not approved.

The crediting period of the proposed project must be 5 years as per the Annex B of the "GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements" which was publicly available to all the project developer/CMEs:

- *6.1.1 | Transition project & CPA seeking issuance of GSVERs or conversion of issued GSCERs to GSVERs shall issue GSVERs for a maximum crediting period allowed as per relevant GS4GG activity requirements or crediting period with the other standard, whichever ends first. Under no circumstance, can the crediting period registered with other standard be extended.*
- *6.5.1 | Transition project, PoA/CPAs shall follow GS4GG certification cycle for crediting period renewal (e.g. 5 years) in order to issue or convert issued emission reductions to GSVERs under GS4GG.*

The applicant's operational reasons (missed platform notifications, delayed budget allocation) are not grounds for deviation, as such deviation requests cannot override the core crediting cycle rules of the standard.

Additionally, Gold Standard is not obligated to issue reminder notifications regarding certification or renewal deadlines. Compliance with timelines, monitoring of registry updates, and submission of renewal requests remain the full responsibility of the Project Developer/CME, as per the Principles & Requirements documents, which require developers to proactively stay up to date with all applicable rules and updates.

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

N/A

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

N/A

4.2.4 | Directions for the Gold Standard, if applicable

N/A

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 :	Nawa Raj Dhakal
Email ID ⁴ :	nawa.dhakal@aepec.gov.np
Organisation: ⁵ :	Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC)
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 3110 GS XXXX	GS7509 GS XXXX	
Host country(ies)	Nepal			
Project Title	Nepal Biogas Support Program – CPA 9: 17,304 Digesters			
Registry link				
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>			
Certification Status and corresponding date of latest status	<input type="checkbox"/> Listed dd/mm/yyyy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified design 23/09/2019	<input type="checkbox"/> Certified project dd/mm/yyyy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>If other, specify here</i> dd/mm/yyyy

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 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		dd/mm/yyyy	
	From another standard to GS4GG		03/11/2023	
	Name of another standard	<input checked="" 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	Insert Text here		
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	Transition requirements
	Version	2.0
	Paragraph	Para 3.1.4, (d)

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Deviation from five year crediting period renewal to seven year for transition projects	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permanent

Confirm the nature of changes related to deviation	(e.g. not expected to occur beyond one monitoring period)	(e.g. deviation from requirements prior to submission for certification)
Relevant monitoring period, if applicable	Start date	Dd/mm/yyyy
Summarise the changes	End date	Dd/mm/yyyy
	<p>VPA 9 Crediting Period: On 3rd November 2023, the “Nepal Biogas Support Program-CPA 9: 17,304 digesters” was transitioned from GS CDM to GS VER without deregistering the project from the CDM registry following the transition requirements Version 2.0 which is referred in the GHG emissions reductions & sequestration products requirement version 3.1.</p> <p>Immediately after the completion of transition from GS CDM to GS VER the timeline for the crediting period remained same (i.e., 7 years (15 May 2019 - 14 May 2026)) in the Gold Standard Impact Registry for few months. However, the change in the crediting period renewal dates (15/05/2019 - 14/05/2024) went unnoticed in GS4GG sustaincert platform, as notification/ emails were not received by project developer from the Gold Standard registry regarding the update.</p> <p>As per the design certification renewal requirements: CDM projects transition to GS4GG has rule clarification scenario 2, which has mentioned the timing for the second crediting period renewal after the transition from CDM to GS4GG. As per the scenario 2, the transition project from CDM to GS4GG shall undergo design certification renewal request within six (6) months from the date of transition review completion or before the end dates of year 7 under CDM crediting cycle, whichever is earlier. As the change in the crediting period renewal dates went unnoticed, as notification/ emails were not received from Gold Standard regarding the update and there was no allocated approved budget from the government to undertake this crediting period task, we are unable to conduct the crediting period renewal immediately after six months from the date of transition (3rd November 2023).</p> <p>According to GS4GG standard, “if the VPA is registered with the POA in the first crediting period, the project proponent (PP) has the option to continue with a 7-year crediting period, following the twice-renewal model. However, if the VPA is submitted for registration in the second</p>	

	<p>crediting period of the POA, it will align with the 5-year period, as the POA will follow the 5-year model for the second crediting cycle".</p> <p>For this current project, the VPA has already been registered with the POA in the first crediting period (Between 31/01/2013 and 30/01/2020). Hence, the CPA/VPA is eligible for the 7-year model i.e. 15 May 2019 - 14 May 2026.</p> <p>According to this, Renewal of Crediting period (RCP) process may commence when the VPA has less than 24 months remaining in the current crediting period (from 14 May 2024). The start date for the RCP will be after the conclusion of the first cycle's crediting period. The RCP process must be completed before the closure of the crediting period (14 May 2026) to ensure that the project does not forfeit any credits. According to GS4GG standard, "if the VPA is registered with the POA in the first crediting period, the project proponent (PP) has the option to continue with a 7-year crediting period, following the twice-renewal model. However, if the VPA is submitted for registration in the second crediting period of the POA, it will align with the 5-year period, as the POA will follow the 5-year model for the second crediting cycle".</p> <p><i>For this current project, the VPA has already been registered with the POA in the first crediting period (Between 31/1/2013 and 30/1/2020). Hence, the CPA/VPA is eligible for the 7-year model i.e. 15 May 2019 - 14 May 2026.</i></p> <p>According to this, Renewal of Crediting period (RCP) process may commence when the VPA has less than 24 months remaining in the current crediting period (from 14 May 2024). The start date for the RCP will be after the conclusion of the first cycle's crediting period. The RCP process must be completed before the closure of the crediting period (14 May 2026) to ensure that the project does not forfeit any credits.</p>
<p>Reason for deviation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. it was understood that after transition, the crediting period will be for seven year until the crediting period is over after transition and follows the GS4GG cycle (i.e, 5 year renewals) from the next crediting period. 2. Immediately after the completion of transition from GS CDM to GS VER the timeline for the crediting period remained same (i.e., 7 years) in the Gold Standard Impact Registry for few months. However, the change in the crediting period renewal dates went unnoticed, as notification/ emails were not received from Gold Standard regarding the update. Similarly, the transfer from the Gold Standard Platform of Sustaincert to assurance platform also made us the unclear regarding the

	<p>crediting period time frame. During the transition, the projects were on the sustaincert platform and the crediting period was for seven years as per the CDM registry. In the GS assurance platform it was updated to the five years. By the time the changes were identified, the crediting period (as specified in the GS platform) had already passed. AEPC being a government organization, the activities can be performed after the budget is allocated and approved by the Government. So, AEPC could not carry out these activities of crediting period renewal on the time and had to postpone activities to the next year fiscal year.</p> <p>If you refer to the crediting period under the CDM registry, the seven year crediting period of the CPA 9 is from May 15th, 2019 – May 14th, 2026. Hence, we request the Gold Standard Registry to allow the crediting period renewal of the following projects maintaining the seven year i.e. May 15th, 2019 – May 14th, 2026 instead of five year i.e. May 15th, 2019 – May 14th, 2024. After the completion of seven year crediting period i.e. on May 14th, 2026, the PD will do the second crediting period renewal with five year time line. Similarly, There will be loss of two (2) years after reduction of 7 year crediting period to 5 year crediting period. Earlier, when we have GS label CER, we have crediting period of 7 years within the Gold Standard Registry. As the biogas plant have 20 years of life span after each five years of crediting period (i.e. total 15 years of crediting) the biogas plant will still be functional after completion of 15 year of crediting period. Hence decrease of two years after transition is direct loss of active crediting period for the biogas projects. But, there is not any direction or guidance received from the Gold Standard on this matter. For this reason also we need to maintain at least seven year after the transition and five year crediting period cycle after the crediting period renewal after transition will be maintained as per the crediting period cycle. This will at least allow us to capture two (2) year of first crediting period of emission reduction after the transition.</p>
<p>Proposed resolution</p>	<p>Hence, We request GS registry to allow the crediting period renewal for the VPA 9 from May 14th, 2026 which means the crediting period for the VPA 9 is from May 15th, 2019 – May 14th, 2026. And the crediting period renewal will from May 14th 2026 to May 15th 2031.</p>
<p>Is there any potential temporary or permanent impact of deviation on other</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

aspects of the project?	<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" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr style="background-color: #00a6c9; color: white;"> <th style="width: 50%;">Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">XYZ tCO_{2e}</td> <td style="text-align: center;">XYZ tCO_{2e}</td> </tr> </table>	Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation	XYZ tCO _{2e}	XYZ tCO _{2e}
Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation				
XYZ tCO _{2e}	XYZ tCO _{2e}				
	<input type="checkbox"/> any other matrix, please specify...				
Summary of the impact	The project deviation from five year i.e. May 15th, 2019 – May 14th, 2024 to seven years i.e. May 15th, 2019 – May 14th, 2026 will make us easy to continue with the continuation of crediting period renewal of the project and retain the emission reduction from the biogas plant in the CPA 9				

Insert text here

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 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	Please confirm the nature of deviation.						
VVB’s assessment of impact of deviation request							
VVB recommendation							
VVB details	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">VVB name:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Auditor name(s):</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Email (s):</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	VVB name:		Auditor name(s):		Email (s):	
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: SD#1CPA 9572-P1-0009-CP1: Nepal Biogas Support Program – CPA
9: 17,304 digesters

Document 2: SD#2 Transition Requirement Ver 2.0,

Document 3: SD#3 Design-certification-renewal-requirements-CDM-projects-
transitioning-to-GS4GG

Document n.

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