



**Gold Standard**<sup>®</sup>  
for the Global Goals

**FORM**

## **FORM - DEVIATION REQUEST SUBMISSION**

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**PUBLICATION DATE: 12/11/2024**

**VERSION: 6.0**

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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](mailto: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-320
Date of decision	28/01/2026
Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Approved</b> [No precondition to apply the deviation decision] <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Conditionally approved</b> [Decision is subject to compliance with the precondition defined below] <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Not approved</b> [reason for rejection is provided in decision summary]

### 4.2 | Decision

#### 4.2.1 | Decision Summary

The requested deviation is approved.

The CME can submit one real case VPA DD for Tanzania at the time of PoA certification and subsequent real case VPAs for each country can be included in the PoA at a later stage. The CME shall conduct the PoA design consultation covering all countries identified for each batch across the entire PoA.

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 unless specifically mentioned in the deviation decision.

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

The above decision is approved considering that the stated countries in the batch are homogenous on grounds of additionality, baseline scenario emission reduction and legislation. The project developer shall justify the same in the project documentation. The CME shall document the deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision in the appropriate section of the VPA-DD.

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

The decision is based on the information provided by the project developer. However, the evidence provided on the homogeneity of all the countries in the PoA shall be checked by VVB at the time of validation of the real case VPA and all other VPAs included into the PoA.

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

#### 4.2.4 | Directions for the Gold Standard, if applicable

The review team shall check the information reported by the project developer and the VVB for appropriateness, accuracy and consistency.

**4.3 | Applicability to other activities**

Is this decision applicable to other projects under similar circumstances? <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does this decision set a precedent for future projects with similar circumstances? <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Precedent details (if applicable to other activities) NA	

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>3</sup> :	Mr. Saurabh Saraf
Email ID <sup>4</sup> :	saurabh@offsetfarm.io
Organisation: <sup>5</sup> :	OffsetFarm Pte 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PoA GSXXXX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VPA
GS ID	GSXXXX GSXXXX	GS 13167	GS 23321
Host country(ies)	Multi Country POA with Following Countries: Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Senegal, Mozambique, Zambia, Ethiopia		
Project Title	Healthy Kitchens and Happy Lives in Africa		
Registry link	<a href="https://assurance-platform.goldstandard.org/project-documents/GS13167">https://assurance-platform.goldstandard.org/project-documents/GS13167</a>		
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>		

<sup>3</sup> Name of the individual representing the entity requesting the deviation

<sup>4</sup> Email ID for further correspondence related to the deviation request

<sup>5</sup> The name of the entity requesting the deviation

Certification Status and corresponding date of latest status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Listed	<input type="checkbox"/> Certified design	<input type="checkbox"/> Certified project	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>If other, specify here</i>
	02/07/2025	<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	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.2
Transition date, if applicable	From previous GS version to GS4GG		N/A	
	From another standard to GS4GG		N/A	
	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 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 <b>Summary of the findings</b> <i>Summary of the CL, CAR, FAR not more than 200 words. Include reference to document, page number</i>

## 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	Programme of Activity Requirements
	Version	V 3.0
	Paragraph	para 8.7.1 & para 8.10.1

**6.2 | Description of the deviation**

Title	Request for deviation from Standard POA Requirements for Multi-country PoA -For not submitting all the real case VPAs at the time of design review for each country.	
Confirm the nature of changes related to deviation	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary (e.g. not expected to occur beyond one monitoring period)	<input checked="" 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	N/A
	End date	N/A
Summarise the changes	<p>'SDG13 Ventures Pte Ltd.' &amp; 'OffsetFarm Pte Ltd.' are the CME and PP for the POA and submitting a deviation request in accordance with "Programme of Activity Requirements" version 3, paragraph 8.10.1, which requires that 'multi-country voluntary PoA shall provide a VPA-DD for each country considered at the time of PoA registration.</p> <p>Considering the PoA requirement version 3, para 8.10.1 allows project developers to submit request for an exception to 'not submit VPA-DDs for all countries in the PoA's geographical boundary' which states "However, exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis,'</p> <p>Therefore, we request this deviation. A similar deviation DEV_66 was also approved for the PoA-'12693 Access to clean water' on similar grounds in conjunction with others viz DEVRQ_55, DEVRQ_115. Therefore, we request you to review this deviation in reference to DEVRQ_66, DEVRQ_115 and DEVRQ_55 on fast track the process of review considering the impact of the same.</p> <p>This deviation proposes segregating 9 sub-Sahara countries listed into 1 primary category based on their geographic location as Sub Sahara region with similar socio-economic conditions.</p> <p>We would also like to clarify that baseline, additionality and local stakeholder consultation will be undertaken separately for each of the real case VPA in each of the country included in the Sub-Saharan region. Therefore, delaying the VPA inclusion will not impact on baseline, additionality, LSC, safeguard assessments inter alia.</p> <p>Therefore, the CME and PP requests GS for an exception to submit a real case VPA-DD for one representative sub-Sahara country 'Tanzania' and the time of design review and rest VPAs will be submitted on later after</p>	

	<p>validating each real case VPA through the VVB validation process in each country.</p> <p>Refer to latest version of <a href="#">Deviation Request Requirements and Procedures</a> for requirements and guidelines</p>				
Reason for deviation	<p>The CME is initializing the POA implementation from the Tanzania at first and then expanding it to other sub-Saharan countries. The methodologies at the time of listing/validation on the article 6.4 are not yet published/finalized therefore implementation on the other countries based on the article 6.4 methodologies are unclear to CME in terms of baseline requirements and other alignment with the Article 6.4 of the GS requirements published. The CME will therefore first evaluate the VPA in Tanzania based on the recent updated GS requirements and then expand the programme in the rest of the sub-Saharan countries.</p>				
Proposed resolution	<p>The CME requests GS for an exception to submit a real case VPA-DD for one representative country in Sub-Saharan considered at the time of PoA certification and the submission of the other real case VPA-DDs for other countries in the Sub-Saharan will be included later. The technology mentioned in the PoA provides clean cooking technology, and baseline for each country will be undertaken separately along with the separate local stakeholder consultation.</p> <p>The project developer (CME) requests GS for an exception to submit a real case VPA-DD for one representative country Tanzania at the time of PoA certification and submission of the other real case VPA-DDs for remaining countries in the regions later after the clear requirements of the updated GS methodologies aligned with the article 6.4 as per the recent GS rule updates.</p> <p>This is to be noted that all future real case VPAs will be validated by VVB and will be included after complying with the validation requirements.</p> <p>As stated above, a similar deviation as referred to in the previous sections are already approved by GS.</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"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Project design</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Local stakeholder consultation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding principles</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SDG assessment</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory compliance</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Additionality</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Applicability of methodology</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Annual emission reduction volume (<i>if yes, fill the table below</i>)</li> </ul> <table border="1" data-bbox="472 1924 1441 2080"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="472 1924 951 2040">Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation</th> <th data-bbox="951 1924 1441 2040">Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="472 2040 951 2080">XYZ tCO<sub>2</sub>e</td> <td data-bbox="951 2040 1441 2080">XYZ tCO<sub>2</sub>e</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation	XYZ tCO <sub>2</sub> e	XYZ tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation				
XYZ tCO <sub>2</sub> e	XYZ tCO <sub>2</sub> 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.

There is no negative impact on the project design, Local stakeholder consultation, safeguarding principles, SDG assessment, Regulatory Compliance, Additionality, applicability of methodology, Emission reduction, monitoring frequency data quality potential risk or any other aspects of the project due to this deviation. Each VPA submitted for design certification within the PoA will be following the relevant Gold Standard eligibility criteria. The PoA will abide by the program of activity requirements and other gold standard requirements. The positive impact of the deviation emerges, such that while the CME acquires all permissions and assesses the implementation challenges due to demographic factors in all the countries included within the PoA, the beneficiaries from other countries where the preliminary conditions have been assessed and project will be undertaken such that the beneficiaries reap SDG outcomes of project implementations. With approval of deviation delay of impact will be overcomes, as the facts state that, according to WHO (October 2024), approximately 2.1 billion people worldwide, about a third of the global population rely on open fires or inefficient stoves powered by kerosene, biomass (wood), and coal. These practices lead to harmful household air pollution. The combined effects of ambient and household air pollution are responsible for 6.7 million premature deaths annually.

### 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 <a href="#">Deviations Request Requirements and Procedures</a> 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	<p>The geographical boundary of the multi-country PoA “<i>Healthy Kitchens and Happy Lives in Africa</i>” (GS 13167) involves 9 sub-saharan Arican countries. The CME (SDG13 Ventures Pte Ltd.) has proposed a deviation request to GS during the validation process of this multi-country PoA.</p> <p>As per the requirements of the paragraph 8.10.1 of the Programme of Activity Requirements and Procedures Ver 3.0, “<i>Multi-country Voluntary PoA shall provide a real case VPA DD for each country considered at the time of PoA validation. Exceptions may be requested on a case-by case basis. The CME shall follow Deviation approval procedure for such deviation request</i>”</p> <p>Hence as per the above requirements, the real-case VPA needs to be submitted for each of the countries in Africa, which are part of the PoA. However CME has requested GS for an exception to submit a real case VPA-DD for only one</p>
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representative Sub-Saharan country 'Tanzania' at the time of validation of PoA and rest of the VPAs for other countries of PoA shall be submitted for validation at a later stage. This is permitted as per the above requirements.

The CME has submitted this deviation request following the requirements of the "*Programme of Activity Requirements and Procedures Ver 3.0*" and "*Deviation Request Requirements and Procedures, version 2.0*", which is found reasonable due to the following reasons:

1. The CME is initializing the POA implementation from the Tanzania at first and then expanding it to other Sub-Saharan countries. The methodologies at the time of listing/validation on the article 6.4 are not yet published/finalized therefore implementation on the other countries based on the article 6.4 methodologies are unclear to CME in terms of baseline requirements and other alignment with the Article 6.4 of the GS requirements published. The CME therefore first want to evaluate the VPA in Tanzania based on the recent updated GS requirements and then expand the programme to rest of the Sub-Saharan countries. The other real case VPA-DDs for remaining countries in the region shall be submitted later after the release of clear requirements of the updated GS methodologies aligned with the article 6.4 as per the recent GS rule updates.

2. The CME requests GS for an exception to submit a real case VPA-DD for one representative country in Sub-Saharan considered at the time of PoA validation/certification and the submission of the other real case VPA-DDs for other countries in the Sub-Saharan will be included later. The technology mentioned in the PoA provides clean cooking technology, and baseline for each country will be undertaken separately along with the separate local stakeholder consultation.

3. The Deviation Request is inline with the paragraph 8.10.1 of the "*Programme of Activity Requirements and Procedures Ver 3.0*" as per which "*Exceptions may be requested on a case-by case basis. The CME shall follow Deviation approval procedure for such deviation request*" and hence acceptable.

4. Each of the VPA shall be undertaken separately and project design, local stakeholder consultation, safeguarding principles, SDG assessment, regulatory compliance, additionality, applicability of methodology, emission reductions, monitoring frequency data, quality potential risk or any other aspects of the project shall be checked. Hence all the GS requirements will be taken care during the validation of each of the VPAs and will only be included after complying with the validation requirements.

5. A similar deviation DEV\_66 was also approved for the PoA '12693 Access to clean water' on similar grounds in conjunction with others viz DEVRQ\_55, DEVRQ\_115. Therefore, the CME requested GS to review this deviation in reference to

	DEVRO_66, DEVRO_115 and DEVRO_55 on fast track the process of review considering the impact of the same.	
VVB's assessment of impact of deviation request	<p>The Deviation Request is inline with the paragraph 8.10.1 of the "Programme of Activity Requirements and Procedures Ver 3.0" as per which "Exceptions may be requested on a case-by case basis. The CME shall follow Deviation approval procedure for such deviation request" and hence acceptable.</p> <p>There is no negative impact observed on the project design, local stakeholder consultation, safeguarding principles, SDG assessment, regulatory compliance, additionality, applicability of methodology, emission reduction, monitoring frequency, data quality or any other aspects of the project due to this deviation. Each of the VPAs which shall be submitted for inclusion at a later stage shall follow and discuss the GS requirements (<i>including additionality requirements, baseline scenario requirements, emission reductions calculation, legislation requirements</i>) in the VPA-DD and which shall be assessed by VVB at the time of validation and by GS at the time of Design Certification review process.</p>	
VVB recommendation	The VVB considers the deviation request to GS as reasonable and appropriate.	
VVB details	VVB name:	4K Earth Science Private Limited
	Auditor name(s):	Mr. Rohit Badaya
	Email (s):	<a href="mailto:rohit.badaya@gmail.com">rohit.badaya@gmail.com</a>

## 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.

Document 2.

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"> <li>- date of listing, design certification, transition</li> <li>- standard version</li> <li>- specific reference to a requirement deviated from</li> <li>- any previous deviations/design changes approved</li> <li>- Guidance on VVB opinion</li> </ul>
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