



**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**

**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 Balexert 7-9  
1219 Châtelaine Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel +41 22 788 70 80  
Email [help@goldstandard.org](mailto:help@goldstandard.org)

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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-326
Date of decision	30/01/2026
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 deviation has been approved for the delayed submission of the annual report for the 2020 and 2021 verification period.

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

The CME shall establish and implement a process/procedure to ensure that Annual Reports are submitted annually, no later than the end of the year.

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

The verifying VVB shall verify compliance with this requirement, as stipulated in the applicable version of Principles & Requirements.

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

<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 (carbon project development)

### 5.2 | Details of the entity and its representative submitting the form

Item	Information
Name <sup>3</sup> :	Hu Lixiang
Email ID <sup>4</sup> :	x.hu@southpole.com
Organisation: <sup>5</sup> :	South Pole Carbon Asset Management 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project activity	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA GSXXXX	<input type="checkbox"/> VPA	
GS ID	GS2429			
Host country(ies)	China			
Project Title	WWF Ningshan County High Efficient Cook Stove Project			
Registry link	<a href="https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/344">https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/344</a>			
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 <i>Insert text here</i>			
Certification Status and corresponding date of latest status	<input type="checkbox"/> Listed  dd/mm/yyyy	<input type="checkbox"/> Certified design  dd/mm/yyyy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified project  26/09/2023	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>If other, specify here</i>  dd/mm/yyyy

<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

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		20/01/2019	
	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 <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	GS4GG Principles & Requirements
	Version	V2.0
	Paragraph	para 5.1.39

### 6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Late submission for the 2020 and 2021 annual reports of WWF Ningshan County High Efficient Cook Stove Project (GS2429)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temporary	<input 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)
	Only the 2020 and 2021 annual reports were submitted late; all subsequent reports, such as those for 2022 and 2023, were submitted on time. Furthermore, this monitoring period (01/09/2020 – 28/07/2023) represents the final one within the fixed crediting period.	
Relevant monitoring period, if applicable	Start date	01/09/2020
	End date	28/07/2023
Summarise the changes	<p>This deviation request is regarding the delayed submission of annual reports for the 2020 and 2021 vintages.</p> <p>According to section 5.1.39 of the GS4GG principles &amp; requirements (v1.2), an annual report shall be submitted for each monitoring year by end of next calendar year for which verification is not completed.</p> <p>During the process of the verification for the 5th monitoring period (01/09/2020-05/08/2023), the following non-compliances were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2020 Annual Report: The report was not submitted by the deadline of 31/12/2021.</li> <li>- 2021 Annual Report: The report was not submitted by deadline of 31/12/2022.</li> </ul>	
Reason for deviation	<p>In 2021 and 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic caused major disruptions and it was difficult to maintain normal office work, and submission for annual report for 2020&amp;2021 missed the deadline therefore doesn't fully comply with GS requirements.</p> <p>Due to the severe disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic during 2021 and 2022, our project team faced significant operational challenges. These unforeseen circumstances hindered the timely submission of the Annual Reports for the 2021 and 2022 periods.</p>	
Proposed resolution	<p>The annual report for 2021 had been submitted to GS.</p> <p>The annual report for 2020 had been prepared and it will be uploaded to the GS when this deviation is approved.</p> <p>A new internal tracking system was implemented to ensure strict adherence to Gold Standard reporting deadlines moving forward.</p> <p>Also, the data for 2020 and 2021 were monitored, verified and reported in the verification report. And to be conservative, the Project Developer opted not to claim any carbon credits (GSVERs) for the 2020 and 2021 vintages.</p>	
Is there any potential temporary or permanent impact of deviation on other	<p>Select the relevant area:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Project design</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Local stakeholder consultation</p>	

<p>aspects of the project?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr style="background-color: #00b0c0; 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<sub>2</sub>e</td> <td style="text-align: center;">XYZ tCO<sub>2</sub>e</td> </tr> </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 <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				
<p>Summary of the impact</p>	<p>The impact of this deviation is strictly confined to the 2020-2021 vintages. Furthermore, as a conservative measure, the Project Developer has opted not to claim any carbon credits (GSVERs) for these years, thereby effectively mitigating any potential risks</p>				

Insert text here

### 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 <a href="#">Deviations Request Requirements and Procedures</a> or request is submitted by the VVB.</i></p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" 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.

<p>VVB’s assessment of deviation request</p>	<p>The VVB confirms that the deviation is temporary and retrospective in nature. The VVB has verified that the Project Owner (PO) has voluntarily excluded the emission reductions for the 2020 and 2021 vintages from the current issuance request, ensuring no credits will be claimed for the period of non-compliance.</p>
<p>VVB’s assessment of impact of deviation request</p>	<p>The VVB considers the impact of the late submissions to be effectively mitigated. The potential risk is offset by the PO’s decision to opt out of credit issuance for 2020 and 2021. Furthermore, the implementation of a new internal tracking system provides reasonable assurance</p>

	that future reporting deadlines are met, thereby preventing recurring non-compliance.	
VVB recommendation	Based on the assessment above, the VVB considers the proposed resolution to be appropriate, conservative, and sufficient to rectify the identified non-compliance. The VVB recommends the approval of this deviation request.	
VVB details	VVB name:	China Classification Society Certification Co., Ltd. (CCSC)
	Auditor name(s):	Team leader: LI Xingtong Team Member: LI Qiuyan
	Email (s):	lixingtong@c.ccs.org.cn, liqiuyan@c.ccs.org.cn

**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