



**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-331
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 request is approved. The CME could claim the emission reduction from start of crediting period as the CME first submitted for crediting period renewal prior to start of crediting period in the form of merging the micro scale VPAs GS 7136, GS 7470, GS 7472 and GS 7474 into a single small scale VPA.

#### 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? <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)	
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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> :	Katienne Miranda
Email ID <sup>4</sup> :	katienne.miranda@co2balance.com
Organisation: <sup>5</sup> :	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PoA GSXXXX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VPA
GS ID	GSXXXX GSXXXX	GS 1247	GS 7136 GS 7470 GS 7472 GS 7474

Host country(ies)	Mozambique
Project Title	GS7136 - GS1247 VPA 163 Improved Kitchen Regimes Manica Province Safe Water (Mozambique) GS7470 - GS1247 VPA 198 Improved Kitchen Regimes Manica Province Safe Water (Mozambique) GS7472- GS1247 VPA 200Improved Kitchen Regimes Manica Province Safe Water (Mozambique) GS7474 - GS1247 VPA 202 Improved Kitchen Regimes Manica Province Safe Water (Mozambique)

<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

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Registry link <https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1414>  
(GS7136)  
<https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1844>  
(GS7470)  
<https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1846>  
(GS7472)  
<https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1848>  
(GS7474)

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Scale  Microscale (GS)  
 Small scale  
 Large scale  
 Other, if applicable please specify below  
*Insert text here*

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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>

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Applied version of Standard  GS4GG  
 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
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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  CDM  
 Other  
 Name of the Standard – Insert text here

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Applicable activity requirement  Renewable Energy Activity Requirements  
 Community Services Activity Requirements  
 Land-use and Forests Activity Requirements  
 Other  
*Insert name here*

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**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	Insert Text here
Status of the deviation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Under review

<p>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?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>Summary of the findings</b>  <i>The deviation is related to FAR raised: 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>The deviation request "DEVRQ-307" has been approved, as the DCR was ongoing till December 2025 and a verification review could not begin. PD has stated a physical site audit will occur in Q1 2026, when the Verification review begins.</p>
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## 6| Deviation detail

*To be completed by the entity requesting deviation (Project Developer/Coordinating and Managing Entity and/or VVB)*

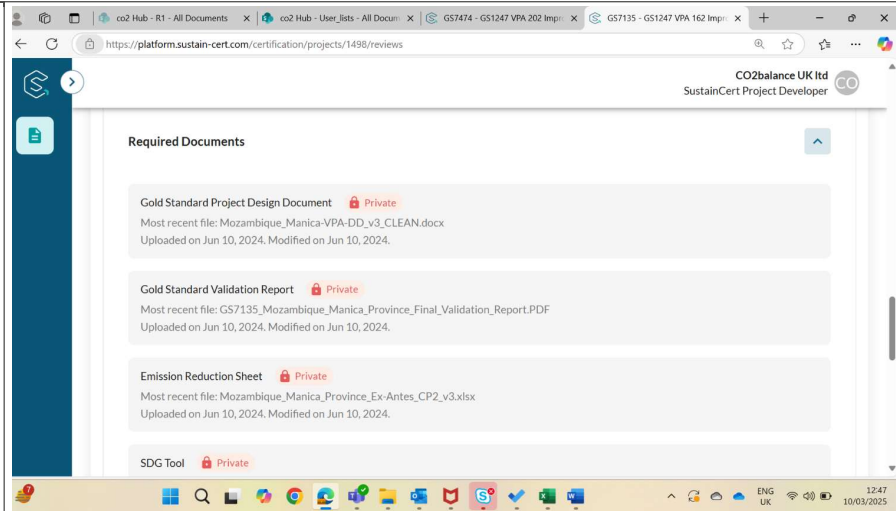
### 6.1 | Standard document reference

Standard document reference	Title	Principles & Requirements
	Version	v. 2.1
	Paragraph	5.1.46

### 6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Delay in the completion of re-validation beyond the last date of the first crediting period	
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)
	The Deviation request is to guarantee issuance for the first monitoring period in the second crediting period of the project, and it is not expected to impact following monitoring periods and related issuances.	
Relevant monitoring period, if applicable	Start date	29/08/2024 (GS7136) 10/06/2024 (GS7470) 14/06/2024 (GS7472) 18/09/2024 (GS7474)
	End date	31/12/2025
Summarise the changes	The PD requests a deviation from Section E 'Design Certification Renewal', Paragraph 5.1.46 of the GS4GG Principles and Requirements which was raised	

	<p>as a FAR during the ongoing Crediting Period Renewal for VPAS GS7136, GS7470, GS7472 and GS7474:</p> <p><b>"FAR#1:</b> <i>Delay in the completion of re-validation beyond the last date of current certification cycle shall result in a reduction of any issuance of Certified Products and/or Impact Statements available during following certification cycle (for example, a delay of 1 year beyond the first cycle shall mean that no Certified Impact Statements shall be issued for the period of delay). Thus the PD can claim realized ERs starting from 06/06/2025 in the second crediting period."</i></p> <p>As detailed in the <i>Reason for Deviation</i> section, the micro-scale VPAs were submitted for Crediting Period Renewal as a single small scale VPA project (GS7135) in the <b>10/06/2024</b>. This submission date should therefore be considered as the original submission date for all VPAs. Subsequent re-uploads of individual micro-scale VPAs were administrative in nature and arose from a review-driven revision to the project structure, rather than from a failure to submit on time.</p> <p>For this reason, the PD maintains that no delay occurred beyond 10/06/2024 in the submission of the Design Certification Renewal.</p> <p>On this basis, the PD proposes that the start of crediting for affected VPAs is determined as <b>the later of i) 10/06/2024 or ii) the CP2 start date for the relevant VPA</b>, as reported below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GS7136: 29/08/2024</li> <li>• GS7470: 10/06/2024</li> <li>• GS7472: 14/06/2024</li> <li>• GS7474: 18/09/2024</li> </ul> <p>No changes are proposed to project activities or monitoring processes. Furthermore, the administrative re-submissions linked to the deviation request have no material impacts on project operation, monitoring processes, or data integrity. Throughout the period concerned, regular monitoring surveys and data collection continued as planned, the operation and maintenance program continued, and 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>
Reason for deviation	<p>Due to the project transitioning to the Gold Standard methodology ERSDWS v1, the PD originally decided to implement a design change whereby the project would change from multiple microscale projects into a single small-scale project in time for the re-validation of the crediting period. Under this approach, the existing microscale VPAs merged into a single small-scale VPA (GS7135) – please refer to "Mozambique_Manica-VPA-DD_v3_CLEAN"-.</p> <p>The small-scale VPA (GS7135) was submitted for Crediting Period Renewal on the 10/06/2024, which encompassed the Design Change to merge the microscale VPAs. Please see screenshot below.</p>



During the early stages of review with SustainCert, comments were raised regarding the potential impact of the small-scale project’s (GS7135) start date on the expected operational lifetime of the wider CO2balance portfolio Small-Scale PoA (GS7591). Therefore, the PD decided to revise the structure of the project and revert to the original micro-scale VPAs. This revision required the technical re-submission of individual VPA-DDs on the GS platform, resulting in later upload timestamps for the micro-scales VPAs, despite the Design Certification Renewal process having been initiated on time for all VPAs on the SustainCert platform.

Discussions with SustainCert confirmed that the original submission date for GS7135 (10/06/2024) and related regular VPAs was to be considered valid. The PD has submitted the email exchange with SustainCert alongside this deviation as supporting evidence - [desk.zoho.com\\_agent\\_sustaincert\\_sustaincert\\_tickets\\_details\\_362036000087188664\\_thread\\_362036000087427508\\_action=print](mailto:desk.zoho.com_agent_sustaincert_sustaincert_tickets_details_362036000087188664_thread_362036000087427508_action=print).

Proposed resolution

The PD proposes that the start of crediting date of the following VPAs is as follows:

- GS7136: 29/08/2024
- GS7470: 10/06/2024
- GS7472: 14/06/2024
- GS7474: 18/09/2024

The start date for GS7470 start date aligns with the Design Certification Renewal’s original submission date, whilst the start dates for GS7136, GS7472 and GS7474 are aligned with their respective CP2 start dates. In all cases, the proposed start date of crediting reflects the later of the original submission date (10/06/2024) or the applicable CP2 start date.

The proposed deviation is consistent with the principle of conservativeness. The project is not seeking to extend its crediting period, increase issuance, or claim emission reductions beyond those it would ordinarily have been eligible to receive under a timely submission. Rather, the request seeks to allow the

	<p>project to credit in the period that would have been available in the absence of the administrative restructure during Design Certification Renewal, that led to a technical resubmission date.</p> <p>The proposed deviation does not affect project integrity. The PD has maintained continuity in the project monitoring activities and can provide evidence that no monitoring gaps occurred within the monitoring period and the transition period from CP1 to CP2. The following monitoring activities were carried out in the first MP of CP2, in accordance with the requirements of the applied methodology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Quality Tests conducted at the household level (Parameter Mq,y) took place in December 2024, and October 2025, with a pass rate of 91% and 100% respectively (Refer to documents titled '<i>December HHWQT 2024 Manica Province</i>' and '<i>October HHWQT 2025 Manica Province</i>')</li> <li>• Annual Monitoring Project Surveys took place in June and October 2025 to monitor the parameters for the SDGs claims.</li> <li>• Borehole Water Quality Tests took place quarterly ensuring that each community is still receiving safe drinking water and the maintenance of the borehole is continued.</li> <li>• Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) training and Follow up Visits took place at each community throughout the monitoring period, refer to document titled '<i>community visit summary</i>', and '<i>WASH+Logbook_Sample_Confidential_MP6</i>'</li> <li>• Water flow meters were installed on the project water points from April 2024 to January 2025 in accordance with parameter Qm,y of the applied methodology. Regular meters readings were taken on a quarterly basis.</li> </ul> <p>The evidence provided will be also submitted for the upcoming verification review, which will cover an MP that begins in 2024 (dependent on the VPAs CP2 start of crediting) until 31/12/2025.</p> <p>Given the evidence provided, the PD confirms that the project has operated continuously and in compliance with methodological requirements and requests for the VPAs to begin crediting from 10/06/2024 or the applicable CP2 start date (whichever is later) for their first verification under ERSDWS methodology.</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"> <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual emission reduction volume (<i>if yes, fill the table below</i>)</li> </ul>

	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation</th> <th>Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation</th> </tr> <tr> <td>32,749 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</td> <td>58,135 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</td> </tr> </table>	Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation	32,749 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	58,135 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation				
32,749 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	58,135 tCO <sub>2</sub> e				
	<input type="checkbox"/> any other matrix, please specify...				
Summary of the impact	<p>Above, PD has reported the Emissions Reduction volumes estimated; the volumes will be assessed in the upcoming verification review by the VVB. <b>Please note</b>, ERs are only increasing due to an increase in the crediting days for the first monitoring period in the second Crediting Period of the project as per the VPAs start of crediting date proposed in this deviation. It is not an annual increase in emission reductions, nor any change to the project baseline, monitoring parameters, or calculation methodology.</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 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. Email between SustainCert and CO2balance,  
desk.zoho.com\_agent\_sustaincert\_sustaincert\_tickets\_details\_36203600008718866  
4\_thread\_362036000087427508\_action=print

Document 2. community visit summary

Document 3. October HHWQT 2025 Manica Province, December HHWQT 2024  
Manica Province

Document 4. WASH+Logbook\_Sample\_Confidential\_MP6

Document 5. WQTs.zip

Document 6. Mozambique\_Manica-VPA-DD\_v3\_CLEAN

## 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