



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.

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4| Decision summary

To be completed by Gold Standard

4.1 | General information

DEVIATION REFERENCE NUMBER	DEVRQ-332
Date of decision	13/02/2026
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 request for deviation is approved with 8 months extension of the submission of Design Review request to Gold Standard. i.e., the CME must submit the request for Design review by 30/04/2026.

The CME should note that this is an exceptional approval provided and this shouldn't be treated as a precedent. No further extension on the same grounds shall be provided.

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

The project developer shall note that approval is provided only for delayed submission. The project shall comply with all other GS4GG requirements.

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

NA

4.2.4 | Directions for the Gold Standard, if applicable

NA

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
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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.

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

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 :	Amie Nevin
Email ID ⁴ :	amie.nevin@se.com
Organisation: ⁵ :	EcoAct SAS of Schneider Electric France (formerly EcoAct)
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 type="checkbox"/> PoA GSXXXX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VPA
GS ID	GSXXXX GSXXXX	GS XXXX GS XXXX	GS12218 GS XXXX
Host country(ies)	Republic of Uganda		
Project Title	GS11253 GS11790 Otuke Improved Cookstove Project		
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/4248		
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	<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>

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

date of latest status	07/09/2023	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy
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		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
	Summary of the findings <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	Principles and Requirements v2.1
	Version	V2.1
	Paragraph	5.1.16

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	One-time request for VAR submission window from listing date
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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)	
	One-off request for extension for VVB Validation report submission to GS			
Relevant monitoring period, if applicable	Start date	Dd/mm/yyyy		
	End date	Dd/mm/yyyy		
Summarise the changes	<p>GS12218 was successfully listed on 07/09/2023.</p> <p>Under <i>Gold Standard Principles & Requirements v2.1</i>, projects must complete validation—defined as the submission of the Validation Report by the VVB—within two years of listing (Section 5.1.16).</p> <p>VAR submission deadline: 07/09/2025</p> <p>VVB: Earthood Services Limited</p> <p>Current status: A minor Design Change to the PoA GS11253 is under Technical Review with the VVB (alignment with the digital SDG Tool, CME change following company acquisition, and removal of references to discontinued safe water methodology/VPAs). All other VPA validation review points are been closed.</p> <p>We respectfully request a one-time deviation to extend the validation deadline to allow completion of the PoA Design Change, enabling the submission of the Validation Report.</p> <p>Reason for delay:</p> <p>VVB Capacity Constraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The VVB significantly delayed starting the review, with initial feedback received more than three months after document submission despite the minor nature of amendments. The VVB’s new digital document platform experienced repeated upload failures and notification errors, further slowing progress. <p>Organisational Delays Following Acquisition of EcoAct by Schneider Electric</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal restructuring and adoption of new processes disrupted standard operating procedures. Changes in email systems and approvals slowed communication. Considerable time was required to brief the new Schneider Electric leadership and legal team on Gold Standard procedures and contracting frameworks, impacting timelines. <p><i>*The project was listed as a small-scale, but has been upscaled and going through VVB validation to be a large-scale.</i></p> <p>Refer to latest version of Deviation Request Requirements and Procedures for requirements and guidelines</p>			
Reason for deviation	PP has surpassed the 2-year window from the date of Listing to submit the Validation report for design review.			

<p>Proposed resolution</p>	<p>We remain fully committed to submitting the validation report as quickly as possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An emergency planning meeting was held with the VVB to establish a rapid action plan. • Earthood has assigned an enhanced review team to accelerate completion. 				
<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"> <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="464 913 1452 1070"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="464 913 954 1025">Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation</th> <th data-bbox="954 913 1452 1025">Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="464 1025 954 1070">66,142 tCO₂e (average)</td> <td data-bbox="954 1025 1452 1070">66,142 tCO₂e (average)</td> </tr> </tbody> </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	66,142 tCO ₂ e (average)	66,142 tCO ₂ e (average)
Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation				
66,142 tCO ₂ e (average)	66,142 tCO ₂ e (average)				
<p>Summary of the impact</p>	<p>No Effect on Environmental Integrity, Additionality, or Stakeholder Outcomes</p> <p>Environmental Integrity Remains Fully Intact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cookstoves have yet been distributed; implementation is still being prepared. • No crediting period has begun; therefore no emissions reductions are being claimed, and no unverified credit issuance is possible. • The baseline scenario remains unchanged and closely monitored by our partner, who has been active in the region for seven years and reports no shifts in cooking practices. • All baseline assumptions, usage patterns, and emission factors remain aligned with TPDDTEC v4.0. <p>Additionality Is Unaffected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project still relies fully on carbon revenue; no alternative financing sources have emerged. • The investor agreement, secured in late 2025 after extensive negotiation, stipulates required credit volumes in specific years. • Forcing a relisting would create a high risk of investor withdrawal, which would likely cause the project to collapse—demonstrating the continued necessity of carbon finance. <p>Stakeholder Integrity and Safeguarding Are Maintained</p>				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional stakeholder meetings in 2025 to support scaling from small-scale to large-scale received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with no new stakeholders or concerns identified. • The grievance mechanism remains active; recent calls express anticipation for the stoves and no concerns or complaints. • No new safeguarding risks have emerged (gender, labour, community safety, or environmental). • An ESIA consultant is already commissioned and undertaking fieldwork per Government of Uganda requirements, with strong initial assessments of partner capability and community engagement. <p>Regulatory Alignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first submission under Uganda’s Carbon Regulations has been made, and feedback is expected shortly. • Revising documents due to a forced relisting would hinder compliance and cause unnecessary duplication, particularly following election-related delays in government feedback. <p>Nature of the Delay</p> <p>The delay is administrative, not operational or environmental, and arises from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VVB system and capacity issues • Organisational restructuring at the CME • Our efforts to comply with emerging GS requirements (digital SDG Tool alignment, PoA consistency) <p>All project activities remain fully aligned with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Gold Standard Principles & Requirements</i> • <i>Clean Cooking Activity Requirements</i> • <i>TPDDTEC v4.0</i> <p>Approving this deviation will ensure Gold Standard receives a complete, high-quality Validation Report consistent with GS integrity principles.</p>
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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 Deviations Request Requirements and Procedures 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.
- 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"> - 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