



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-338
Date of decision	20/02/2026
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 since the justification provided was not found sufficient enough for an approval. The project developer shall claim the retroactive emission reduction for a duration of maximum 2 years from the project Design Certification date as per GS requirement:

"5.1.37 |The project may take into account retroactive period for performance Certification of Certified Impact Statement and /or Products. The maximum period for Retroactive Certification is two years prior to the date of Project Design Certification unless otherwise stated in a specific Methodology or Product Requirements".

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 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 :	Joao Farinho
Email ID ⁴ :	joao.farinho@climetrekk.com
Organisation: ⁵ :	ClimeTrek 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	GS12340 GSXXXX	GS XXXX GS XXXX	GS XXXX GS XXXX
Host country(ies)	Malawi		
Project Title	Malawi Improved Cookstove Project		
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/4497		
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	10/11/2023	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Reference number	DEV_555
Status of the deviation	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	<p>Summary of the findings</p> <p>CAR 4.4.1, Page 6 of the REVIEW FORM: DESIGN REVIEW – STANDALONE ACTIVITY</p> <p>1. The VVB shall request the PD to comply with the requirements outlined in FAR02, which were raised during the preliminary review. PD shall document the deviation request (DEV_555), its implications, and GS' decision in the appropriate section of the PDD.</p>

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	GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements
	Version	V3.2
	Paragraph	Sections 10.2 and 10.4

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	<i>Approval for the project crediting period to commence on 13 August 2022.</i>	
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)
	Insert Text here (if required) to support the selection	
Relevant monitoring period, if applicable	Start date	13/08/2022
	End date	07/03/2024
Summarise the changes	<p>The project commenced on 13 August 2022, when the first cookstoves were distributed to households. While the Baseline KPT was successfully conducted in early August 2022, other mandatory project activities were unavoidably delayed due to external events. In 2022, Malawi experienced a nationwide fuel crisis⁶, resulting in severe travel constraints that significantly restricted field operations and data collection. Subsequently, in March 2023, Cyclone Freddy⁷ caused widespread destruction across the country, further delaying implementation activities.</p> <p>As a result, the first Annual Usage Survey, Baseline Study, and Local Stakeholder Consultation Meetings were postponed and ultimately conducted in March, May, and July 2023, respectively. These delays were unavoidable and directly impacted the natural progression of the project timeline.</p> <p>The situation was further compounded by delays in the project listing process. Although the project listing request was submitted to SustainCert in August 2023, technical and platform-related issues prevented completion until November 2023, as documented in Deviation Request DEV_555. This delay directly affected subsequent milestones, including the Project KPT required for ex-post emission reduction calculations, which could only be conducted in March 2024. Following this, the Project Developer contracted the VVB, and after familiarisation with the project and coordination with the implementation partner, the VVB site visit was carried out in July 2024. By this stage, it was no longer possible to complete Design Certification within two years of the project start date, despite the Project Developer's best efforts.</p> <p>The Project Developer emphasises that all monitoring and methodological requirements for the monitoring period have been fully met. Specifically, the following activities were completed in accordance with the applied methodology Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC) v4.0: Baseline KPT, Baseline Survey, Local Stakeholder Consultation Meetings, Annual Usage Surveys, and Project KPT.</p>	

⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/aug/31/petrol-pumps-run-dry-across-malawi-as-fuel-import-problems-deepen>

⁷ <https://actionaid.org/stories/2023/cyclone-freddy-leaves-trail-destruction-malawi-everything-gone>

	<p>Furthermore, approval of this deviation will not result in over-crediting. Emission reductions have been calculated conservatively, as demonstrated by the treatment of the fNRB parameter. While the project originally applied an fNRB value of 86.3%, calculated in accordance with Tool 30 using UNData, IPCC, and FAO data, the Project Developer proactively adopted a more conservative approach following the publication of updated Gold Standard guidance on 24 April 2025. The project recalculated fNRB using the MoFuSS methodology, resulting in a substantially lower value of 52.1%. This approach was adopted voluntarily, despite the project remaining eligible to apply Tool 30 until 30 June, in order to ensure robustness and eliminate any risk of over-crediting.</p> <p>Considering the exceptional and well-documented circumstances outlined above, and noting that all methodological, monitoring, and conservativeness requirements have been fully satisfied, the Project Developer respectfully requests approval for the crediting period to commence on 13 August 2022, the original project start date.</p>
Reason for deviation	<p>A change to the crediting period start date would result in the loss of a substantial volume of credits, with material financial implications for the project.</p>
Proposed resolution	<p>The Project Developer emphasises that all monitoring and methodological requirements for the monitoring period have been fully met. Specifically, the following activities were completed in accordance with the applied methodology Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC) v4.0: Baseline KPT, Baseline Survey, Local Stakeholder Consultation Meetings, Annual Usage Surveys, and Project KPT.</p> <p>Furthermore, approval of this deviation will not result in over-crediting. Emission reductions have been calculated conservatively, as demonstrated by the treatment of the fNRB parameter. While the project originally applied an fNRB value of 86.3%, calculated in accordance with Tool 30 using UNData, IPCC, and FAO data, the Project Developer proactively adopted a more conservative approach following the publication of updated Gold Standard guidance on 24 April 2025. The project recalculated fNRB using the MoFuSS methodology, resulting in a substantially lower value of 52.1%. This approach was adopted voluntarily, despite the project remaining eligible to apply Tool 30 until 30 June, in order to ensure robustness and eliminate any risk of over-crediting.</p> <p>Acceptance of this deviation will not result in over-crediting, will not alter the monitoring or methodology requirements, and will not compromise the integrity of the project.</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"> <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"> <thead> <tr> <th>Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation</th> <th>Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>XYZ tCO_{2e}</td> <td>XYZ tCO_{2e}</td> </tr> </tbody> </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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> any other matrix, please specify... Although the deviation does not impact the annual emission reduction of the project, it does impact the total emission reduction for the current monitoring period, as the start of it would change for an earlier date.				
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.				

The deviation will have an impact on the total emission reductions for this monitoring period as, if accepted, the crediting period will commence in an earlier date (13 August 2022). That said, there is no danger of over crediting as the ER calculations were conservative.

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 checked="" 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	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. DEV_555

Document 2. PDD, both clean and track changes version

Document 3. MR, both clean and track changes version

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