

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

The Gold Standard Foundation
International Environment House 2
Chemin de Balxert 7-9
1219 Châtelaine Geneva, Switzerland
Tel +41 22 788 70 80
Email help@goldstandard.org

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-351
Date of decision	25/05/2026
Decision	☐ Approved [No precondition to apply the deviation decision] ☒ Conditionally approved [Decision is subject to compliance with the precondition defined below] ☐ Not approved [reason for rejection is provided in decision summary]

4.2 | Decision

4.2.1 | Decision Summary

The deviation request is conditionally approved as per guidance from the paragraph 3.3.2 of the "P&R: Requirements for Paris Agreement Alignment", Version 1.0. The CME shall complete their validation and submit to Design Certification Review using the PA aligned methodology Reduced emissions from cooking and heating (RECH) (formerly TPDDTEC) available at: https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/407_paa-m400-08_reduced-emission-from-cooking-and-heating/, the VPA GS12620 shall be required to complete validation within 6 months (i.e., 05/11/2026) from the date of publication of PA-Aligned methodology (05/05/2026).

The validation shall be conducted by an approved auditor for PAA methodology.

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	☐ Yes ☒ 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	☐ Yes ☒ No
Precedent details (if applicable to other activities)	

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 :	JAKOB ZENZ
Email ID ⁴ :	jakob@econetix.net
Organisation: ⁵ :	EcoNetix GmbH
Are you an authorized project participant as per the cover letter submitted for this activity?	☒ Yes ☐ No

5.3 | Background information

Type	☐ Project activity	☐ PoA GSXXXX	☒ VPA
GS ID	GSXXXX GSXXXX	GS XXXX GS XXXX	GS 12620 GS XXXX
Host country(ies)	DRC		
Project Title	GS12620 - Uplifting communities through clean energy in the DRC - VPA 2		
Registry link	https://assurance-platform.goldstandard.org/projects/GS12620		
Scale	☐ Microscale (GS) ☐ Small scale ☒ Large scale ☐ Other, if applicable please specify below <i>Insert text here</i>		
Certification Status and corresponding	☒ Listed	☐ Certified design	☐ Certified project ☐ 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	15/03/2024	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy
Applied version of Standard	☒ GS4GG ☐ Previous version of Gold Standard			
	Version no.			
	☐ 1.0	☐ 1.1	☒ 1.2	☐ 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	☐ CDM ☐ Other Name of the Standard – Insert text here		
Applicable activity requirement	☐ Renewable Energy Activity Requirements ☒ Community Services Activity Requirements ☐ Land-use and Forests Activity Requirements ☐ Other Insert name here			

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.			☐ Yes ☒ No
Reference number	Insert Text here		
Status of the deviation	☐ Approved	☐ Rejected	☐ 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?	☐ Yes ☐ No Summary of the findings Summary of the CL, CAR, FAR not more than 200 words. Include reference to document, page number		

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	5.1.1, (b) Projects may then seek Gold Standard Certified Design status by successfully completing Validation (within two years of the date of Listing) and a subsequent Design Review.
	Version	CORE DOCUMENT- PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS, Version number V2.1
	Paragraph	Para 5.1.1 , b

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	As per Gold Standard guidelines, projects must achieve Certified Design status by successfully completing validation within two years from the date of listing, followed by a Design Review. Due to financial constraints, the cookstove VPA has not yet been implemented, although it was listed on the Gold Standard platform during SustainCert tenure. In addition, the project is located in DRC conflict-affected areas, where access constraints and security considerations have delayed baseline survey activities, further extending the timeline. We have only recently initiated the VVB contracting process, and given these constraints, the validation deadline of 15 March 2026 cannot be met. Therefore, additional buffer time is required to complete baseline surveys, validation, and submission for Gold Standard Design Review.	
Confirm the nature of changes related to deviation	☒ Temporary (e.g. not expected to occur beyond one monitoring period)	☐ 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	Dd/mm/yyyy
	End date	Dd/mm/yyyy
Summarise the changes	The Project Proponent requests a deviation from the Gold Standard requirement that a project must successfully complete Validation within two years from the date of listing, followed by a Design Review, in order to obtain Gold Standard Certified Design status. The cookstove VPA was listed on the Gold Standard platform; however, due to financial constraints and the project's implementation in conflict-affected regions of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), project implementation and the validation process could not be initiated within the originally anticipated timeframe. Security constraints and limited field access in these regions have delayed the completion of baseline survey activities, which are a prerequisite for validation. As a result, the project is unable to complete validation by the prescribed deadline of 15 March 2026, as required under the applicable Gold Standard rules. The deviation requested is limited to an extension of the validation timeline beyond the two-year listing requirement, to allow sufficient time to complete baseline surveys, validation, and submission for Design Review.	
Reason for deviation	The delay in completing validation is primarily due to financial constraints, which affected the Project Proponent's ability to initiate project implementation and engage a Validation and Verification Body (VVB) within the required timeframe. In addition, the project is located in DRC conflict-affected regions, where access limitations, security risks, and logistical challenges have significantly extended the time required to conduct baseline surveys and other field-based preparatory activities essential for validation.	

	Only recently has the Project Proponent been able to initiate the VVB contracting process. Given the remaining time until the listing-based deadline, it is not feasible to complete validation and submit the project for Design Review by 15 March 2026. The delay is administrative, financial, and contextual in nature and does not impact the project's technical design, additionality, or expected emission reductions.						
Proposed resolution	The Project Proponent requests an extension of time to complete validation and submit the project for Gold Standard Design Review. During the extended period, the Project Proponent commits to: • Finalizing the contract with the VVB; • Completing baseline survey activities once field access permits; and • Completing validation in full compliance with all applicable Gold Standard requirements. No alternative monitoring arrangements are proposed, as the deviation relates solely to the timeline for achieving Certified Design status and does not affect monitoring, implementation, or crediting requirements.						
Is there any potential temporary or permanent impact of deviation on other aspects of the project?	Select the relevant area: ☐ Project design ☐ Local stakeholder consultation ☐ Safeguarding principles ☐ SDG assessment ☐ Regulatory compliance ☐ Additionality ☐ Applicability of methodology ☐ 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 tCO₂e</td><td>XYZ tCO₂e</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> ☐ any other matrix, please specify...	Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation	XYZ tCO ₂ e	XYZ tCO ₂ e		
Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation						
XYZ tCO ₂ e	XYZ tCO ₂ e						
Summary of the impact	The requested deviation only affects the validation timeline, which has been extended due to financial constraints and implementation challenges in conflict-affected regions of the DRC, including delays in conducting baseline surveys. It has no impact on project design, methodology, emission reductions, or SDG contributions. No retroactive crediting or changes to monitoring, reporting, or verification arrangements are proposed, and the environmental integrity, accuracy, and conservativeness of the project are fully maintained.						
Insert text here							

6.3 | VVB information

Is a VVB opinion on the deviation request required?	Yes ☐ No ☒
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VVB opinion shall be included, where required by the requirements under Deviations Request Requirements and Procedures or request is submitted by the VVB.	If answer is yes, fill the information in section 6.4 below.
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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 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: - 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