



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

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

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.

Table of Content

1 General Guidelines.....	2
1.1 Applicability.....	2
2 Submission of deviation form	2
3 Implementation of deviation decision	2
4 Decision summary	4
4.1 General information.....	4
4.2 Decision.....	4
4.3 Applicability to other activities	5
5 Deviation Request Details.....	6
5.1 Submitted by.....	6
5.2 Details of the entity and its representative submitting the form	6
5.3 Background information.....	6
5.4 Project deviation history	7
6 Deviation detail	8
6.1 Standard document reference.....	8
6.2 Description of the deviation.....	8
6.3 VVB information.....	10
6.4 VVB’s assessment	10
6.5 Documents:	10

4| Decision summary

To be completed by Gold Standard

4.1 | General information

DEVIATION REFERENCE NUMBER	DEVRQ-352
Date of decision	25/02/2026
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 deviation request is approved. The CME is allowed to extend the second monitoring sequence until 31/12/2025 as long as the monitoring survey covers whole period up to 31/12/2025 and the proposed conservative approaches are applied.

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

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.

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 :	Alexia Timmermans
Email ID ⁴ :	a.timmermans@southpole.com
Organisation: ⁵ :	South Pole (CO2logic)
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	GS6008 GS6998 GS7112
Host country(ies)	Benin		
Project Title	GS2489 – Efficient cookstoves in Benin and Togo – VPA2 – EcoBénin – Wanrou efficient cookstoves in Atacora/Donga region GS2489 Efficient cookstoves in Benin and Togo – VPA3 – EcoBenin – Women, Soils and Energy GS2489 Efficient cookstoves in Benin and Togo – VPA4 – EcoBenin – Women, Soils and Energy		
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1048 https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1539 https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1540		

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

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	<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>	VPA 2: 21/05/2018 VPA 3: 23/08/2019 VPA 4: 24/03/2022	<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>
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		<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>	
	From another standard to GS4GG		<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>	
	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	The Gold Standard Simplified Methodology for Clean and Efficient Cookstoves
	Version	V1.0
	Paragraph	C

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Adaptation of monitoring survey requirements	
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	VPA 2: 08/11/2023 VPA 3&4: 01/10/2023
	End date	VPA 2: 31/12/2025 VPA 3&4: 31/12/2025
Summarise the changes	<p>The PD is planning the verifications for 3 VPA's with the following Monitoring Periods: VPA 2: 08/11/2023- 31/12/2025 VPA 3 and 4: 1/10/2023 – 31/12/2025</p> <p>For the monitoring period of these 3 VPAs, we would like to separate them into two monitoring sequences.</p> <p>VPA 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1st sequence: 08/11/2023-07/11/2024 (MS already done) - 2nd sequence: 08/11/2024 – 31/12/2025 <p>VPA 3 and 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1st sequence: 1/10/2023-30/09/2024 (MS already done) - 2nd sequence: 1/10/2024 – 31/12/2025 <p>To align the project closure with the calendar year-end, the PD intends to extend the second monitoring sequence through December 31st 2025, rather than concluding it exactly one year after the sequence began. As the monitoring survey for this second period is still pending, we are seeking a formal deviation to accommodate this adjusted timeline.</p>	
Reason for deviation	<p>This request is driven by upcoming methodology updates, which mandate that all projects undergo a design change and adapt fNRB values effective January 1st 2026. By extending the current monitoring period to December 31st 2025, the PD aims to synchronize the project's transition so that the subsequent</p>	

	<p>monitoring period begins on January 1st 2026, in full alignment with the new requirements and methodology versions. Under standard monitoring requirements, capturing the final months of 2025 (specifically for VPA 2, 3, and 4) would typically necessitate separate monitoring surveys to claim credits for those short intervals. To optimize operational efficiency and avoid the administrative burden of conducting additional, standalone surveys for these brief windows, the PD is seeking a deviation. This will allow the credits for the entire second sequence to be verified under a single, consolidated monitoring effort ending on December 31, 2025.</p>						
<p>Proposed resolution</p>	<p>The Project Developer (PD) proposes generating a random sample for the second monitoring survey using the full database extending through December 31, 2025. The usage and discount factors derived from this survey will then be applied to the entire second sequence (beginning November 2024). The PD considers this a highly conservative approach for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By extending the period to the end of 2025, a larger proportion of cookstoves will transition into older age categories prior to sampling. • Older age groups exhibit lower usage factors. Applying the results from a later, more mature sample across the entire period ensures that usage is not overestimated, thereby maintaining the integrity of the emission reduction claims. • This approach captures the natural decline in efficiency and usage over time, resulting in a more accurate—and likely more conservative—calculation of credits than if the survey were conducted earlier. 						
<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" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>XYZ tCO₂e</td> <td>XYZ tCO₂e</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </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	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						
<p>Summary of the impact</p>	<p>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.</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 Deviations Request Requirements and Procedures or request is submitted by the VVB.</i></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>If answer is yes, fill the information in section 6.4 below.</i></p>
---	---

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