



Gold Standard[®]
for the Global Goals

FORM

FORM - DEVIATION REQUEST SUBMISSION

PUBLICATION DATE: 12/11/2024

VERSION: 6.0

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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-364
Date of decision	13/03/2026
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 is approved.

The CME shall comply with the requirements stated in Annex B – Conflict and Emergency Zones of the latest [Gold Standard Principles and Requirements](#).

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

The CME shall ensure that the Objective Observer (OO) has been selected for the on-site audit as required by para 2.1.2 of the Annex B of Principles and Requirements version 2.1 and have conducted the audit under the guidance of a GS approved VVB. The CME will be responsible for contracting and covering the costs of the Objective Observer. The relationship between and among the CME, the Objective Observer and Gold Standard shall be established in a Memorandum of Understanding that must be signed by all parties. The CME shall document the deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision in the appropriate section of the GS Monitoring Report (for the relevant MP).

Note – 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 developer. The CME shall comply with all other applicable standard requirements unless specifically mentioned in the deviation decision.

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

The VVB shall provide a checklist to the selected Objective Observer before the site visit, to assist the Objective Observer in assessing the relevant aspects related to the Project's Verification. The checklist must be limited to issues that the VVB thinks would be necessary to check on-site to form the Verification opinion.

The verifying VVB shall ensure the following:

- The Objective observer (OO) is selected to conduct the assessment as per the checklist provided.

- The site visit conducted by the OO during the verification shall confirm the status of the project operation and the mitigation plans in place to tackle the negative impacts of the project.
- Assess and demonstrate how the selected OO has prior experience working in conflict zones/areas that pose a high risk to life and/or health. The VVB shall also demonstrate OO’s involvement in other activities within the project’s geographical area.

The verifying VVB shall, through appropriate means at its disposal, evaluate the Project’s compliance with the above-mentioned conditions and provides its opinion in the Verification Report.

4.2.4 | Directions for the Gold Standard, if applicable

The assurance team shall review both the CME’s response and the VVB’s assessment/opinion of the same and take appropriate steps.

4.3 | Applicability to other activities

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

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 :	CO2Logic (a South Pole company)
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	- GS11070 (VPA-25) - GS11071 (VPA-26) - GS11072 (VPA-27) - GS11073 (VPA-28) - GS12037(VPA-50) - GS12038 (VPA-51) - GS12039 (VPA-52)
Host country(ies)	Burkina Faso		
Project Title	- GS1340 Efficient cookstoves in Burkina Faso - VPA-25 - Solidagro F3PA cookstoves in Passoré (GS 11070)		

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

- GS1340 Efficient cookstoves in Burkina Faso - VPA-26 - Solidagro F3PA cookstoves in Passoré (GS 11071)
- GS1340 Efficient cookstoves in Burkina Faso - VPA-27 - Solidagro F3PA cookstoves in Passoré (GS 11072)
- GS1340 Efficient cookstoves in Burkina Faso - VPA-28 - Solidagro F3PA cookstoves in Passoré (GS 11073)
- GS1340 Efficient cookstoves in Burkina Faso - Solidagro F3PA cookstoves in Passoré - VPA 50 (GS 12037)
- GS1340 Efficient cookstoves in Burkina Faso - Solidagro F3PA cookstoves in Passoré - VPA 51 (GS 12038)
- GS1340 Efficient cookstoves in Burkina Faso - Solidagro F3PA cookstoves in Passoré - VPA 52 (GS 12039)

Registry link <https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3463>
<https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3058>
<https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3059>
<https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3060>
<https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3998>
<https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3999>
<https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/4000>

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

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>14/07/2022 (GS 11070- GS 11073)</i> <i>09/11/2023 (GS12037 -GS 12039)</i>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Reference number	DEVRQ-202		
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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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	Annex B of Principles and Requirements
	Version	V2.1
	Paragraph	2.1.2

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	<i>Request of OO site visit due to unsafety reasons, conflict zone.</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	01/01/2025	
	End date	31/12/2025	
Summarise the changes	As per Principles and Requirements v2.0, para 5.1.26: "Verification includes a site visit by a VVB who assess the following against all Gold Standard Requirements including applicable Activity Requirements, Gold Standard Methodology and Product Requirements: - The Monitoring Report		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All supporting evidence and documents included by the Project Developer to demonstrate conformity <p>A site visit with an Objective Observer took place in October 2025, so at first sight a site visit would not be necessary. However, clause 3.1.1. of 'Site visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures – V2.0' states "At minimum, the VVB shall conduct a physical site visit within 2 years of the project start date". In this context, the project start date is defined as the date of installation of the first cookstove under the VPA. The relevant start date is the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VPA 52: 10/01/2025 <p>This will be the first verification for this VPA, which means a site visit is necessary.</p> <p>However, the site visit is not feasible due to safety issues that occurred in 2024, 2025 and 2026, like terroristic attacks. The VVB site visit will be substituted with local OO site visit, as per annex B para 2.1.2 of Principles and Requirements.</p> <p>Refer to latest version of Deviation Request Requirements and Procedures for requirements and guidelines.</p>				
Reason for deviation	Safety problems				
Proposed resolution	<p>We would like to opt for a site visit conducted by an objective observer instead of the VVB, as per annex B para 2.1.2 of Principles and Requirements.</p> <p>If the deviation request is approved, we will suggest suited profiles as candidates for being the objective observer for this monitoring period. Their CVs will be sent alongside that request.</p> <p>Document 1. Burkina Faso Aclred Data report https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/ where all the dangerous events occurred during 2024 and 2025 have been listed.</p> <p>Document 2. https://edition.cnn.com/2024/10/04/africa/burkina-faso-massacre-600-dead-french-intel-intl/index.html</p> <p>Document 3. https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c77x45y130lo</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 checked="" 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="472 1825 1441 1989"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="472 1825 951 1944">Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation</th> <th data-bbox="951 1825 1441 1944">Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="472 1944 951 1989">XYZ tCO₂e</td> <td data-bbox="951 1944 1441 1989">XYZ tCO₂e</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				

Summary of the impact	<i>No impact results on the project and/or its design. The results of the project in terms of SDGs will be assessed by OO site visit rather than VVB site visit.</i>
Insert text here	

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. Burkina Faso Aclcd Data report <https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/> where all the dangerous events occurred during 2024 and 2025 have been listed.

Document 2. <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/10/04/africa/burkina-faso-massacre-600-dead-french-intel-intl/index.html>

Document 3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c77x45y130lo>.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgj871wej3lo>

Document 4. Copy of email of contracted VVB about no-intention to have a site visit due to unsafety reasons.

“Mail VVB_Appointment of Objective Observer_ GS.VER.26.015.pdf”



Alexia Timmermans <a.timmermans@southpole.com>

Appointment of Objective Observer: GS.VER.26.015 (GS1340)

1 message

shifali guleria <shifali.guleria@earthood.in>

Fri, Mar 6, 2026 at 2:17 PM

To: Alexia Timmermans <a.timmermans@southpole.com>

Cc: Neharika Chandanani <neharika.chandanani@earthood.in>, Carlotta Zini <c.zini@southpole.com>

Dear Alexia,

We would like to confirm assessment team's inability to visit Burkina Faso because of safety concerns.

We request you to kindly explore the option of appointing Objective Observer for supporting the site visit. Please let us know in case you need any additional information from VVB's end.

Kind regards,

Shifali Guleria

General Manager – Climate Change



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8800117887



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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