



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-369
Date of decision	25/03/2026
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 request for 3-month extension of the VVB site visit requirement is approved considering the situation of the host country.

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

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.

Precedent details (if applicable to other activities)

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 :	Rohit Lohia
Email ID ⁴ :	rohit.lohia@climate-secure.com
Organisation: ⁵ :	Climate Secure
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PoA GSXXXX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VPA
GS ID		GS 10833	GS 11488
Host country(ies)	Republic of Bangladesh		
Project Title	PoA(GS 10833): Improved Cooking Stoves in Bangladesh VPA(GS 11488): Improved Cooking Stoves in Bangladesh – CPA No.20 "SZ Consultancy Services Ltd."		
Registry link	PoA: GS 10833: https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/2822 VPA: GS 11488: https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3641		
Scale	<input type="checkbox"/> Microscale (GS) <input checked="" 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>		
	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy	28/09/2023
Applied version of Standard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GS4GG		Version no.

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

	<input type="checkbox"/> Previous version of Gold Standard	<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 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Reference number	DEV_694
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	Site Visit and remote audit requirements and procedures
	Version	2.0
	Paragraph	3.3.1 and 3.1.2

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Request for extension of physical site visit requirement Due to Security and Travel Restrictions in Bangladesh	
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)
	Deviation sought due to current safety / travel risk situation in the host country	
Relevant monitoring period, if applicable	Start date	01/01/2023
	End date	31/12/2023
Summarise the changes	Extension to the deadline of mandatory physical site visit date, due to the exceptional circumstances outlined below.	
Reason for deviation	SZ Consultancy Services Ltd. (SZCSL), the CME of the PoA (GS 10833) and the VPA (GS 11488), intends to undertake the verification for MP3 (01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023).	

As per Section 3.3.1 and 3.1.2 of the Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures dated 30/05/2023, a physical site must be conducted within three years of the previous physical site visit. The last physical site visit was conducted by the VVB during the verification of MP2 (1 Jan 2022 to 31 Dec 2022) on 08/04/2023. Accordingly, the next physical site visit is due on 07/04/2026, and therefore VVB is required to conduct a physical on-site audit visit before the deadline.

The prevailing security situation in Bangladesh has not been considered safe for physical travel since 2024 and continues to remain so to date. Following the violent regime change in Aug 2024, the overall security situation in Bangladesh had deteriorated. Several incidents, including the deaths of political leaders, triggered widespread protests and violent unrest across the country.

Link 1:	https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c623rzzenmyo
Link 2:	https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/world/days-after-osman-hadis-killing-another-bangladesh-student-leader-shot-in-head/ar-AA1SO1GK?ocid=BingNewsSerp

In addition, multiple incidents of mob violence were reported across Bangladesh, posing serious security risks to foreign nationals. Several reports highlights incidents of lynching, targeted attacks, and violence linked to political and social unrest.

Link 3:	https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/bangladesh-hindu-man-dipu-chandra-das-lynching-shocking-details-colleagues-handed-him-over-to-islamists-2839729-2025-12-22
Link 4:	https://news.abplive.com/news/world/bangladesh-women-attacked-for-not-wearing-hijab-after-osman-hadi-s-killing-1817583

Furthermore, the U.S. Government issued a travel Advisory on 18 April 2025, classified Bangladesh under Level 4: Do Not Travel due to ongoing civil unrest, crime, terrorism, and security risks. Reissued on 20 Jan 2026, classified Bangladesh under Level 3: Reconsider Travel.

Similarly, the UK government’s travel advisory advises against all but essential travel to parts of Bangladesh.

Link 5:	Bangladesh Travel Advisory
Link 6:	Safety and security - Bangladesh travel advice - GOV.UK

Also, Government of India issued a Travel Advisory on 04/08/2024, after the regime change, strongly advising Indian nationals against travelling to Bangladesh until further notice. The advisory further instructs Indian nationals currently in Bangladesh to exercise extreme caution, restrict movement, and remain in close contact with the High Commission of India in Dhaka. As at date, the advisory still remains valid, as listed below:

Link_7:	https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/38095/Advisory_for_Bangladesh
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Furthermore, due to unforeseen circumstances, all consular services and visa issuance at the Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi were suspended for a period, which made it impossible to arrange travel during that time.

Link 8:	https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/26qzwjowg7
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Given the continued political uncertainty, and the temporary suspension of visa services, CME was unable to host VVB physically and conduct verification for the VPA.

More recently, after the national elections in feb 2026, a new government has been established, and it resumed visa services. The overall situation still remains highly unpredictable, and public events or political developments may escalate into violence, including incidents of arson, vandalism, and clashes in towns and cities, potentially resulting in injuries or fatalities.

Proposed resolution	<p>Considering the active travel advisory as stated above and the unstable security environment, conducting a physical site visit before the due date is not feasible and poses significant safety and security risk.</p> <p>Therefore, CME hereby seeks a 3-month extension to allow sufficient time for planning and arranging for the verification audit site visit in line with GS4GG Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures ver 2.0, dated 30/05/2023.</p>
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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" style="width: 100%; background-color: #00a6c9; color: white;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation</td> </tr> </table>	Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation
Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation		

	XYZ tCO ₂ e	XYZ tCO ₂ e
	<input type="checkbox"/> any other matrix, please specify...	
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.	

This deviation will have no impact on the aspects of the PoA/VPAs listed above, as it involves merely conducting verification audit site visit remotely.

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 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	
VVB’s assessment of impact of deviation request	
VVB recommendation	
VVB details	VVB name:
	Auditor name(s):
	Email (s):

6.5 | Documents:

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