



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	DEVREQ-373
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 is approved given that after the physical site visit in Aug 2022, the VVB conducted 2 remote verifications and confirmed that the project continued to operate in line with the approved monitoring plan and that the monitoring system remained functional.

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

The project developer 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 project developer. The project developer shall comply with all other applicable standard requirements until unless specifically mentioned in the deviation decision. The project developer 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 project developer 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 :	Sanjith Kakkat
Email ID ⁴ :	sanjith.kakkat@agasco.com
Organisation: ⁵ :	Agasco Limited
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	GS10888 GSXXXX	GS XXXX GS XXXX	GS XXXX GS XXXX
Host country(ies)	Vietnam		
Project Title	Methane Recovery And Biogas Utilization Project Yen Bai Province, Vietnam		
Registry link	GSF Registry		
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Listed	<input type="checkbox"/> Certified design	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified project <input type="checkbox"/> Other

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	<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>	<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>	20/03/2025	<i>If other, specify here</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2.1
Transition date, if applicable	From previous GS version to GS4GG		<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>	
	From another standard to GS4GG		28/06/2021	
Name of another standard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CDM			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Name of the Standard – Insert text here			
Applicable activity requirement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy Activity Requirements <input 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	COVID_DEV 170
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, and Applicability of Minimum Site Visit Requirements by VVB
	Version	v2.0, N/A respectively
	Paragraph	Para 3.1.2, (2.1.1.A, 2.2.3) respectively

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Delay in mandatory follow-up physical site visit due to prolonged adverse weather and access constraints	
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	14/03/2024
	End date	20/12/2025
Summarise the changes	<p>The last physical site visit for Project the project "GS10888- Methane Recovery And Biogas Utilization Project Yen Bai Province, Vietnam" was conducted on 04-08-2022. In accordance with Gold Standard requirements (Paragraph 3.1.2 of Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures – V2.0) a follow-up physical site visit was required to be completed by 03-08-2025. Following the 2022 physical site visit, the VVB conducted two remote audits on 18-08-2023 and 08-08-2024 to ensure continued project implementation and monitoring procedures.</p> <p>During the monitoring period in 2025, Yen Bai province experienced multiple episodes of heavy rain, flooding and slope instability that adversely impacted physical access and travel conditions. In May, June 2025, heavy rains in Yen Bai led to flooding, landslides, and temporary disruption of National Highway 70 and local roads, affecting transportation and access to affected areas (see section 6.5.1.Document 2 d). Also, storm conditions in northern Vietnam, including Yen Bai, posed a high risk of flash floods and landslides around June–July 2025, with government advisories and heavy-rain warnings issued for the region, indicating serious transport and access risk during the critical site visit scheduling period(see section 6.5.1.Document 2 f). Official disaster reports recorded landslides and infrastructure damage in Yen Bai province following heavy rain in June-2025, including the collapse of approximately 60 m of provincial road sections (see section 6.5.1.Document 2 e). Similar adverse conditions continued intermittently into September, November-2025. Government directives were issued for urgent response to flash floods and landslides in northern mountainous provinces, reflecting widespread impacts of heavy rainfall and transport disruptions during the period (see section 6.5.1.Document 2 g.). Access to the project site requires coordinated multi-stage travel arrangements(air+road) and advance confirmation of safe road accessibility.Due to the recurring and uncertain weather conditions during the scheduling window prior to the 03-08-2025 deadline, safe and reliable physical access to the project site (Yen Binh Tapioca Starch Processing Factory, Yen Bai Province) could not be ensured for planning and conducting the mandatory follow-up physical visit.</p> <p>According to "Applicability of minimum Site Visit Requirements by VVB", para 2.1.1.A, Force-Majeure, an event beyond the control of the project</p>	

	<p>developer and not involving the developer’s fault or negligence and not foreseeable, may result in non-compliance with site visit requirements. And as per para 2.2.3, Follow-up site visits – In case follow-up site visits are not conducted within three years after the previous site visit, and the delays were due to: i. Force Majeure, the VVB shall submit a request for deviation to Gold Standard.</p> <p>Now that weather conditions have stabilized and safe access has been re-established, the next physical site visit is planned from 16-March-2026 onwards as part of the current verification.</p>
<p>Reason for deviation</p>	<p>Following the previous physical site visit, two continuous verifications were conducted remotely in accordance with GS requirements. A physical follow-up site visit was planned to be conducted within the required three-year timeframe (03-08-2025) after the last physical site visit.</p> <p>The delay was attributable to prolonged adverse weather conditions in multiple project provinces including Yen Bai Province during the period immediately preceding the site visit deadline. These conditions affected transportation infrastructure and travel arrangements for the site visit.</p> <p>The deviation was not caused by any changes to the project design, operational status, monitoring systems, applied methodology, or emission reduction calculation approach. Throughout the entire monitoring period (14-03-2024 to 20-12-2025), continuous monitoring systems, including SCADA-based automated data logging and calibrated biogas flow meters, remained fully operational and subject to routine internal oversight.</p> <p>Now that site access has been restored, a physical on-site visit can be conducted as part of the current verification. In line with paragraph 2.2.3 of the Applicability of Minimum Site Visit Requirements by VVB, this deviation request is submitted due to the delay caused by force majeure circumstances preventing the timely completion of the follow-up site visit.</p>
<p>Proposed resolution</p>	<p>A physical follow-up site visit has been scheduled from 16-March-2026 onwards as part of the verification and issuance for the planned monitoring period (14-03-2024 to 20-12-2025), thereby restoring compliance with the minimum site visit requirement.</p> <p>No changes were made to the project design, monitoring equipment, applied methodology, or emission reduction calculation approach during the monitoring period. Monitoring procedures continued to be implemented in accordance with the approved Monitoring Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the environmental integrity and credibility of the reported emission reductions remain unaffected.</p> <p>Agasco respectfully requests approval of the deviation for the delay in conducting the mandatory physical site visit.</p>

<p>Is there any potential temporary or permanent impact of deviation on other aspects of the project?</p>	<p>No potential temporary or permanent impact to the beneficiaries of project.</p> <p>Select the relevant area:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Project design</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Local stakeholder consultation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding principles</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SDG assessment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory compliance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additionality</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Applicability of methodology</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Annual emission reduction volume <i>(if yes, fill the table below)</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="475 698 1439 817"> <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> <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 _{2e}	XYZ tCO _{2e}
Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation				
XYZ tCO _{2e}	XYZ tCO _{2e}				
<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>				

The deviation relates to the timing of the mandatory follow-up physical site visit and does not affect the technical implementation of the project. There is no temporary or permanent impact on:

- Project design
- Monitoring plan implementation
- Data collection procedures
- Emission reduction calculation

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <i>If answer is yes, fill the information in section 6.4 below.</i></p>
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6.4 | VVB's assessment

The below information is to be completed by VVB, if applicable.

<p>VVB's assessment of deviation request</p>	<p>The deviation request relates to the delay in conducting the follow-up physical site visit required within three years of the previous site visit. The previous physical site visit for the project was conducted on 04 August</p>
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	<p>2022, and therefore the next site visit was required to be conducted by 03 August 2025 in accordance with the Gold Standard Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures (V2.0)</p> <p>The deviation is applicable in line with para 2.2.3 - Follow-up site visits – In case follow-up site visits are not conducted within three years after the previous site visit, and the delays were due to: i. Force Majeure, the VVB shall submit a request for deviation to Gold Standard.</p>
<p>VVB’s assessment of impact of deviation request</p>	<p>The delay in conducting the site visit occurred due to severe and recurring weather events in Yen Bai Province, Vietnam. Publicly available information (listed in section 6.5 of this form) indicates that Yen Bai Province experienced several episodes of heavy rainfall, flooding, and landslides during 2025, which resulted in disruption to transportation routes and road infrastructure in the region. Reports indicate that sections of National Highway 70 and provincial roads were temporarily affected by flooding and slope instability, while government advisories were issued warning of heightened risks of flash floods and landslides across northern mountainous provinces of Vietnam.</p> <p>Following the last physical site visit conducted in August 2022, two subsequent verifications were conducted remotely in August 2023 (18/08/2023 – MP 2) and August 2024 (08/08/2024 – MP3) by Earthood, during which the operational status of the project, monitoring procedures, and availability of monitoring data were reviewed and confirmed to be in accordance with the approved monitoring plan and project documentation. Based on the review of the monitoring report, the project activity continues to operate as described in the registered documentation, involving methane recovery</p>

from wastewater treatment and utilization of the recovered biogas for thermal energy generation. No changes to the project design, applied methodology, monitoring plan, or technology have been reported during the monitoring period.

The monitoring system remains operational and includes automated data logging through SCADA systems and continuous monitoring of key parameters such as wastewater flow, COD levels, biogas generation, methane content, and energy production. Monitoring equipment such as flow meters and gas analyzers are calibrated in accordance with manufacturer specifications. All relevant records, including calibration certificates, monitoring logs, and supporting documentation, will be reviewed by the assessment team as part of the current verification and the planned physical site visit.

Impact of the Deviation

- i. Considering that the project implementation, monitoring systems, and data management procedures remained unchanged and operational throughout the monitoring period, the delay in conducting the physical site visit does not have any impact on the implementation of the project activity, monitoring procedures, applied technology, or the accuracy of the emission reduction calculations. The project continues to operate as described in the registered documentation, involving methane recovery from wastewater treatment and utilization of the recovered biogas for thermal energy generation, with no reported modifications to the installed equipment, operational configuration, or
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	<p>applied methodologies during the monitoring period.</p> <p>ii. The monitoring system implemented for the project relies on automated measurement and data acquisition systems, including SCADA-based data logging, which continuously records key parameters such as wastewater flow, COD concentrations, biogas generation, methane content, and thermal energy production. These parameters are measured using calibrated instrumentation and are subject to internal quality control procedures as defined in the project’s Operation, Maintenance and Monitoring (OMM) procedures. As such, the monitoring and data recording processes are not dependent on the timing of the physical site visit and continue to function consistently regardless of the delay.</p> <p>iii. Furthermore, the monitoring report indicates that all critical monitoring equipment, including flow meters, thermocouples, and gas analyzers, have been maintained and calibrated in accordance with manufacturer specifications and established monitoring procedures. Calibration and maintenance records are available and will be reviewed by the assessment team during the current verification and the planned on-site assessment. This ensures that the monitored data used for emission reduction calculations remains accurate and reliable</p> <p>iv. Previous 2 remote verifications conducted after the last physical site visit confirmed that the project continued to operate in line with the</p>
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	approved monitoring plan and that the monitoring system remained functional.	
VVB recommendation	Based on the above considerations, the delay in conducting the physical site visit does not result in any material impact on project implementation, monitoring arrangements, technology performance, or the reliability and completeness of the monitored data used to calculate emission reductions. Therefore, the environmental integrity and credibility of the reported emission reductions remain unaffected by this deviation.	
VVB details	VVB name:	Earthood Services Limited
	Auditor name(s):	Mehr Munjal
	Email (s):	operations@earthood.in mehr.munjal@earthood.in

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. Last Verification Report

Document 2. News Reports on flood and typhoon in Vietnam

Document 2. News Reports on Heavy rain and flood in Yen Bai Province, Vietnam

a. Vietnam Today (May-23-2025)

[Torrential rains hit northern mountainous areas, causing flooding | DTiNews](#)

b. Viet Nam ky Nguyen vuon minh (23-June-2025)

<https://kynguyenvuonminh.vov.vn/en/society/heavy-rain-poses-high-risk-of-flash-floods-landslides-in-northern-vietnam-post1209191.vov?utm>

c. Vietnam.vn (25-June-2025):

<https://www.vietnam.vn/en/yen-bai-5-ho-gia-dinh-phai-di-doi-do-mua-lon?utm>

d. Vietnamnet.vn (25-June-2025)

<https://vietnamnet.vn/en/homes-in-yen-bai-submerged-under-1-meter-of-floodwater-after-heavy-rain-2414870.html?utm>

e. Asean Disaster Information Network

<https://adinet.ahacentre.org/report/viet-nam--storms-flooding-and-landslides-in-ha-giang-yen-bai-quang-nam-and-ca-mau-20250627?utm>

f. Nghe An Province Police website (30-June-2025)

<https://congan.nghean.gov.vn/tin-tuc-su-kien/thong-tin-chi-dao-dieu-hanh/202506/thu-tuong-chinh-phu-chi-dao-chu-dong-ung-pho-voi-mua-lon-o-bac-bo-1046328/index.htm?utm>
g.Vietnam Plus(30-September-2025)

<https://en.vietnamplus.vn/pm-orders-urgent-response-to-floods-and-landslides-in-northern-provinces-post328539.vnp?utm>

h.Vietnam Pictorial(26-November-2025)

[Natural disasters leave 409 people dead or missing so far this year](#)

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