



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	DEVREQ-375
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)	

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 :	Sanjit 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	GS10889 GSXXXX	GS XXXX GS XXXX	GS XXXX GS XXXX
Host country(ies)	Vietnam		
Project Title	Methane Recovery and Biogas Utilization Project, Lao Cai 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>	27/03/2025	<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		20/02/2022	
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	DEV_381
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	01/04/2024
	End date	19/12/2025
Summarise the changes	<p>The last physical site visit for Project the project "GS10889-Methane Recovery and Biogas Utilization Project Lao Cai 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>Lao Cai province experienced repeated episodes of heavy rainfall, flooding and elevated landslide risk that affected transportation infrastructure and travel access(see Section 6.5.1:Documents a,b). In August-2025, the Provincial Hydrometeorological Station issued urgent warnings of flash flood and landslide risk across multiple districts, including tourism and access routes. Heavy rains from late August caused deep flooding and isolation of mountain villages, with several roads submerged or damaged by landslides. In late August 2025, storm-related floods and flash flooding led to widespread inundation and road closures, including key routes to Sa Pa and other localities, disrupting travel and transport (see Section 6.5.1: Documents e). 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 (Lao Cai Export Cassava Starch processing factory, Lao Cai) 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 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 Lao Cai 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 (01-04-2024 to 19-12-2025), 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 (01-04-2024 to 19-12-2025), 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>

	<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"> <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> </tbody> </table>	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				
	<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.				

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

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 checked="" 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	<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.</p> <p>The last physical site visit for the project GS10889 was conducted on 04th August 2022. In accordance with the Gold Standard Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures v2.0, a follow-up physical site visit was required by 03rd August 2025.</p>

	<p>As the physical site visit could not be conducted within this timeframe, a deviation request is required in accordance with Applicability of Minimum Site Visit Requirements by VVB, Paragraph 2.2.3, which states that if follow-up site visits cannot be conducted within three years due to force majeure, the VVB shall submit a deviation request to Gold Standard.</p>
<p>VVB's assessment of impact of deviation request</p>	<p>The VVB confirms that the follow-up site visit could not be conducted within the required timeframe due to severe weather conditions affecting northern Vietnam during the relevant period. Independent cross-checks conducted by the VVB confirm that prolonged heavy rainfall, flooding and landslide risks affected mountainous regions of northern Vietnam during 2025, including Lao Cai Province. Disaster monitoring reports indicate that heavy rainfall in July 2025 triggered flash floods and landslides across northern provinces including Lao Cai, resulting in damage to houses, agricultural land, and evacuation of households in affected areas. In addition, Lao Cai Province is widely recognized as a mountainous region highly vulnerable to landslides and flash floods during the rainy season, with steep terrain and fragmented slopes increasing the risk of transportation disruptions during periods of heavy rainfall. Such weather conditions frequently affect road infrastructure and accessibility in mountainous districts such as Sa Pa and surrounding areas, where landslides and flash floods can block key transportation routes. Local reporting further indicates that flash floods caused by torrential rainfall in September 2025 damaged villages and left visible landslide impacts on access roads in Lao Cai, demonstrating the severity of weather-related disruptions in the region. These weather events resulted in flooding, landslides and disruptions to transportation infrastructure and</p>

access routes to mountainous districts within Lao Cai Province, thereby affecting safe travel and logistical arrangements required for conducting the physical site visit. These events are documented by international reporting and humanitarian monitoring sources (<https://news.laodong.vn/xa-hoi/nguoi-dan-lang-peng-mong-muon-an-cu-noi-ron-lu-1670067.ldo>; <https://adinet.ahacentre.org/report/viet-nam-flooding-and-landslides-in-lao-cai-dien-bien-son-la-and-quang-tri-20250725>; <https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1722780/residents-in-landslide-prone-areas-need-long-term-solutions.html>)

Following the last physical site visit conducted in August 2022, the VVB conducted remote audits on 18/08/2023 and 08/08/2024 to maintain oversight of project implementation and monitoring procedures. The VVB further confirms that the delay was not related to any changes in project design, monitoring systems, methodology application or emission reduction calculations. Monitoring systems remained fully operational throughout the monitoring period, including SCADA-based automated monitoring and calibrated flow measurement equipment and were found to be in accordance with the approved project documentation and monitoring plan.

Based on the assessment of the monitoring report, the project activity remains consistent with the description provided in the registered project documentation. The activity continues to recover methane generated from wastewater treatment processes and utilize the recovered biogas for thermal energy generation. During the monitoring period, no modifications to the project design, applied methodology, monitoring approach, or technology have been reported. Therefore, the delay

does not compromise the credibility of the monitoring system or emission reduction calculations.

The monitoring system continues to operate effectively and incorporates automated data acquisition through SCADA systems, along with continuous measurement of key parameters such as wastewater flow, COD concentration, biogas generation, methane content, and thermal energy production. Monitoring instruments, including flow meters and gas analyzers, are calibrated in line with the manufacturers' recommended procedures. Relevant documentation, including calibration certificates, monitoring records, and supporting evidence, will be examined by the assessment team during the current verification process as well as during the planned on-site assessment.

Impact of the Deviation

i. Impact on project implementation and applied methodology

The deviation does not affect the implementation of the project activity, applied technology, monitoring plan, or methodology. The project continues to operate in accordance with the registered documentation, involving methane recovery from wastewater treatment and utilization of the recovered biogas for thermal energy generation. No changes to the project design, operational configuration, or emission reduction calculation approach have been reported during the monitoring period.

ii. Impact on monitoring systems and data integrity

The monitoring system remains fully operational and relies on automated measurement and data acquisition systems, including SCADA-based monitoring that

	<p>continuously records key parameters such as wastewater flow, COD concentration, biogas generation, methane content, and thermal energy production. Monitoring equipment including flow meters, thermocouples, and gas analyzers are maintained and calibrated in accordance with manufacturer specifications and the approved monitoring procedures. As the monitoring system operates independently of the timing of the physical site visit, the delay does not affect the completeness, accuracy, or reliability of the monitored data used for emission reduction calculations.</p> <p>iii. Impact on verification assurance and integrity The VVB conducted remote audits following the last physical site visit to maintain oversight of project implementation and monitoring procedures. These assessments confirmed that the project continued to operate in accordance with the approved monitoring plan and that monitoring systems remained functional. A physical site visit is scheduled as part of the current verification, which will restore full compliance with the site visit requirement. Therefore, the deviation does not compromise the credibility of the verification process or the environmental integrity of the emission reductions.</p>
<p>VVB recommendation</p>	<p>Based on the assessment conducted, the VVB concludes that the delay in conducting the physical site visit does not result in any material impact on the implementation of the project activity, the monitoring arrangements, the performance of the applied technology, or the reliability and completeness of the monitored data used for emission reduction calculations. Accordingly, the VVB considers that the environmental integrity of the project and the credibility of the reported emission reductions remain unaffected by this deviation.</p>

VVB details	VVB name:	Earthood Services Limited
	Auditor name(s):	Mohd Aamir Khan
	Email (s):	operations@earthood.in aamir.khan@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 Lao Cai, Vietnam

- a. Dti News(23-May-2025)

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

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

[The Prime Minister directs to proactively respond to heavy rain in the North - Nghe An Police Newspaper](#)

- c. LaoDong(21-July-2025)

<https://news.laodong.vn/xa-hoi/lao-cai-di-tung-nha-ra-tung-ngo-can-h-bao-lu-quet-sat-lo-1543637.lido?utm>

- d. Asian Disaster information network(25-July-2025)

<https://adinet.ahacentre.org/report/viet-nam-flooding-and-landslides-in-lao-cai-dien-bien-son-la-and-quang-tri-20250725>

- e. LaoDong(10-August-2025)

<https://news.laodong.vn/xa-hoi/canh-bao-khan-nguy-co-lu-quet-sat-lo-dat-o-lao-cai-1555061.lido?utm>

- f. CNN (26-August-2025)

[Deadly Tropical Storm Kajiki causes heavy flooding in Vietnam after making landfall as typhoon | CNN](#)

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