

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.

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	7
6.1 Standard document reference.....	7
6.2 Description of the deviation	7
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	DEVREQ-388
Date of decision	04/05/2026
Decision	☐ Approved [No precondition to apply the deviation decision] ☒ Conditionally approved [Decision is subject to compliance with the precondition defined below] ☐ Not approved [reason for rejection is provided in decision summary]

4.2 | Decision

4.2.1 | Summary Decision

The request is conditionally approved in light of following consideration:
 This deviation occurred during the transition from TPDDTEC methodology to the SDWS methodology and was primarily due to delays in establishing a complete household database with GPS coordinates necessary for statistically valid sampling. Gold Standard notes that while waterpoint level testing differs from the household level sampling approach prescribed under the SDWS methodology, the project maintained continuous and regular water quality monitoring at the source level, including verification with the Local Health Authority (LHA). All WQT results during the monitoring period indicate no presence of E. coli, supporting the conclusion that water quality was not compromised.

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

Project developer:

1. shall provide complete documentation of all water quality tests conducted at the waterpoint level during the affected monitoring period, including test results, frequency, and locations.
2. to provocations of Local Health Authority (LHA) involvement in at least one WQT event during the monitoring period.
3. shall demonstrate that the water sources tested are representative of the water consumed by end users, ensuring that no material risk to water quality exists between source and point of use.

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

VVB shall:

1. Assess the adequacy and completeness of waterpoint level WQT data for the affected monitoring period;
2. Evaluate whether water point level testing provides sufficient and credible assurance that water quality at the point of consumption remains safe in order to

confirm that the project has established a compliant system for household level random sampling in line with SDWS requirements.

4.2.4 | Directions for the Gold Standard, if applicable

NA

4.3 | Applicability to other activities

Is this decision applicable to other projects under similar circumstances? ¹	☐ Yes ☒ No
Does this decision set a precedent for future projects with similar circumstances? ²	☐ Yes ☒ No
Precedent details (if applicable to other activities)	
NA	

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
Are you an authorized project participant as per the cover letter submitted for this activity?	☒ Yes ☐ No

5.3 | Background information

Type	☒ Project activity	☐ PoA GSXXXX	☐ VPA
GS ID	GS6598	GS XXXX GS XXXX	GS XXXX GS XXXX
Host country(ies)	Rwanda		
Project Title	Water for Climate Rwanda Project		
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1531		
Scale	☐ Microscale (GS) ☐ Small scale ☒ Large scale ☐ Other, if applicable please specify below <i>Insert text here</i>		
Certification Status and corresponding date of latest status	☐ Listed dd/mm/yyyy	☐ Certified design dd/mm/yyyy	☒ Certified project 29/03/2019
			☐ Other <i>If other, specify here</i> dd/mm/yyyy

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

Applied version of Standard	☒ GS4GG			
	☐ Previous version of Gold Standard	Version no.		
		☐ 1.0	☐ 1.1	☐ 1.2
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	☐ CDM ☐ Other Name of the Standard – Insert text here		
Applicable activity requirement	☐ Renewable Energy Activity Requirements ☒ Community Services Activity Requirements ☐ Land-use and Forests Activity Requirements ☐ 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.			☐ Yes ☒ No
Reference number	Insert Text here		
Status of the deviation	☐ Approved	☐ Rejected	☐ 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?	☐ Yes ☐ 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	Emission reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply
	Version	V1.0
	Paragraph	4.1 a SDWS 18

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Water quality testing	
Confirm the nature of changes related to deviation	☒ Temporary (e.g. not expected to occur beyond one monitoring period)	☐ 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	01/03/2024
	End date	31/12/2025
Summarise the changes	This deviation request concerns the first 8 months of the second crediting period of this project. It is important to note that the project has already successfully completed its first full crediting period. During that initial period, the project operated under the TPDDTEC methodology, where quarterly water quality testing (WQT) and testing in the presence of a Local Health Authority (LHA) were considered satisfactory for compliance. In line with this established practice, we consistently performed quarterly WQT at the water-point level throughout the current monitoring period, including one test conducted alongside the LHA to confirm the ongoing integrity of the water supply. However, as the project transitioned to the SDWS methodology for the current credit period renewal, we encountered the following logistical delays regarding household-level testing: • Methodological Shift: Unlike the previous TPDDTEC requirements, the SDWS methodology necessitates WQT at end-user premises via random sampling. • Data Requirements: To ensure a statistically valid random sample, a complete user list including verified GPS coordinates was required; this registration process was not finalized until August 2025. • Revised Timeline: Consequently, the first WQT at end-user premises was performed in October 2025, representing an eight-month delay from the scheduled date of March 1, 2025. We request a deviation for this parameter based on the fact that the project maintained rigorous source-level testing during this transition. This approach, which proved effective during the first crediting period, ensured that water quality remained uncompromised while the administrative and mapping infrastructure for the new SDWS household-level sampling was being established.	
Reason for deviation	Due to recent team changes, there was a delay in the approval of the crediting period renewal. The shift to a new methodology required us to create a new list of registered households with GPS coordinates, which was a time-consuming effort for our local team. Because this work was only completed in August 2025, we were delayed in performing the random sampling for water quality testing at end-user premises.	
Proposed resolution	During the monitoring period, water quality testing was conducted on a quarterly basis at the designated waterpoints, at a time when household-level testing was not undertaken. In parallel, comprehensive trainings were delivered to WASH committee members, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to guide community members on proper container sanitation, waterpoint maintenance, and safe water transportation practices. In light of these measures, we respectfully propose that the E. coli test results obtained at the waterpoint level be recognized as valid	

	evidence of water safety. It is important to note that all water quality tests conducted during the monitoring period yielded negative results for E. coli, confirming the safety of the water for consumption. Accordingly, we hereby request the full issuance of credits.						
Is there any potential temporary or permanent impact of deviation on other aspects of the project?	Select the relevant area: ☐ Project design ☐ Local stakeholder consultation ☐ Safeguarding principles ☐ SDG assessment ☐ Regulatory compliance ☐ Additionality ☐ Applicability of methodology ☐ 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> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> ☐ any other matrix, please specify...	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	The requested deviation for this parameter is a point-of-sampling adjustment necessitated by a methodological transition and does not negatively impact the project's quality, the accuracy of Emission Reductions (ERs), or the safety of the end-users. • Integrity of Water Quality: There is no risk to the quality of the water supplied. The project maintained rigorous quarterly testing at the water-point level, supplemented by Local Health Authority (LHA) verification. Given that the water source remains the same as in the first crediting period (where such testing was deemed sufficient under TPDDTEC), these results provide high-confidence evidence that the water remained safe and compliant throughout the eight-month transition. • Impact on Emission Reductions: This deviation has zero impact on the calculation of ERs. The quantity of water treated and the usage rates by households—the primary drivers of emission reductions—are monitored independently of the location of the water quality test. The delay in household-level sampling does not result in an overestimation of carbon credits, as the project's performance parameters remained operational and verified at the source. • SDG and Social Safeguards: The project continues to meet its Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). The transition to the SDWS methodology's random sampling at the household level is a commitment to higher data granularity, not a correction of a failing system. The fact that the project successfully mapped and registered all households with GPS coordinates by August 2025 actually strengthens the project's long-term monitoring infrastructure and transparency.						

	Conservative Approach: By conducting WQT at the water-point level during the interim, the project followed a conservative and proactive oversight strategy, ensuring no "monitoring gap" occurred during the administrative process of updating the user database. In summary, the deviation is a localized timing issue regarding the location of the test, rather than a failure to test. The underlying project activity remains robust, safe, and fully aligned with Gold Standard's principles of environmental integrity.
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 ☐ No ☒ <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.

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: - 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