

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-394
Date of decision	07/04/2026
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 | Decision Summary

The deviation is approved.

The project developer and VVB 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 project developer 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 project developer will be responsible for contracting and covering the costs of the Objective Observer. The relationship between and among the project developer, the Objective Observer and Gold Standard shall be established in a Memorandum of Understanding that must be signed by all parties. The project developer 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 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 developer. The project developer 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 project developer'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	☐ Yes ☐ No
Does this decision set a precedent for future projects with similar circumstances? ²	☐ Yes ☐ 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 :	Gaiai Guo
Email ID ⁴ :	guog@upm-climate.eu
Organisation: ⁵ :	Foundation Wind Energy-I Limited
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	GS11891	N/A	N/A	
Host country(ies)	Pakistan			
Project Title	Foundation Wind Energy-I Limited 50 MW Wind Farm Project			
Registry link	https://assurance-platform.goldstandard.org/project-documents/GS11891			
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	☐ Certified design	☒ Certified project	☐ Other <i>If other, specify here</i>
	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy	19/12/2023	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		26/04/2023	
	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	Principles & Requirements
	Version	V2.1
	Paragraph	Annex B, Paragraph 1.1.1

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Requesting Deviation for a remote audit as per GS4GG Principles & Requirements v.2.1, Annex B. Section 1.1.1		
	☒ Temporary	☐ Permanent	

Confirm the nature of changes related to deviation	(e.g. not expected to occur beyond one monitoring period)	(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	01/01/2023
	End date	10/04/2025
Summarise the changes	Requesting Deviation for a remote audit as per GS4GG Principles & Requirements v.2.1, Annex B. Section 1.1.1	
Reason for deviation	The project is located in Pakistan, which is a conflict zone that pose high risk to life and/or health. Given the broader geopolitical context, contracted VVB (Applus+) remains concerned about how the situation may evolve in the coming weeks and the potential implications for the safety of auditors. Because the tentative date for onsite is in April 2026. Pakistan is currently under several international travel advisories recommending that travelers reconsider travel due to security concerns, including terrorism and regional instability. In addition, recent incidents such as militant attacks in the northwest of the country and tensions along the Afghanistan border illustrate that the security environment remains volatile. Furthermore, the wider regional situation has become increasingly unstable due to escalating conflict in the Middle East and related geopolitical tensions, which have already led to travel warnings and disruptions to air traffic in parts of the region. The current instability across the Middle East corridor further increases the exposure associated with travel, particularly as available flight routes require connections through hubs such as Turkey, Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), or Doha (Qatar). In addition, PO also contacted two more VVBs about the feasibility of site audit for the project, and got replied that, they are not able to do it. See attached email communication records. Considering these factors, we would like to request a deviation and ask Applus+ to conduct the verification remotely.	
Proposed resolution	Conduct the remote audit with onsite visit conducted by an Objective Observer. The project developer will provide Gold Standard with the name and contact details of three Objective Observers.	
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 tCO_{2e}</td><td>XYZ tCO_{2e}</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	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}				
	☐ any other matrix, please specify...				
Summary of the impact	The primary purpose of this deviation request is to ensure that the verification process can proceed smoothly while maintaining appropriate duty-of-care and risk management standards. PD will hire an objective observer to provide support in the process. In addition, the crediting period of the project has been ended in 2025 and this is the last verification under GS.				
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	The project is located in Pakistan, which is a conflict zone that pose high risk to life and/or health. Given the broader geopolitical context, VVB remains concerned about how the situation may evolve in the coming weeks and the potential implications for the safety of our auditors. Because the tentative date for onsite is in April 2026. Pakistan is currently under several international travel advisories recommending that travelers reconsider travel due to security concerns, including terrorism and regional instability. In addition, recent incidents such as militant attacks in the northwest of the country and tensions along the Afghanistan border illustrate that the security environment remains volatile. Furthermore, the wider regional situation has become increasingly unstable due to escalating conflict in the Middle East and related geopolitical tensions, which have already led
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	to travel warnings and disruptions to air traffic in parts of the region. From a corporate risk management perspective, Pakistan is already internally classified as a high-risk destination for our organisation. The current instability across the Middle East corridor further increases the exposure associated with travel, particularly as available flight routes require connections through hubs such as Turkey, Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), or Doha (Qatar). Considering these factors, VVB requested a deviation to conduct the verification remotely. In that case, a trusted local support team could assist on site with the collection of documentary evidence and facilitate interviews with relevant stakeholders while assigned auditors participate remotely.	
VVB's assessment of impact of deviation request	The reasonable level can be reached by conducting the remote audit in this way: The primary purpose of this deviation request is to ensure that the verification process can proceed smoothly while maintaining appropriate duty-of-care and risk management standards. To this end, VVB will ensure that a local expert is engaged to assist in completing the on-site audit work. Meanwhile, the PD will also hire an objective observer to provide support in the process. In addition, VVB will issue a FAR specifying that an on-site verification must be conducted for the next Verification.	
VVB recommendation	The reasonable level can be reached by conducting the remote audit in this way: The primary purpose of this deviation request is to ensure that the verification process can proceed smoothly while maintaining appropriate duty-of-care and risk management standards. To this end, VVB will ensure that a local expert is engaged to assist in completing the on-site audit work. Meanwhile, the PD will also hire an objective observer to provide support in the process. In addition, VVB will issue a FAR specifying that an on-site verification must be conducted for the next Verification.	
VVB details	VVB name:	LGAI Technological Center, S.A.(Applus+ Certification)
	Auditor name(s):	Mr. Raúl G. Mitre
	Email (s):	raul.mitre@nova-cert.com

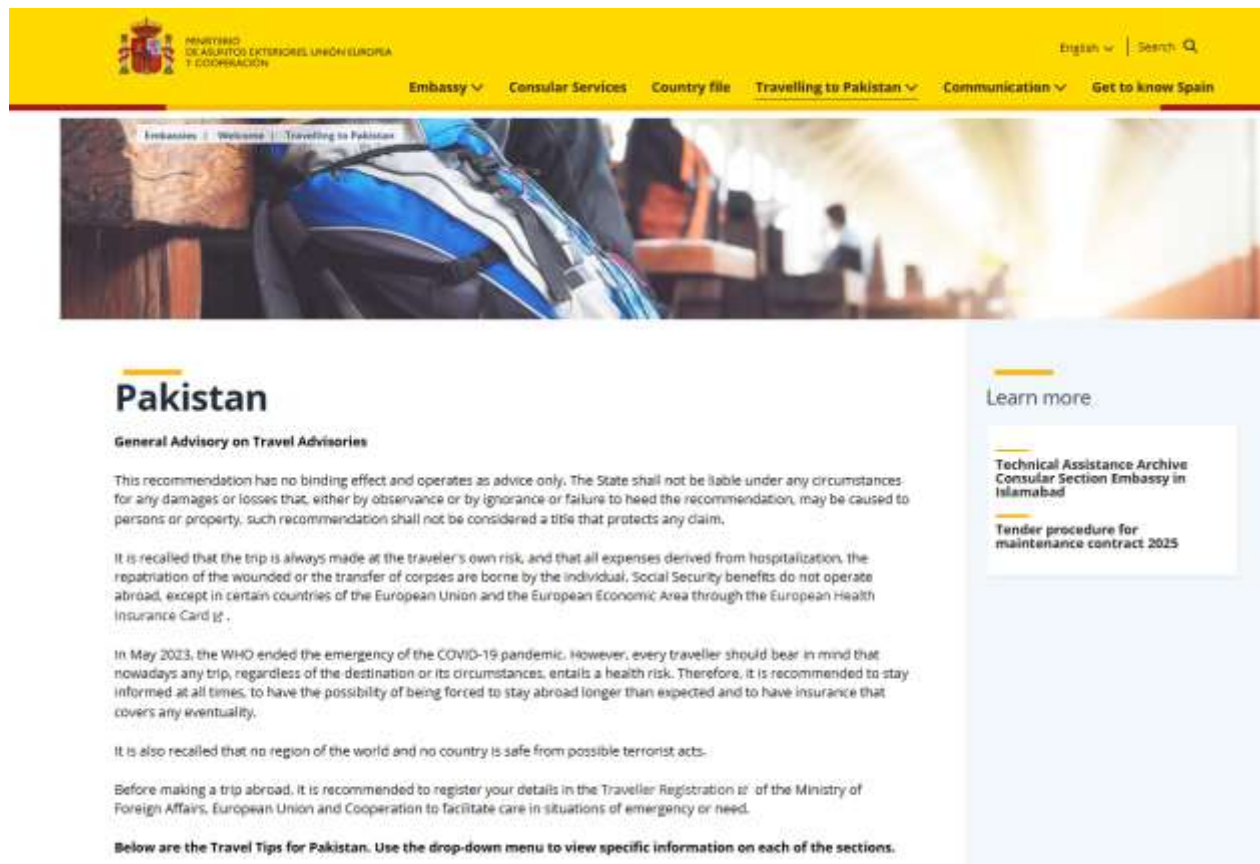
6.5 | Documents:

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.

Link :

<https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/islamabad/es/ViajarA/Paginas/Recomendaciones-de-viaje.aspx>



The screenshot shows the official website of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación) for the Islamabad embassy. The header is yellow with the ministry's logo and navigation links: Embassy, Consular Services, Country file, Travelling to Pakistan, Communication, and Get to know Spain. A search bar is also present. Below the header is a banner image of a person in a blue jacket. The main content area is titled 'Pakistan' and includes a 'General Advisory on Travel Advisories' section. This section contains text stating that the recommendation has no binding effect and operates as advice only. It also mentions that the trip is always made at the traveler's own risk and that all expenses derived from hospitalization, repatriation, or the transfer of corpses are borne by the individual. A note about COVID-19 states that while the WHO ended the emergency in May 2023, every traveler should bear in mind that nowadays any trip, regardless of the destination or its circumstances, entails a health risk. It is recommended to stay informed at all times, to have the possibility of being forced to stay abroad longer than expected and to have insurance that covers any eventuality. Another note states that no region of the world and no country is safe from possible terrorist acts. A final note recommends registering details in the Traveller Registration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation to facilitate care in situations of emergency or need. Below the text, there is a section titled 'Below are the Travel Tips for Pakistan. Use the drop-down menu to view specific information on each of the sections.' On the right side, there is a 'Learn more' section with two links: 'Technical Assistance Archive Consular Section Embassy in Islamabad' and 'Tender procedure for maintenance contract 2025'.

Pakistan

General Advisory on Travel Advisories

This recommendation has no binding effect and operates as advice only. The State shall not be liable under any circumstances for any damages or losses that, either by observance or by ignorance or failure to heed the recommendation, may be caused to persons or property. Such recommendation shall not be considered a title that protects any claim.

It is recalled that the trip is always made at the traveler's own risk, and that all expenses derived from hospitalization, the repatriation of the wounded or the transfer of corpses are borne by the individual. Social Security benefits do not operate abroad, except in certain countries of the European Union and the European Economic Area through the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).

In May 2023, the WHO ended the emergency of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, every traveller should bear in mind that nowadays any trip, regardless of the destination or its circumstances, entails a health risk. Therefore, it is recommended to stay informed at all times, to have the possibility of being forced to stay abroad longer than expected and to have insurance that covers any eventuality.

It is also recalled that no region of the world and no country is safe from possible terrorist acts.

Before making a trip abroad, it is recommended to register your details in the Traveller Registration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation to facilitate care in situations of emergency or need.

Below are the Travel Tips for Pakistan. Use the drop-down menu to view specific information on each of the sections.

Learn more

- Technical Assistance Archive Consular Section Embassy in Islamabad
- Tender procedure for maintenance contract 2025

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