FORM

FORM - DEVIATION REQUEST SUBMISSION

PUBLICATION DATE: **20/05/2026**
VERSION: **6.1**
NEXT PLANNED UPDATE: **15/05/2028**

RELATED DOCUMENTS
– Deviations Approval Requirements and Procedures

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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 help@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 Secretariat

4.1 | General information

DEVIATION REFERENCE NUMBER	DEVRQ-458
Date of decision	10/07/2026
Decision	NA

4.2 | Decision

4.2.1 | Decision Summary

A deviation request is not needed in this case since the PA alignment rules already grants this provision the projects. A grant period of six months from the publication date of the PA-aligned versions of the concerned methodologies is provided for projects, PoAs, and VPAs to renew their current crediting period as mentioned in the Requirements for Paris Agreement Alignment and Guidance for Paris Agreement Alignment.

VPAs may claim emission reductions and SDG impacts for the period of delay in their renewal, provided that the CME successfully submits the design certification renewal within six months of the PA-aligned methodology becoming available.

Since the PA-aligned version of RECH was released on 05/05/2026, the CME may submit the request for renewal by 05/11/2026 without any loss of credits.

The project shall comply with all the applicable requirements.

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

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

N/A

…

4.2.4 | Directions for the Gold Standard, if applicable

N/A

4.3 | Applicability to other activities

Is this decision applicable to other projects under similar circumstances?[1]	☐ Yes ☒ 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

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

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] :	Anantha Karthik Rajagopalan
Email ID[4] :	anantha@upenergygroup.com
Organisation:[5]:	UpEnergy Group
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		*GS10898*	*GS10900* *GS10901* *GS10902*
Host country(ies)	Uganda		
Project Title	GS10898 - Up Energy Improved Cookstove Programme, Uganda & GS10900 - Up Energy Improved Cookstoves Programme, Uganda – CPA No 002 GS10901 - Up Energy Improved Cookstoves Programme, Uganda – CPA No 003 GS10902 - Up Energy Improved Cookstoves Programme, Uganda – CPA No 004		
Registry link	**https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/2887 and**		

[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

	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/2889, https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/2891, https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/2890
Scale	☐ Microscale (GS) ☒ Small scale ☐ Large scale ☐ Other, if applicable please specify below *Insert text here*

Certification Status and corresponding date of latest status	☐ Listed	☒ Certified design[6]	☒ Certified project[7]	☐ Other *If other, specify here*
	dd/mm/yyyy	*24/09/2021*	*19/09/2025*	*dd/mm/yyyy*

Applied version of Standard	☒ GS4GG				
	☐ Previous version of Gold Standard	Version no.			
		☐ 1.0	☐ 1.1	☐ 1.2	☐ 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	☒ 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 ☐ Agriculture Activity Requirements ☐ Blue Carbon and Freshwater Wetlands Activity Requirements ☐ Engineered removals Activity Requirements ☐ Other *Insert name here*

[6] Design certification date
[7] Date of first issuance approval by Gold Standard

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	COVID_DEV 216		
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 *Summary of the CL, CAR, FAR not more than 200 words. Include reference to document, page number*		

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	1) CERTIFICATION PROCESS STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE v3 2) REQUIREMENTS FOR PARIS AGREEMENT ALIGNMENT v1.1
	Version	1) V3 2) V1.1
	Paragraph	1) STEP 7: DESIGN CERTIFICATION RENEWAL (VALIDATION) 2) Paragraph 4.4.1

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Requesting additional time (2 to 3 months) for submitting the Renewal documents in line with PAA requirements for PoA GS10963 and its corresponding VPAs GS10900, GS10901 & GS10902.	
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)
Relevant monitoring period, if applicable	Start date	Dd/mm/yyyy
	End date	Dd/mm/yyyy
	☒ NA	
Summarise the changes	This request is regarding extension for the submission of documents related to the Renewal of Crediting Period for PoA GS10898 and its 3 associated VPAs (GS10900 to GS10902). In December 2025, we undertook the RCP of VPAs GS10900 to GS10910 by voluntarily updating the applied methodology to the latest available version at that time, RECH v4. We submitted the RCP package of these VPAs to the Gold Standard Assurance Platform on 10/06/2026 and have subsequently received the completeness check results. Points 5 & 6 of	

	the completeness check comments require the validation to be conducted in accordance with PA-aligned RECH methodology and that all documentation be submitted using the corresponding PA aligned templates. Upon receiving these comments, we contacted the VVB to confirm whether they could conduct the validation in accordance with the PAA aligned requirements. However, the VVB has informed us that they will not be able to complete the validation and associated documentation within our current timeline. The existing crediting period for the PoA and 3 of the VPAs (GS10900 to GS10902) are scheduled to end on 21/07/2026. As the validation process under the PA aligned version of the RECH methodology will require additional time, we respectfully request an extension of approximately 2 to 3 months to allow sufficient time for completion of the required validation activities and submission of the revised documentation. For your reference, we have attached screenshots of the completeness check comments (Point 5 & 6) received from Gold Standard, along with our correspondence with the VVB regarding this matter.
Reason for deviation	The current crediting period for PoA GS10898 and its 3 corresponding VPAs (GS10900–GS10902) is scheduled to end on 21/07/2026. Following the completeness check, Gold Standard required that the Renewal of Crediting Period be validated in accordance with the PAA aligned RECH methodology and that all documentation be prepared using the corresponding PA aligned templates. However, the appointed VVB has confirmed that it will not be able to complete the required validation activities and finalize the associated documentation in accordance with the PA aligned requirements before the end of the current crediting period. Consequently, compliance with the prescribed submission timeline is not feasible without a deviation.
Proposed resolution	We request that Gold Standard grant an extension of 2 to 3 months beyond the current crediting period end date of 21/07/2026 for PoA GS10898 and the corresponding VPAs (GS10900–GS10902), for the purpose of completing the RCP process. During this period, the VVB will complete the validation in accordance with the PA aligned RECH methodology, and the Project Developer will submit the revised RCP documentation using the required PA aligned templates through the Gold Standard Assurance Platform. This extension will ensure that the RCP is completed in full compliance with the applicable Gold Standard requirements while maintaining the integrity and continuity of the certification process. For your reference, CME is submitting the attached screenshot of the completeness check comments (Point 5 & 6) received from Gold Standard, along with our correspondence with the VVB regarding this matter.
Is there any potential temporary or permanent impact of deviation on other	Select the relevant area: ☐ Project design ☐ Local stakeholder consultation ☐ Safeguarding principles

aspects of the project?	☐ SDG assessment ☐ Regulatory compliance ☐ Additionality ☐ Applicability of methodology ☐ Annual emission reduction volume *(if yes, fill the table below)* **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… ☒ NA
Summary of the impact	The requested deviation will have no impact on any of the above-mentioned aspects of the project. It is solely an administrative request to extend the timeline for completing the Renewal of Crediting Period process in accordance with the PA aligned requirements and does not affect the project's design, implementation, monitoring, or environmental integrity.
Insert text here	

6.3 | VVB information

Is a VVB opinion on the deviation request required? *VVB opinion shall be included, where required by the requirements under Deviations Request Requirements and Procedures or request is submitted by the VVB.*	Yes ☐ No ☒ *If answer is yes, fill the information in section 6.4 below.*

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.*)

1) Screenshot of the completeness check comment.
2) CME's correspondance with the VVB

DOCUMENT HISTORY

VERSION NUMBER	RELEASE DATE	DESCRIPTION
6.1	15.05.2026	Editorial and structural changes to the template
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