FORM

FORM - DEVIATION REQUEST SUBMISSION

PUBLICATION DATE: **15/05/2026**
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 Secratariat

4.1 | General information

DEVIATION REFERENCE NUMBER	DEVRQ-460
Date of decision	21/07/2026
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 request is not approved.

The project developer could combine the Design Change and Crediting period renewal field visit trip with the same VVB, provided the VVB is contracted for different scopes of work and separate validation/re-validation reports are submitted.

The requirements for a Design Change (within an existing crediting period) and a Crediting Period Renewal (for a new period) are distinct regulatory processes. The mandatory effective date for Paris Agreement Alignment is 1 January 2026 (as per *PAA P&R v1.1, Clause 1.2.1*). Consequently, any credits issued for the month of January 2026 must be covered by a validated PA-Alignment Design Change to the first crediting period (CP1).

1. How to Combine Your Requests

You can coordinate with your VVB to execute a single audit that covers three distinct objectives simultaneously:

- PA-Alignment Design Change Validation: For the January 2026 gap (CP1).
- Verification: For the monitored period (e.g., 2025–2026).
- Crediting Period Renewal Validation: For the second crediting period (CP2) starting 1 February 2026.

2. Practical Steps for the PD

- Single Site Visit: Under Clause 4.3.5 and 6.4.1, your VVB is explicitly encouraged to combine the PA-Alignment Validation with regular verifications and renewals. You only need to host the VVB for one site visit to collect data for all three processes.
- Unified Monitoring Report: You may submit one Monitoring Report that covers the transition. As per Clause 4.3.6, you should clearly differentiate the sections:
    - *Section A:* Monitoring up to 31 December 2025 (Non-PA methodology).
    - *Section B:* Monitoring from 1 January 2026 onwards (PA-aligned methodology).
- VVB Reporting: While the VVB must issue separate validation/verification opinions to satisfy the Registry's structural requirements, they can use the same evidence base.

3. Key References for VVB

To ensure the VVB follows the "targeted" approach, they must refer to:

- Clause 4.3.3 (Scope of Validation): The VVB should only focus on the changes required by the new PA-aligned methodology (e.g., baseline adjustments, DAF). They shall not re-assess aspects of the project design that were previously validated and are unaffected by the transition (Clause 4.3.4).
- Clause 6.4.2 (VVB Rotation): Standard VVB rotation rules do not apply to the PA-Alignment Validation. The same VVB can conduct the PAA validation and the concurrent verification/renewal.

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

N/A

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
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] :	Paul Leon
Email ID[4] :	paul.leon@myclimate.org
Organisation:[5]:	myclimate Foundation
Are you an authorized project participant as per the cover letter submitted for this activity?	☐ Yes ☒ No Submission of behalf myclimate Foundation

5.3 | Background information

Type	☐ Project activity	☐ PoA GSXXXX	☐ VPA
GS ID	*GS7554* *GSXXXX*	*GS XXXX* *GS XXXX*	*GS XXXX* *GS XXXX*
Host country(ies)	Thailand		
Project Title	Methane Reduction in Irrigated Rice Production, Thailand		
Registry link	**https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/2056**		
Scale	☐ Microscale (GS) ☒ Small scale ☐ Large scale ☐ Other, if applicable please specify below *Insert text here*		

[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

Certification Status and corresponding date of latest status	☒ Listed	☒ Certified design[6]	☐ Certified project[7]	☐ Other *If other, specify here*
	21/10/2021	*01/02/2024*	*dd/mm/yyyy*	*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*

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	DEV_278, DEVRQ-184		
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] Design certification date
[7] Date of first issuance approval by Gold Standard

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	Requirements for Paris Agreement Alignment
	Version	V1.1
	Paragraph	1.2.1 These requirements apply to all projects seeking GS4GG certification for emission reductions and/ or removals for vintages starting 1 January 2026 and onwards.

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Combination of Crediting Period renewal and Design Change with PA alignment	
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)
	As state in OPTIONAL REQUIREMENT - Deviation Request Requirements and Procedures v.2.0, temporary changes to a certified project that are expected not to occur beyond a given monitoring period which is our case as it is requested to extend the deadline of submission of re-validation report which is not replicate to any monitoring period as is only one time request.	
Relevant monitoring period, if applicable	Start date	01/01/2026
	End date	31/01/2026
	☐ NA	
Summarise the changes	Describe the deviation requested from applicable rules/requirements. Please include all relevant information in support of the request. Refer to latest version of Deviation Request Requirements and Procedures for requirements and guidelines *This deviation request seeks approval to integrate the crediting period renewal and Paris Agreement (PA) alignment requirements into a single validation process, rather than implementing them as two separate procedures.* *Relevant project circumstances:* • *1st Crediting Period (CP1): 1 February 2021 – 31 January 2026.* • *Crediting Period Renewal deadline: 1 February 2026 (extended to 1 August 2026 under DEVRQ-184; further extension anticipated until final DREAM methodology publication).*	

	• *GS PA Alignment requirement: All credits issued from 1 January 2026 must comply with an approved PA-aligned methodology.* *This results in a temporal overlap between:* • *Start of PA-aligned requirements: 1 January 2026* • *Start of 2nd Crediting Period (CP2): 1 February 2026* *Under current rules, the project would be required to:* 1. *Conduct a Design Change to implement PA-aligned methodology for January 2026, and* 2. *Immediately (or in parallel) undertake a crediting period renewal validation for CP2 (from February 2026 onward)* ***Deviation requested**:* *Approval to combine both processes into a single validation under the PA-aligned methodology and crediting period renewal, applicable from 1 February 2026 onward, but using PA methodology since January 2026 thereby avoiding the need for a standalone Design Change for January 2026.*
Reason for deviation	Describe the reasons for requesting deviation from applicable rules/requirements. **Process Integration and Avoidance of Redundancy** The deviation is requested to streamline overlapping procedural requirements and avoid unnecessary duplication. If not granted, the project would be required to: • Perform a Design Change to adopt the PA-aligned methodology for a single month (January 2026), followed immediately (or in parallel) by • A full validation for crediting period renewal applying the same methodology from February 2026 This would result in: • Two separate VVB assessments within a one-month timeframe • Two Gold Standard review processes • Duplicated administrative effort and transaction costs **Lack of Environmental or Integrity Benefit** The separate Design Change would not enhance environmental integrity, transparency, or methodological rigor, as:

	• The same PA-aligned methodology (DREAM) would already be applied consistently from 1 January 2026 onward • No methodological differences exist between the Design Change and renewal application phases **Disproportionate Impact on Small-Scale Project** The project qualifies as small-scale (AGR, <8,000 tCO_2/year). Requiring a standalone Design Change process for one month would: • Lead to disproportionate transaction costs relative to expected issuance volume • Consume limited project resources that could otherwise support implementation and monitoring efforts • Create financial inefficiency without corresponding climate or compliance benefits

Proposed resolution	Insert Text here
	Describe the proposed resolution for example proposed alternative monitoring arrangements for the non-conforming monitoring period.
	
	Describe how proposed resolution complies with the related requirements, where applicable, the accuracy, completeness and conservativeness is ensured.
	
	Please include all relevant information in support of the request.
	
	Integrated Validation Approach
	The project proposes to:
	• Waive the standalone Design Change process for January 2026; and
	• Apply the PA-aligned DREAM methodology continuously from 1 January 2026 onward, with full validation conducted under the crediting period renewal process
	
	Verification and Reporting Arrangements
	Compliance with PA-aligned requirements will be ensured through the verification process, as follows:
	• The Monitoring Report (MR) covering this transition will include two clearly distinguished periods:
	  ○ January 2026 (CP1)
	  ○ February 2026 – December 2027 (CP2)
	• Both periods will:
	  ○ Apply the PA-aligned DREAM methodology
	  ○ Be subject to full VVB verification
	• The VVB will:

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>

Explicitly assess and confirm correct application of PA-aligned rules from 1 January 2026, in line with P&R: Requirements for Paris Agreement Alignment (v1.1)
Ensure that methodological consistency is maintained across the transition between CP1 and CP2

Compliance with GS Requirements
The proposed approach ensures:

Accuracy: Consistent application of a single, validated PA-aligned methodology across all monitored periods
Completeness: Full coverage of emissions reductions for January 2026 without omission
Conservativeness: No relaxation of methodological requirements; same rigor applied as would be under separate processes
Transparency: Clear separation and reporting of CP1 and CP2 periods within the Monitoring Report

</td></tr>
<tr><td>Is there any potential temporary or permanent impact of deviation on other aspects of the project?</td><td>
Select the relevant area:
☐ Project design
☐ Local stakeholder consultation
☐ Safeguarding principles
☐ SDG assessment
☐ Regulatory compliance
☐ Additionality
☐ Applicability of methodology
☐ Annual emission reduction volume (if yes, fill the table below)
<table>
<tr><th>Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation</th><th>Annual emission reduction/ removal after applying deviation</th></tr>
<tr><td>XYZ tCO_2e</td><td>XYZ tCO_2e</td></tr>
</table>
☐ any other matrix, please specify…
☐ NA
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Summary of the impact</td><td>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.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">No impact is foreseen in any of the aspects listed above as the project will continue the monitoring activities according the approved PDD and the update rules since vintage 2026, the request only look for the avoidance of Design Change as its application is only for one month (January 2026), the last month of first crediting period. The GS PA alignment rules will be applied since January 2026.</td></tr>
</table>

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	N.A	
VVB recommendation	N.A	
VVB details	VVB name:	N.A
	Auditor name(s):	N.A
	Email (s):	N.A

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. CLRQ-311 : GS´clarification response on clarification requested for the same topic explained in this deviation.

Document 2.

Document n.

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