Gold Standard for the Global Goals

FORM

PUBLICATION DATE: 12/11/2024
VERSION: 6.0
NEXT PLANNED UPDATE: 12/11/2026

RELATED DOCUMENTS

– Deviations Approval Requirements and Procedures

CONTACT DETAILS

The Gold Standard Foundation
International Environment House 2
Chemin de Balexert 7-9
1219 Châtelaine Geneva, Switzerland
Tel +41 22 788 70 80
Email help@goldstandard.org

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 4

5|Deviation Request Details 5

5.1 | Submitted by 5

5.2 | Details of the entity and its representative submitting the form 5

5.3 | Background information 5

5.4 | Project deviation history 6

6|Deviation detail 6

6.1 | Standard document reference 6

6.2 | Description of the deviation 6

6.3 | VVB information 8

6.4 | VVB's assessment 9

6.5 | Documents: 10

4| Decision summary

To be completed by Gold Standard

4.1 | General information

DEVIATION REFERENCE NUMBER	DEVRQ-461
Date of decision	24/07/2026
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 request for deviation for extension of the submission of Design Review Request to Gold Standard by 12 August 2026 is approved.

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

The project developer shall note that approval is provided only for delayed submission. The project shall comply with all other GS4GG requirements.

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

NA

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] :	RAKOTOMAHARO Norohanitra
Email ID[4] :	norohanitra.rakotomaharo@welight-africa.com
Organisation:[5]:	WELIGHT MADAGASCAR
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	*GS12379*	*GS XXXX* *GS XXXX*	*GS XXXX* *GS XXXX*
Host country(ies)	Madagascar		
Project Title	**Solar Power for Rural Villages in Madagascar**		
Registry link	**https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/4302**		
Scale	☒ Microscale (GS) ☐ Small scale ☐ Large scale ☐ Other, if applicable please specify below *Insert text here*		

Certification Status and corresponding	☒ Listed	☐ Certified design	☐ Certified project	☐ Other *If other, specify 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

date of latest status	*dd/mm/yyyy*	*dd/mm/yyyy*	*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 ☐ 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	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** *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	PRINCIPLES & REQUIREMENTS
	Version	V2.1
	Paragraph	para 5.1.1 (b)

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Delay in submission of VVB TR response package beyond GS deadline

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)
	The deviation is temporary and limited to the specific submission of the VVB TR response package for the concerned monitoring period.	
Relevant monitoring period, if applicable	Start date	Dd/mm/yyyy
	End date	Dd/mm/yyyy
Summarise the changes	The delay was mainly caused by additional time required for the collection, consolidation, validation, and alignment of key monitoring data and supporting documentation prior to submission. In particular, additional time was required to extrapolate partial-year consumption data to full-year values, as the initial dataset covered only the period from January to September. Revisions were also required for customer-related assumptions through smoothing of average customer numbers across 2024 and 2025. Furthermore, consistency checks and updates were necessary across the ER spreadsheet and the PDD to ensure alignment across all site typologies and supporting documentation. These activities involved iterative internal validation, supporting documentation updates, and coordination among multiple stakeholders before finalization of the submission package. Due to the time required to complete these activities, the project documentation could not be finalized and submitted within the required timeline of October 2025, and the submission was therefore completed in January 2026. **Current deadline:** October 2025 (Gold Standard submission deadline) **Expected submission date:** 12 August 2026 Refer to latest version of Deviation Request Requirements and Procedures for requirements and guidelines	
Reason for deviation	The deviation was caused by delays in the collection, review, validation, and consolidation of monitoring data and supporting documentation prior to submission. The project team identified the need for additional adjustments related to the annualization of electricity consumption data, since the original dataset only covered January to September and therefore required extrapolation to represent a full year of operation. Additional revisions were also required for customer-related assumptions, including the smoothing of average customer numbers across 2024 and 2025. Furthermore, consistency checks and alignment updates were necessary between the ER spreadsheet and the PDD across all site typologies to ensure that all assumptions and supporting information were fully harmonized prior to submission.	

	These activities required several rounds of internal review and coordination among multiple stakeholders, which extended the time required to finalize the project documentation and supporting information.
Proposed resolution	The project has strengthened its internal data review and validation process to ensure earlier identification of inconsistencies in monitoring data prior to submission. Additional internal review steps have been introduced to ensure consistency of annualization methods, customer baseline assumptions, and emission reduction calculations across all site typologies before final consolidation of the ER spreadsheet and PDD. Furthermore, coordination among the different teams involved in data preparation and documentation review will be initiated earlier in the reporting process to reduce delays related to data consolidation and validation.
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 *(if yes, fill the table below)* Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation: *XYZ* tCO_2e Annual emission reduction/ removal after applying deviation: *XYZ* tCO_2e ☐ any other matrix, please specify…
Summary of the impact	The deviation has no impact on the project design, additionality, SDG assessment, or emission reduction calculations. The delay is purely procedural and related to the timing of submission of the VVB TR response package. All monitoring data and results remain valid, complete, and unaffected by the deviation.
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	The VVB has reviewed the deviation request and noted that the delay was primarily due to the additional time required for the collection, consolidation, validation, and alignment of key monitoring data and supporting documentation prior to submission. The verification team observed that the project initially had partial-year consumption data covering the period from January to September only, and additional time was therefore required to extrapolate the data to full-year values. Furthermore, revisions were undertaken for customer-related assumptions through smoothing of average customer numbers across 2024 and 2025. The VVB also noted that consistency checks and corresponding updates were carried out in the ER spreadsheet and the PDD to ensure alignment across all site typologies and supporting documentation. The verification team confirmed that these activities involved iterative internal validation processes, supporting document revisions, and coordination among multiple stakeholders prior to finalization of the submission package. Based on the review of the information and explanations provided, the VVB considers the justification for the delayed submission to be reasonable. Therefore, the deviation request is accepted.
VVB's assessment of impact of deviation request	The VVB assessed the impact of the deviation request and confirmed that the delayed submission did not result in any change to the project design, monitoring methodology, monitoring period, or applied quantification approach. The deviation was limited to the timing of submission and was associated with additional time required for data consolidation, extrapolation of partial-year consumption data, revision of customer-related assumptions, and alignment of the ER spreadsheet and PDD documentation. The verification team confirmed that all revisions and updates were carried out prior to finalization of the submission package and did not materially affect the accuracy, completeness, or conservativeness of the monitored data and emission reduction calculations. Therefore, the VVB concludes that the deviation has no adverse impact on the applicability of the methodology, the integrity of the monitoring process, or the credibility of the emission reductions achieved by the project activity.
VVB recommendation	The VVB recommends that the project proponent establish a strengthened internal data management and review process to ensure timely consolidation, validation, and alignment of monitoring data and supporting documentation prior to submission deadlines. The VVB further recommends that periodic internal reviews and early coordination among relevant stakeholders be undertaken to minimize delays associated with

		data extrapolation, assumption revisions, and consistency checks between the ER spreadsheet and PDD documentation in future monitoring periods.
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