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-465
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 deviation is approved on a temporary basis for the current monitoring period (01/01/2025–31/12/2025), subject to the following conditions:

- The MR shall contain clearly delineated sections for each group of VPAs, transparently identifying which parameters derive from SMEC v1.0 (VPAs 25-28) and which from SMEC v1.1 (VPAs 50-52)
- The VVB shall explicitly confirm in the Verification Report that version-specific parameters were correctly applied to each VPA group
- The sampling plan must ensure statistically sound representation of both groups per VVS 17.4.1(c);

A permanent deviation for post 2026 period is not required as once all VPAs are transitioned to the PACM-aligned methodology, the situation will ideally no longer exist.

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

NA

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)	

[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]:	CO2logic, a South Pole company
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	*GSXXXX* *GSXXXX*	*GS XXXX* *GS XXXX*	*GS11070* *GS11071* *GS11072* *GS11073* *GS12037* *GS12038* *GS12039*
Host country(ies)	Burkina Faso		
Project Title	GS1340 Efficient cookstoves in Burkina Faso – VPA-25-26-27-28 – Solidagro F3PA cookstoves in Passoré GS1340 Efficient cookstoves in Burkina Faso – Solidagro F3PA cookstoves in Passoré - VPA 50-51-52		
Registry link	**https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3463** **https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3058**		

[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/3059 **https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3060** **https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3998** **https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3999** **https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/4000**
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	*dd/mm/yyyy*	*GS11070-11073: 14/07/2022* *GS12037-12039: 24/11/2023*	*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

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

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	Validation and Verification Standard
	Version	V2.0
	Paragraph	17.4.1 (c), footnote 31

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Deviation Request to Combine Pre- and Post-Renewal VPAs into a Single Monitoring Report for PoA GS1340 VPA 25-28 and 50-52	
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	01/01/2025
	End date	31/12/2025
	☐ NA	
Summarise the changes	The PD requests a deviation from the Validation and Verification Standard v2.0 requirement that mandates separating VPAs complying with pre- and post-update PoA-DD versions into separate monitoring reports (footnote 31 of s17.4.1). Specifically, the PD requests permission to include pre-renewal VPAs (25, 26, 27, and 28 under methodology version 1.0) and post-renewal VPAs (50, 51, and 52 under methodology version 1.1) within a single, unified MR for the current and all future monitoring periods of these VPAs under the PoA. In the alternative, should Gold Standard determine that a permanent deviation cannot be granted at this stage, the PD requests that this deviation be approved on a temporary basis strictly for the current	

	monitoring period to prevent unwarranted administrative delays to the ongoing verification (01/01/2025-31/12/2025).
Reason for deviation	The strict application of the rule to separate these VPAs into two independent MRs introduces severe administrative and financial duplication without providing any additional environmental benefit or material accuracy. Critically, at the time these earlier VPAs were designed and registered, the regulatory distinction between "Real Case" and "Regular Case" VPAs did not exist under Gold Standard rules. This explicit reporting separation was introduced later under VVS v2.0. Forcing an established project structure to retroactively split its reporting lines imposes an unforeseen burden that contradicts the regulatory expectations present at registration. Because both groups of VPAs feature identical cookstove technologies, overlap during the exact same timeframe, and share centralized data management systems, splitting them artificially inflates verification costs. Furthermore, a single, consolidated monitoring survey was deployed to cover all these VPAs simultaneously during this period; a unified approach that was accepted in previous successful verifications without issue. Looking forward, the PD is actively preparing to transition all 7 of these VPAs to the PACM-aligned version of the SMEC methodology from 2026 onwards. Because all 7 VPAs will follow the exact same methodology version post-transition, forcing a structural split for this brief interim period creates extensive administrative churn for a reporting format that will inherently be unified under the upcoming regulatory framework. Because the updates between PoA-DD Crediting Period 1 and 2 (and SMEC v1 to v1.1) are minor, fragmenting the report right now adds no value to the robustness of the data.
Proposed resolution	The PD proposes to maintain a single, consolidated MR, which will paradoxically increase the environmental integrity and robustness of the verification in the following ways: Mitigation of Double-Counting Risks: Presenting all VPAs in a single, comprehensive database allows the VVB to seamlessly cross-check the entire user and appliance registry in one place. This ensures that no duplicate cookstove units or overlapping households exist across the VPA boundaries, a risk that increases if the databases are audited separately. Clear Reporting: The MR will transparently reflect the differences in parameters set out in the VPA-DDs of the different VPAs. This ensures that the minor differences between the methodology versions are precisely respected and applied to the correct VPAs. Unified Survey Auditing: Since a single monitoring survey was deployed, keeping the data unified allows the VVB to evaluate the

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>sampling data, response rates, and statistical precision rules holistically, ensuring a more transparent and robust audit trail.

<u>Permanent Operational Consistency:</u> To ensure administrative and auditing efficiency over the lifetime of the program, the PD proposes that this joint reporting structure be applied permanently for all remaining monitoring periods. Because the databases, the unified sampling surveys, and the core management systems are integrated at the PoA level, and given the planned 2026 alignment with the new PACM rules, a permanent approval avoids repetitive annual deviation requests while consistently maintaining a higher level of cross-VPA double-counting protection.</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>There is no material, environmental, or quantitative impact on any aspect of the project, its design, SDG contributions, safeguarding principles, or additionality.

The deviation requested is strictly procedural and organizational, impacting only the reporting format (consolidating the monitoring data of the specified VPAs into a single Monitoring Report instead of splitting them across two documents).

Impact on Annual Emission Reduction Volume:
The deviation has zero impact on the volume of emission reductions generated. The calculations, parameters, and baseline assumptions for VPAs 25–28 will still be processed strictly using the formulas required by SMEC v1.0, and VPAs 50–52 will be processed strictly using SMEC v1.1.

Because the data processing pathways remain independent within the consolidated report, the total volume of GS VERs calculated and claimed will be exactly identical to the volume that would be produced if two separate reports were generated. Therefore, the values for</td></tr>
</table>

	"before applying deviation" and "after applying deviation" are mathematically identical.
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.*)

Document 1.

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