FORM

# FORM - DEVIATION REQUEST SUBMISSION

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**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-487 |
| Date of decision | 14/08/2026 |
| Decision | ☐ **Approved** [No precondition to apply the deviation decision]<br>☒ **Conditionally approved** [Decision is subject to compliance with the precondition defined below]<br>☐ **Not approved** [reason for rejection is provided in decision summary] |

## 4.2 | Decision

### 4.2.1 | **Decision Summary**

The deviation request is conditionally approved for the monitoring period under the following conditions:

**1. For KPT**

- The VVB shall verify that the KPT conducted in 2026 for stoves are representative and in line with the methodology's requirements as well as meeting the required 90/10 confidence/precision level.
- The VVB shall confirm that the application of the KPT results to the first monitoring period does not result in overestimation of emission reductions.

**2. For WBT**

- The VVB shall verify that the WBT conducted in 2026 meets the methodology's requirements on testing agency following Option 1 or Option 2 in ICS 29 or in ICS 31, where applicable, and the required 90/10 confidence/precision level.
- The VVB shall confirm that the thermal efficiency values applied to the ER calculations for the monitoring period are conservative and do not result in overestimation of emission reductions.
- The VVB shall confirm that the stove technology and region are identical and that the cross-application did not lead to overestimation.

**3. For future monitoring compliance**

- The CME shall confirm and the VVB shall verify that this is a temporary deviation, and the CME has measures/procedures in place to ensure that biennial KPT and WBT testing will be conducted in compliance with the methodology's required frequency for all future monitoring periods.

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

The CME 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 CME. The CME shall comply with all other applicable standard requirements unless specifically mentioned in the deviation decision. 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

The verifying VVB shall, through appropriate means at disposal, evaluate that the project's compliance with the above-mentioned conditions and provide VVB opinion in the verification report.

4.2.4 | Directions for the Gold Standard, if applicable

The review team shall check the information reported by the CME and the VVB for appropriateness, accuracy and consistency.

## 4.3 | Applicability to other activities

| | |
|---|---|
| Is this decision applicable to other projects under similar circumstances?[1] | ☐ Yes<br>☒ No |
| Does this decision set a precedent for future projects with similar circumstances?[2] | ☐ Yes<br>☒ 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] : | Deepak Pandey |
| Email ID[4] : | ceo@suvidha.org.in |
| Organisation:[5]: | SUVIDHA |
| Are you an authorized project participant as per the cover letter submitted for this activity? | ☒ Yes<br>☐ No |

### 5.3 | Background information

| Type | ☐ Project activity | ☒ PoA GS11546 | ☒ VPA |
|---|---|---|---|
| GS ID | | *GS11546* | *GS 12133* |
| Host country(ies) | India | | |
| Project Title | Energy Interventions for Rural Communities in India VPA – 5 ( Supported by CBM India) | | |
| Registry link | **https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/4289** | | |
| Scale | ☒ Microscale (GS)<br>☐ Small scale<br>☐ Large scale<br>☐ Other, if applicable please specify below<br>*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<br>*If other, specify here* |
| | *dd/mm/yyyy* | 27/06/2024 | *dd/mm/yyyy* | *dd/mm/yyyy* |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Applied version of Standard | ☒ GS4GG | | | |
| | ☒ Previous version of Gold Standard | Version no. 1.2 | | |
| | | ☐ 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<br>Name of the Standard – Insert text here |

| | |
|---|---|
| Applicable activity requirement | ☐ Renewable Energy Activity Requirements<br>☒ Community Services Activity Requirements<br>☐ Land-use and Forests Activity Requirements<br>☐ Agriculture Activity Requirements<br><br>☐ Blue Carbon and Freshwater Wetlands Activity Requirements<br>☐ Engineered removals Activity Requirements<br>☐ Other<br>*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<br>☒ 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**<br>a) As per the registered VPA-DD, KPT will be conducted biennially. In view of the same, VVB shall clarify how it has verified that the results are applicable for the entire crediting period | | |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| | which is longer than 2 years. Also, KPT survey sheet for 2025 shall be uploaded on GS Platform.<br>Considering the surveys were not conducted at frequency in line with the applied methodology and registered monitoring plan, a deviation request shall be submitted in line with Deviation Request Requirements and Procedures v.2.0.<br><br>b) Considering the WBTs were not conducted at a frequency in line with the applied methodology and registered monitoring plan, a deviation request shall be submitted in line with Deviation Request Requirements and Procedures v.2.0. |

# 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 | REDUCED EMISSIONS FROM COOKING AND HEATING: Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC), Version 4.0 |
| | Version | Version number 4.0 |
| | Paragraph | ICS 19, Monitoring Parameter Pp,y. Section 4.2 of the methodology |

## 6.2 | Description of the deviation

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Title | *Biennial conduct of KPTs and WBTs* | |
| Confirm the nature of changes related to deviation | ☒ Temporary<br>(e.g. not expected to occur beyond one monitoring period) | ☐ Permanent<br>(e.g. deviation from requirements prior to submission for certification) |
| | | |
| Relevant monitoring period, if applicable | Start date | 01/02/2023 |
| | End date | 30/06/2025 |
| | ☐ NA | |
| Summarise the changes | The KPT and WBT tests needs to be done biennially for estimating the amount fuelwood used in project scenario. The degradation in the performance of cookstove efficiency following the Water Boiling Test needs to be conducted and accordingly adjust the project fuel consumption level in line with Annex 4 of the methodology.<br><br>The PD monitors the use of fuelwood on traditional cookstoves on monthly basis and conducted the KPT for baseline fuelwood use after 2 years and 4 months. The project fuelwood use was | |

| | |
|---|---|
| | determined through fuelwood savings from the thermal efficiency of ICS. With regard to WBT test to determine the thermal efficiency of 2 year old stoves, the tests conducted for VPA 01 (real case VPA for this regular case VPA) was applied to the ICS stoves as the model and the region of the implementation was the same.<br><br>During the first verification, GS raised a CAR and requested a deviation for the same. Hence the deviation is sought.<br><br>As phased implementation was done for the project activity, in 2026, KPT and WBT tests for thermal efficiency was conducted for two year old stoves in 2026 and is applied for the first monitoring report.<br><br>As these are two old stoves are of the same model and the households are in the same project region, there will be not variation in the results.<br><br>The KPT conducted and the WBT test reports are submitted. |
| Reason for deviation | *As the project fuelwood use was based on thermal efficiency of 2 year stoves conducted for stoves from VPA 01, which is real case VPA for this VPA 05, GS requested a deviation before approving the ER calculations.* |
| Proposed resolution | *The proposed alternative monitoring arrangements for this non-confirming monitoring period was as follows:*<br><br>*As a batch of stoves distributed completed 2 years in 2026, these stoves are tested for thermal efficiency and also project KPT was conducted in line with Annex 4 of the methodology and applied for ER calculations for the monitoring period.*<br><br>*The proposed resolution complies with the requirements as follows:*<br>- *The stoves distributed and tested are Greenway Smart Stoves and are of the same model distributed through-out and are 2 years old.*<br><br>*The proposed resolution complies with the related requirements as follows:*<br>- *The Annex 4 is applied by testing the thermal efficiency and conducting the project KPT.*<br>- *The fuelwood usage on traditional cookstoves is also deducted, wherein it is based on KPT conducted for* |

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>traditional cookstoves. Hence this is a conservative approach compared to the requirement of the methodology.<br>- The thermal efficiency is within 90/10 confidence/precision level. The project KPT is also with the 90/10 confidence/precision level.<br>- Compared to the previously submitted ER calculations ER calculations is now conversative as it is based on KPTs for project ICS and KPTs on traditional cookstoves deducted for estimating ERs.</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:<br>☐ Project design<br>☐ Local stakeholder consultation<br>☐ Safeguarding principles<br>☐ SDG assessment<br>☐ Regulatory compliance<br>☐ Additionality<br>☐ Applicability of methodology<br>☒ Annual emission reduction volume (if yes, fill the table below)<br><br><table><tr><th>Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation</th><th>Annual emission reduction/ removal after applying deviation</th></tr><tr><td>15,411 $tCO_2e$</td><td>13,418 $tCO_2e$</td></tr></table><br>☐ any other matrix, please specify…<br>☐ 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">The impact of the deviation on each of the relevant aspect of the project is described below:<br>- Project Design: There is no impact as the model of the cookstoves are the same, i.e. Greenway Smart Stove. The project area remains the same too.<br>- Local stakeholder consultation: There is no impact on the local stakeholder consultation conducted.<br>- Safeguarding principles: No impact, as there is no change in the project design<br>- SDG assessment: No impact as there is no change in the design of the project activity.<br>- Regulatory compliance: There is no change in the regulatory compliance of the project activity<br>- Additionality: There is no change in the additionality of the project activity<br>- Applicability of methodology: The applicability of the methodology remains the same and there is no change<br>- Annual emission reduction volume: There was a decrease in the emission reductions due to conservatively applying the KPT results of ICS and the traditional cookstoves. the ERs reduced from 14,400 to 13,418 tCO2 after applying the revised studies based on the deviation.</td></tr>
</table>

## 6.3 | VVB information

| | |
|---|---|
| Is a VVB opinion on the deviation request required?<br>*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 ☐<br>*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 confirms that the nature of the deviation is temporary, as it is limited to the current monitoring period and will not extend beyond this monitoring period. |
| VVB's assessment of impact of deviation request | Considering that the Water Boiling Tests (WBTs) were not conducted at the frequency prescribed in the applied methodology and the registered monitoring plan, the Project Developer (PD) has submitted a deviation request to Gold Standard for review and approval.<br><br>The deviation relates solely to the timing of the WBTs and does not affect the applicability of the monitored data used for the current verification. The Kitchen Performance Test (KPT), which is the basis for determining the specific fuel savings and the corresponding emission reductions, was conducted in 2026 on two-year-old project stoves, consistent with the age of the stoves during the current monitoring period. Therefore, the fuelwood savings derived from the KPT are representative of the performance of the project stoves during the monitoring period and have been appropriately applied in the emission reduction calculations.<br><br>The VVB assessed the impact of the deviation and confirmed that it does not result in any material impact on the conservativeness, accuracy, or credibility of the monitored parameters or the estimated emission reductions. The deviation is limited to the WBT monitoring frequency and does not affect the validity of the KPT results or the calculation of project emission reductions. Accordingly, the VVB concludes that the deviation is temporary in nature, is confined to the |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | current monitoring period, and does not compromise the integrity of the verification outcome. |
| VVB recommendation | | The VVB recommends acceptance of the deviation request, as the deviation is temporary and limited to the current monitoring period. Although the Water Boiling Tests (WBTs) were not conducted at the frequency prescribed in the applied methodology and the registered monitoring plan, the Project Developer has justified the deviation and submitted a formal deviation request to Gold Standard. |
| VVB details | VVB name: | 4K Earth Science Private Limited |
| | Auditor name(s): | Stalin S |
| | Email (s): | vvb@4kearthscience.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 : WBT Test Report

Document 2 : KPT conducted.

## 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:<br>- date of listing, design certification, transition<br>- standard version<br>- specific reference to a requirement deviated from<br>- any previous deviations/design changes approved<br>- 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 |