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

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 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-488
Date of decision	23/08/2026
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 for postponing the date of the site visit is approved and the site visit shall take place no later than 30th December 2027.

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

The project developer 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 project developer. The project developer shall comply with all other applicable standard requirements until unless specifically mentioned in the deviation decision. The project developer 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
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 (Project representative)

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

Item	Information
Name[3] :	Ana Maria Zapata
Email ID[4] :	Anamaria.zapata@stonex.com
Organisation:[5]:	StoneX
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	*GS23329*		
Host country(ies)	Nicaragua		
Project Title	Nicaragua SunPower		
Registry link	**https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/5251**		
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 *Under Design Review (First round of comments)*
	dd/mm/yyyy	*dd/mm/yyyy*	*dd/mm/yyyy*	*18/07/2026*

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	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] 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	Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures
	Version	V.2
	Paragraph	3.1.1

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Request for deviation: Timing of the First Verification Site Visit	
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	The project participant requests approval to postpone the date of the project's first mandatory site visit because the project has not yet achieved Gold Standard Design Certification. The project start date is **30 August 2024**. According to the *Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures* (Section 3.1.1), where validation is conducted remotely, the mandatory site visit must be completed within two years of the project start date. Therefore, under the current requirement, the site visit should be completed no later than **30 August 2026**. The project successfully completed remote validation on **31 March 2026**. As the validation was conducted remotely, the mandatory site visit was not performed during validation and must therefore be undertaken during the first verification. The project is currently undergoing the Gold Standard Design Review. At the time of this request, the project completed its response to the first Design Review feedback, and Gold Standard has until **06 August 2026** to issue comments on this submission. Considering the remaining Design Review process and the subsequent certification steps, it is unlikely that Design Certification will be granted before 30 August 2026. Consequently, the project cannot initiate and complete its first verification, including the mandatory site visit, before the current deadline established in Section 3.1.1.	

Reason for deviation	This deviation is requested because the project has not yet been certified, and this affects the possibility of completing the first verification and the mandatory site visit within the original deadline. The project followed the applicable validation requirements and completed remote validation on **31 March 2026**. In accordance with the *Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures*, the mandatory site visit was not undertaken during validation. Therefore, as required under Section 3.1.1 of the same document, the mandatory site visit must be completed during the first verification. However, the project has not yet received Gold Standard Design Certification and therefore cannot initiate the verification process. Although the project is actively progressing through the Design Review, the expected timeline does not provide sufficient time to: • Complete the remaining Design Review process; • Obtain Design Certification; • Prepare the verification documentation; • Appoint and coordinate with the VVB; and • Conduct the first verification and mandatory site visit before **30 August 2026**. Accordingly, compliance with the original site visit deadline is not feasible despite the project participant's continued progress through the certification process. Additionally, the project's crediting period started on **30 December 2025**. Under the recent Gold Standard requirements related to Paris Agreement Alignment, emission reductions corresponding to vintages from **2026 onwards** are expected to be quantified using Paris Agreement-aligned methodologies. However, the applicable methodology (**ACM0002**) has not yet been updated to incorporate these requirements. As a result, carrying out a verification for the monitoring period covering **30 December 2025 to 30 August 2026** could create implementation challenges, as the applicable methodology has not yet been updated to meet the Paris Agreement Alignment requirements. Delaying the first verification until additional regulatory clarity is available will support a more robust and consistent verification process.
Proposed resolution	The proposed resolution is to allow the first mandatory site visit to be conducted during the first verification, following the project's Gold Standard Design Certification and initiation of the verification process. This approach ensures continued compliance with the Gold Standard requirement that the first verification be completed within the first two years of the crediting period. The project's crediting period started **on 30 December 2025**; therefore, the first verification will be completed

	no later than 30 December 2027, while remaining fully compliant with the applicable requirements. Following Design Certification, the project participant will initiate the verification process and schedule the first verification within the applicable timeline. The mandatory site visit will be carried out by the VVB as part of this first verification and documented in the corresponding verification report. This proposed deviation does not compromise the intent of the site visit requirement. The site visit will still enable the VVB to confirm project implementation, operational status, monitoring arrangements, and site conditions before the first issuance of Verified Emission Reductions (VERs), thereby preserving the objective of independent on-site confirmation prior to credit issuance.
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… ☒ NA
Summary of the impact	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.
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	NOVA CERT LLC confirms the deviation is correctly classified as Permanent, as it concerns a change to the applicable timing of a mandatory certification requirement (the first site visit) prior to the project achieving Design Certification, rather than a temporary departure limited to a single monitoring period. The request is substantiated and consistent with the certification record: (i) the project genuinely completed remote validation on 31 March 2026 in accordance with the Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures, so the physical site visit obligation was validly deferred, not omitted; (ii) the project remains under active Design Review and Design Certification has not yet been granted, which is a procedural fact verifiable from the GS Assurance Platform record (Request ID 46495) and is outside the Project Developer's control; (iii) Gold Standard's own clarification (CLRQ-396, 20/07/2026) confirms the Section 3.1.1 deadline is to be met via the first verification site visit, meaning the sequence proposed by the Project Developer already reflects Gold Standard's stated position; and (iv) the Project Developer raised the underlying timing ambiguity proactively via CLRQ-339 and CLRQ-396 well before the deadline, evidencing good-faith compliance efforts rather than an attempt to avoid the requirement.
VVB's assessment of impact of deviation request	NOVA CERT LLC assesses the impact of this deviation as low and fully containable within the existing certification process. The deviation does not reduce, remove, or waive the mandatory physical site visit requirement; it only shifts when the visit occurs, from the validation stage to the first verification stage. No emission reductions have yet been issued for the project, so they are not placed at risk by the delay, and the site visit will occur before any first issuance, preserving independent on-site confirmation of project implementation, operational status, and monitoring arrangements ahead of credit issuance. The deviation has no effect on project design, additionality, or methodology applicability, and there is no indication that on-the-ground project conditions have changed in a way that would make continued reliance on the remote validation evidence inappropriate pending the site visit. Any residual risk

		is further mitigated by the Project Developer's own proposal to complete the first verification, inclusive of the physical site visit, no later than 30 December 2027 (within two years of the crediting period start date of 30 December 2025), which NOVA CERT LLC considers a reasonable and enforceable timeframe.
VVB recommendation		NOVA CERT LLC recommends conditional approval of this deviation request, subject to the following precondition: the mandatory physical site visit under Section 3.1.1 of the Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures, and Paragraph 2.2.2 / FAR#1 of the Applicability of Minimum Site Visit Requirements by VVB, shall be conducted by NOVA CERT LLC as part of the first verification of GS23329, to be initiated promptly following Design Certification and completed, together with the site visit, no later than 30 December 2027. NOVA CERT LLC has reviewed the Project Developer's supporting evidence (remote validation completion on 31 March 2026, ongoing Design Review status, and the CLRQ-339/CLRQ-396 clarification history) and finds the request well-substantiated, made in good faith, and consistent with Gold Standard's own guidance that the site visit obligation deferred at validation is to be fulfilled at first verification.
VVB details	VVB name:	NOVA CERT LLC
	Auditor name(s):	Manuela Tibaduiza
	Email (s):	Manuela.tibaduiza@nova-cert.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.

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