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-501
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 is conditionally approved for the delay of mandatory physical verification site visit. The VVB shall not verify the monitoring period falling after the site visit date and the monitoring period falling three years before the site visit date following the GS requirement "Applicability of Minimum Site Visit Requirements by VVB" for Non-Force Majeure.

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 until 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 ☒ 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] :	Rebecca Barton
Email ID[4] :	Rebecca.barton@co2balance.com
Organisation:[5]:	CO2balance
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*	*GS 5325* *GS 5326* *GS 7293* *GS 7391* *GS 7437*
Host country(ies)	Ethiopia		
Project Title	GS1247 VPA 89 Southern Ethiopia Efficient Cook Stoves GS1247 VPA 90 Southern Ethiopia Efficient Cook Stoves GS1247 VPA 172 Southern Ethiopia Efficient Cook Stoves GS1247 VPA 188 Southern Ethiopia Efficient Cook Stoves GS1247 VPA 189 Southern Ethiopia Efficient Cook Stoves		

[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

<table>
<tr><td>Registry link</td><td colspan="4">https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/946
https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/947
https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1450
https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1577
https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1607</td></tr>
<tr><td>Scale</td><td colspan="4">☒ Microscale (GS)
☐ Small scale
☐ Large scale
☐ Other, if applicable please specify below
Insert text here</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Certification Status and corresponding date of latest status</td><td>☐ Listed</td><td>☐ Certified design[6]</td><td>☒ Certified project[7]</td><td>☐ Other
If other, specify here</td></tr>
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GS5326: 06/11/2017
GS7293: 25/11/2019
GS7391: 25/11/2019
GS7437: 25/11/2019</td><td>dd/mm/yyyy</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Applied version of Standard</td><td colspan="4">☒ GS4GG</td></tr>
<tr><td>☐ Previous version of Gold Standard</td><td colspan="3">Version no.
☐ 1.0 ☐ 1.1 ☐ 1.2 ☐ 2.2</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Transition date, if applicable</td><td colspan="2">From previous GS version to GS4GG</td><td colspan="2">dd/mm/yyyy</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">From another standard to GS4GG</td><td colspan="2">dd/mm/yyyy</td></tr>
<tr><td>Name of another standard</td><td colspan="3">☐ CDM
☐ Other
Name of the Standard – Insert text here</td></tr>
<tr><td>Applicable activity requirement</td><td colspan="4">☐ Renewable Energy Activity Requirements
☒ Community Services Activity Requirements
☐ Land-use and Forests Activity Requirements
☐ Agriculture Activity Requirements
☐ Blue Carbon and Freshwater Wetlands Activity Requirements</td></tr>
</table>

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

	☐ 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		

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	REVISIONS TO MICROSCALE SCHEME REQUIREMENTS
	Version	1.0
	Paragraph	4.1.2.b

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Request to deviate from the requirement to conduct a physical site audit by the end of 30/11/2025.	
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	04/11/2024
	End date	31/12/2025
	☐ NA	
Summarise the changes	*This deviation relates to the rules update for microscale projects reported in Para 4.2.1 of the GS doc "revisions to microscale scheme requirements": The first physical site visit required for microscale projects/VPAs after the entry into force of these requirements (subject to sampling requirements for PoAs) shall be conducted as follows:* *a. Within 3 years of the last Objective Observer(OO) or VVB physical site visit* *b. If no OO or VVB physical site visit was conducted in the past 3 years, then the next verification shall include a physical site visit, no later than 2 years of entry into force of these requirements, i.e.,*	

	30/11/2025. Note the length of the monitoring period that may be verified through a site visit as per Rule Update: Applicability of Site Visit Requirements by VVB. *The VVB carried out a physical site visit in December 2025, missing the deadline of the 30/11/2025 by a few weeks.*
Reason for deviation	The PD is requesting for a deviation from the following requirement: Para 4.2.1 of the GS doc "revisions to microscale scheme requirements": The first physical site visit required for microscale projects/VPAs after the entry into force of these requirements (subject to sampling requirements for PoAs) shall be conducted as follows: a. Within 3 years of the last Objective Observer(OO) or VVB physical site visit b. If no OO or VVB physical site visit was conducted in the past 3 years, then the next verification shall include a physical site visit, no later than 2 years of entry into force of these requirements, i.e., 30/11/2025. Note the length of the monitoring period that may be verified through a site visit as per Rule Update. The previous physical site visit took place in July 2022, and therefore the site visit was carried out with 3 calendar years of this date. The subsequent verification process was initiated with the VVB in September 2025, and all initial documents shared 12/11/2025. However, due to: • The logistical requirements for arranging the physical site visit and coordinating with the availability of the Ethiopian project partner, and • The uncertainties surrounding the implementation of the new requirements linked to the PA alignment, which led the PD to extend the monitoring period until the end of 2025, before implementing the changes required from the start of 2026. The physical site visit could only take place in December 2025. Consequently, the physical site visit took place after the 30 November 2025 deadline specified in the applicable requirement. Furthermore, as per the Design Certification Renewal (DCR) Review, a FAR was raised stating 'At minimum, the VVB shall conduct physical site visit within two years of project start date. A physical site visit by VVB is mandatory at the first verification of a project.' This FAR was met as the physical site visit occurred with 2 years of CP2 start date. The deviation is therefore requested to accommodate the delayed physical site visit resulting from the logistical and coordination constraints described above, as well as the uncertainty regarding the implementation of the PA alignment and the associated timing of the

	verification. The physical site visit has now been completed, and the PD considers that the applicable verification requirements have subsequently been addressed.
Proposed resolution	As the verification review began in mid-November 2025, the VVB shared the verification plan 18/11/2015, and arrangements had already begun in organising the site visit prior to the 30/11/2025 deadline. However, due to the delay in the verification process resulting from the PA alignment timelines uncertainty and the delay in finding a suitable time with the in-country partner for the site visit, the actual site visit occurred a few weeks after the 30/11/2015 deadline. It's important to note that all monitoring activities being reviewed in the site visit were completed before 30/11/2025 and the VVB has been able to undertake the required verification activities. Therefore, the delay by a few weeks in conducting the physical site visit, has no impact on the monitoring results or the integrity of the verification review.
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*	Yes ☐ No ☐ *If answer is yes, fill the information in section 6.4 below.*

Procedures or request is submitted by the VVB.	

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