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-511
Date of decision	08/09/2026
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 delay of 1st verification is approved, however, the project developer and VVB must follow the "Applicability of Minimum Site Visit Requirements by VVB," that the VVB shall not verify the monitoring period falling before two years of the site visit date.

The deviation is approved for the delayed submission of the annual reports for the 2024 and 2025 verification periods. The project developer must submit the separate annual reports to the Assurance Platform as soon as possible.

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

The project developer shall establish and implement a process/procedure to ensure that Annual Reports are submitted annually, no later than the end of the year.

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

The verifying VVB shall verify compliance with this requirement in the verification report, as stipulated in the applicable version of Principles & Requirements.

4.2.4 | Directions for the Gold Standard, if applicable

The review team shall check the information reported by the project developer 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] :	Salvatore Longo
Email ID[4] :	longo@akuoenergy.com
Organisation:[5]:	PHINIE & CO. DEVELOPMENT, S.R.L.
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	*GS12244*	*GS XXXX* *GS XXXX*	*GS XXXX* *GS XXXX*
Host country(ies)	Dominican Republic		
Project Title	Los Negros Solar		
Registry link	**https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/4241**		
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 *If other, specify here*
	dd/mm/yyyy	*29/08/2024*	*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 ☐ 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	DEV_420		
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** *FAR 01 (p. 108) required the postponed physical stakeholder consultation to be conducted in accordance with the latest Gold Standard Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements. The postponed consultation was*

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

	subsequently conducted on 8–9 November 2023 in a hybrid format, with some participants attending online and others in person. The VVB confirmed that the requirements were met and closed the FAR. *FAR 02 (p. 109) addressed whether stakeholder feedback from the delayed consultation required changes to the project design, safeguarding principles or SDG impact parameters. The VVB confirmed that no comments requiring such changes were received, and the FAR was closed.* *FAR 01 (p. 111–112) required the VVB to assess the justification for the delayed physical stakeholder meeting. The VVB confirmed that the meeting initiated on 18 April 2023 was stopped because a dispute arose among participants and there was a perceived risk of a physical confrontation; the justification was validated through evidence and stakeholder interviews.* *FAR 02 (p. 113) specifically required verification that the physical stakeholder meeting was disrupted and could not proceed. The VVB confirmed that the evidence supported the disruption and that the situation was genuine.* *FAR 03 (p. 110) confirmed that the deviation request, its implications and Gold Standard decision were properly documented.* *CL 01 (p. 115) concerned clarification of the grievance mechanism and was subsequently closed/turned into a FAR.*

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	5.1.1 (e), 5.1.39

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Extension of the deadline to conduct the first Performance Certification	
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 Los Negros Solar Project seeks a deviation from Gold Standard Principles & Requirements, specifically paragraph 5.1.1 (e), which mandates that verification must occur at least once within a five-year certification cycle, with the first verification completed within two years of the Project Implementation Date or Design Certification Date, whichever is later. The Design Certification Date was 29/08/2024 and the Project Implementation Date was before that. However, due to the circumstances described below, the first verification could not be completed by 29/08/2026. In addition, as per paragraph 5.1.39 of the Principle and Requirement, an annual report shall be submitted for each monitoring year by end of next calendar year for which verification is not completed. If a verification is in progress but not completed, then an Annual Report is still required by the end of calendar year. However, the first annual report for years 2024 and 2025 was not submitted due to changes in management reasons described below that will not apply to future monitoring periods as they have been fully resolved. Accordingly, the Project Developer respectfully requests Gold Standard to approve a deviation from the requirement under paragraph 5.1.39 for the timely submission of the Annual Reports for the 2024 and 2025 monitoring years and to accept the present deviation request as formal notification and justification of the delayed submissions.	
Reason for deviation	Due to unforeseen delays explained below, the verification process as well as the timely preparation and submission of the Annual Reports was delayed beyond the originally anticipated timeframe for the following reasons: 1. Restructuring of the consultancy and offtaker company The verification process was delayed due to organizational restructuring within both the consultancy supporting the verification process and the offtaker company. These internal changes resulted in changes to key personnel, responsibilities and management arrangements, which affected the timely coordination and preparation of the documentation required to initiate and progress the verification. 2. Change in offtaker contract: In parallel, the renegotiation of the consultancy contract required additional time due to the organizational changes and the need to redefine the scope of services and contractual arrangements. The contract renegotiation took longer than initially anticipated, consequently delaying the formal commencement of the verification activities. It shall be noted that the verification process will be facilitated with the contracting of a new carbon consultant to be signed once this deviation is approved.	

	The Project Developer had intended to initiate the verification process within the applicable timeframe and had taken steps to progress with the standard process; however, the combination of the organizational restructuring and the extended contract renegotiation resulted in an unforeseen delays in formally commencing with the verification. The omission was unintentional and resulted from the exceptional administrative and organizational circumstances described above, rather than from any intention to disregard the applicable Gold Standard requirements. The Project Developer therefore requests that Gold Standard approve an extension of the applicable deadline for completion of the verification. The delay is administrative and organizational in nature and does not affect the underlying monitoring data, the accuracy or completeness of the reported information, or the conservativeness of the emission reductions claimed by the project. The Project Developer remains committed to completing the verification as soon as practicable and to ensuring full compliance with the applicable Gold Standard requirements.
Proposed resolution	The project requests an extension of the two-year verification requirement from the Design Certification Date (29/08/2024) due to factors beyond the control of the project developer. Furthermore, we acknowledge that the annual reports for the years 2024-2025 should have been submitted to Gold Standard (GS) as per the requirement outlined in the principle and requirement. The annual report for the missed-out calendar years, 2024-2025, will be submitted in a timely manner following submission of this deviation request. The project developer declares that henceforth, the submission of annual reports shall be performed on a timely basis. The project developer has now addressed the circumstances that caused the delay and is committed to: • Conduct verification at the earliest feasible date. • Ensure all monitoring arrangements align with GS4GG Verification & Performance Review. • Apply conservative assumptions where necessary to ensure emission reductions are not overestimated. • The verification process will be facilitated with the contracting of a new carbon consultant to be signed once this deviation is approved. In addition, these changes do not have an impact on Additionality, Prior Consideration, or Emission Reductions: • The project has operated as per the registered PDD, with only the verification timeline being affected. • The electricity generation activities continued as planned, ensuring that project impact was not compromised.
Is there any potential temporary or	Select the relevant area: ☐ Project design

permanent impact of deviation on other aspects of the project?	☐ 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.
This is one-time deviation that will not affect future verifications and will not impact additionality, prior consideration or emission reductions.	

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