FORM

FORM - DEVIATION REQUEST SUBMISSION

PUBLICATION DATE: 12/11/2024
VERSION: 6.0
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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 deviations@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

4.1 | General information

DEVIATION REFERENCE NUMBER	DEVRQ-519
Date of decision	28/09/2026
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 deviation request regarding the delay in Renewal of Crediting Period (RCP) submission for VPAs GS11673, GS11672 and GS11434 under PoA GS10789 is conditionally approved, subject to the following conditions:

- The CME shall submit the complete request for renewal of crediting period (alongside the PoA-DD and real-case VPA-DD aligned with RECH PAA version 5.0) before 05 November 2026, which marks the end of the 6-month transition period from the publication date of RECH PAA version 5.0.
- In case the CME decided not to conduct a new baseline and get it validated prior to the renewal submission, the initial submission of the renewal documentation with existing (CP1) baseline values could be submitted for administrative filing purposes only.
- The CME must conduct updated baseline surveys in full compliance with RECH PAA version 5.0 prior to the first verification of Crediting Period 2 (CP2).
- The CME must conduct the design change for updating the baseline values following the Design Change requirements.
- No GS-VERs / emission reductions shall be issued for CP2 based on CP1 baseline values. All issuances for CP2 must strictly reflect the reassessed baseline validated by the VVB.
- The CME/VVB could combine the renewal validation and CP2 MP1 verification site visit but the deadline for renewal submission (before 05 November 2026) is not changed as above.

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 VVB shall, through appropriate means at disposal, evaluate that the project's compliance with the above-mentioned conditions and provide VVB opinion in the validation/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] :	PETER SCOTT
Email ID[4] :	peter.scott@burnmfg.com
Organisation:[5]:	BURN Manufacturing Co.
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	☒ VPA
GS ID	*N/A*	*GS10789*	*GS11673* *GS11672* *GS11434*
Host country(ies)	Senegal, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire		
Project Title	GS11673: GS10789 VPA81: Efficient and Clean Cooking for households in Senegal GS11672: GS10789 VPA71: Efficient and Clean Cooking for households in Ghana GS11434: GS10789 VPA6: Efficient and Clean Cooking for households in Cote d'Ivoire		
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3832 https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3833 https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3455		
Scale	☐ Microscale (GS) ☐ Small scale ☒ Large scale ☐ Other, if applicable please specify below		

[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

	Insert text here

Certification Status and corresponding date of latest status	☐ Listed	☒ Certified design	☐ Certified project	☐ Other *If other, specify here*
	dd/mm/yyyy	*GS11673:* 25/07/2023 *GS11672: 08/08/2023* *GS11434: 22/11/2023*	*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 ☐ 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	DEVRQ-496 DEVRQ-264			
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	Principles and Requirements
	Version	V2.1
	Paragraph	5.1.45

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Delay in submission of the renewal of crediting period for GS11673, GS11672 and GS11434	
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)
	The deviation applies solely to the timing of the RCP submission. It is not expected to extend beyond the current situation: no changes are made to the project design, the registered monitoring plan or the applied methodology during the current crediting period.	
Relevant monitoring period, if applicable	Start date	N/A, CP dates mentioned below
	End date	N/A, CP dates mentioned below

Summarise the changes

We are writing to formally request your approval to delay in the submission of the Renewal of Crediting Period (RCP) documentation for the following VPAs: GS11673, GS11672 and GS11434.

Crediting period of VPAs are mentioned below:

GS ID	CP1	Start date of CP2/due date for submission for RCP
GS11673	19/08/2021 - 18/08/2026	19/08/2026
GS11672	19/08/2021 - 18/08/2026	19/08/2026
GS 11434	22/07/2021 - 21/07/2026	22/07/2026

The VPAs are currently due for Crediting Period 2 (CP2) set as 19/08/2026 and 22/07/2026 respectively for the VPAs GS11673, GS11672 and GS11434.

We would greatly appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to your guidance and approval.

Reason for deviation	All the projects are under CP1 with version 3.1 and 4 of the methodology. As per Gold Standard requirements, projects seeking issuance for emission reductions generated from 2026 (i.e. CP2) onwards must undergo revalidation or complete a design change in line with the revised version of RECH V5 (Formerly TPDDTEC) methodology prior to verification. Accordingly, these VPAs will be required to complete a design change to update the applied methodology version before any issuance under CP2 can take place. The RECH design change is being progressed at programme level. Under the PoA structure, the PoA Design Document (PoA-DD) and the real case VPA-DD establish the methodology application that the regular case VPAs rely on, and are therefore revalidated as a single package. Of the VPAs covered by this request, GS11673 (Senegal) is the real case VPA, while GS11672 (Ghana) and GS11434 (Cote d'Ivoire) are regular case VPAs. The plan was, and remains, to submit these VPAs to Gold Standard for RCP review together with the PoA and the other real case VPAs, so that a single, consistent version of the methodology applies across the programme. The CME is currently preparing the PoA-DD, the real case VPA-DD and the VPA-DDs for these projects concurrently. That documentation is not yet complete, and the RECH design change cannot be submitted to Gold Standard until the PoA-DD and the real case VPA-DD are finalised. Submitting the RCP for the regular case VPAs ahead of the PoA and the real case VPA would therefore be premature, as the regular case VPAs cannot be validated against a methodology application that has not yet been assessed at PoA and real case level. The CME expects to submit the PoA-DD, the real case VPA-DD and the VPA-DDs for these projects to Gold Standard in November 2026. A further factor contributing to the delay is that the baseline surveys required to establish updated baseline parameters under RECH v5.0 could not be completed within the intended timeframe. RECH v5.0, paragraph 14.1.2 and Appendix A2.6.1(c), requires in-field weighing scales used for Kitchen Performance Tests (KPTs) to be verified against certified standard reference weights, and such weights could not be procured, calibrated and deployed in the affected host countries in time for the 2026 monitoring campaigns. Gold Standard conditionally approved a temporary deviation from that requirement on 07 September 2026 under reference DEVRQ-496, covering KPT campaigns conducted during calendar year 2026 in the affected countries, which include Senegal and Ghana. Under DEVRQ-496 the certified reference weights are expected to be calibrated and deployed from November 2026 onwards, at which point the deviation ceases to apply in each country and all remaining KPTs must be conducted with verified scales. Given the data quality risk expressly acknowledged in DEVRQ-496, the CME considered it inappropriate to establish new CP2 baseline values on the basis of surveys conducted with scales that had not yet been verified against certified reference weights. The CME has therefore deferred the baseline surveys until the certified reference weights are deployed, rather than submit baseline values that could not be substantiated to the required standard.

Proposed resolution	In light of the above, we kindly request your approval to delay submission of the RCP beyond the deadline until the PoA-DD and the real case VPA-DD have been finalised and the RECH v 5.0 design change has been submitted to Gold Standard. The CME will promptly update the project documentation for these VPAs to the revised methodology version and submit the RCP documentation as part of that package. The CME expects to submit this documentation to Gold Standard in November 2026. In the interest of time, and to avoid further delay to the renewal of the crediting period, the CME additionally requests approval to submit the RCP documentation using the existing (CP1) baseline values, subject to the following commitments: (a) The CME shall reassess the baseline, including the conduct of baseline surveys using calibrated equipment, prior to the first verification under CP2. No issuance under CP2 shall be requested or made on the basis of the existing (CP1) baseline; all CP2 issuance shall be based on the reassessed baseline. (b) The reassessed baseline shall be submitted to the VVB for assessment as part of the first verification, covering monitoring period 1 (MP1) of CP2. (c) The mandatory VVB site visit required for the renewal of the certification cycle for the real case VPA (GS11673, Senegal) shall be conducted during MP1 and combined with the MP1 verification site visit, at which the VVB shall assess the reassessed baseline alongside the MP1 monitoring data. The CME acknowledges that a site visit is required for the PoA and its real case VPA at validation and at renewal of the certification cycle under the Validation and Verification Standard v1.0, paragraphs 6.3.5 and 6.3.9, and notes that paragraph 6.3.8 of the same document expressly permits a VVB to carry out a combined site visit for the validation and verification processes, in which case a site visit is mandatory. The CME is therefore not seeking a waiver of the site visit requirement; it requests only that the visit be deferred to, and combined with, the MP1 verification, with any outstanding validation matters carried forward as a Forward Action Request for the first verification in line with paragraph 7.12.9. A physical on-site inspection at the first verification is in any event mandatory under paragraph 17.3.2 of the Validation and Verification Standard v1.0 and paragraph 3.2.2 of the Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements. This approach avoids a dedicated site visit for GS11673 (Senegal) at the RCP stage, which would otherwise be required by reason of its status as the real case VPA notwithstanding that the RCP is submitted on the existing baseline.
Is there any potential temporary or permanent impact of deviation on other	Select the relevant area: ☐ Project design ☐ Local stakeholder consultation ☐ Safeguarding principles ☐ SDG assessment ☐ Regulatory compliance ☐ Additionality ☐ Applicability of methodology

aspects of the project?	☐ Annual emission reduction volume *(if yes, fill the table below)* Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation: *N/A* Annual emission reduction/ removal after applying deviation: N/A ☒ any other matrix, Crediting Period Renewal requirements listed out in Principle and requirements, v 2.1., para 5.1.45
Summary of the impact	There is no impact on the project design, safeguarding principles, SDG assessment, data quality, potential risk or any other aspects of the project due to this deviation. The VPAs will abide by all Gold Standard requirements. The CME notes that the reassessment of the baseline prior to the first verification under CP2 may result in revised emission reduction estimates for CP2. As no issuance under CP2 will be made on the basis of the existing (CP1) baseline, there is no risk of over-crediting arising from this deviation.
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	The VVB confirms that the nature of the deviation is temporary and is applicable for the scope of RCP of the VPAs – VPA 81, 71 and 6 (GS11673, GS11672 and GS11434 respectively).
VVB's assessment of impact of deviation request	VVB has reviewed the details of the deviation provided in the sections above by the CME and finds them to be credible and appropriate. VVB would request GS to allow a deviation from para 6.3.9 of GS VVS v2.0, which requires the VVB to conduct a site visit for Renewal of PoA. The VVB understands that, while a site visit is required, it is not mandatory for the VVB to conduct a physical site visit and that a remote audit would suffice to meet this requirement. Additionally, paragraph 6.3.9 of GS VVS v2.0 states that "*Renewal of PoA period shall include a site visit by a VVB who assesses the PoA against all GS4GG Requirements. A VVB shall*

		validate the PoA and real case VPA for renewal of certification cycle." In this context, the PoA RCP was concluded in August 2025 where the VVB conducted an onsite audit for the RCP of PoA GS10789 and its associated real-case VPA GS 10790. Therefore, the requirements to conduct a site visit during PoA renewal and to validate the PoA and real case VPA during RCP duly met. Further, the CME has not conducted any new baseline surveys for the VPAs and continues to use the previously conducted surveys to demonstrate the baseline scenario. These baseline scenarios were already confirmed by the VVB during the initial validation of the respective VPAs. Therefore, considering that there have been no changes to the baseline, a remote audit is deemed sufficient to meet the applicable requirements. The VVB further confirms that a risk assessment will be conducted prior to the audit and that the proposed approach would not impact any aspect of the VPAs. This deviation does not affect the project design, additionality, or applicability of the methodology and is applicable only to the scope of Renewal of Crediting Period.
VVB recommendation		The VVB would request GS to approve the deviation considering the concerns raised by the CME.
VVB details	VVB name:	Earthood Services Limited
	Auditor name(s):	Sukanya Phukan
	Email (s):	sukanya.phukan@earthood.in

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.*)

1. DEVRQ-496 – FORM: Deviation Request Submission (Ver 6.1), Temporary Deviation from RECH v5.0 Standard Weight Calibration Requirement, conditionally approved by Gold Standard on 07/09/2026

DOCUMENT HISTORY

VERSION NUMBER	RELEASE DATE	DESCRIPTION
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