

TEMPLATE

# DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

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PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**

Version **5.0**

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## A. To be completed by Gold Standard

### 1 | Decision

**1.1 | Date – 09/08/2022**

#### **1.2 | Decision**

The deviation is approved. However, the PD shall ensure that the Objective Observer (OO) has been selected for the on-site audit as required by para 2.1.2 of the Annex B of [Principles and Requirements version 1.2](#) and have conducted the audit under the guidance of a GS-approved VVB.

The validating/verifying VVB shall ensure the following:

- a) The Objective observer (OO) is selected to conduct the assessment as per the checklist provided.
- b) The site visit conducted by the OO during the validation shall capture the information regarding the project impacts on the social, environmental and economic elements of the local community and during the verification shall confirm the status of the project operation and the mitigation plan in place to tackle the negative impacts of the project.

- c) Assess and demonstrate how the selected OO has prior experience working in conflict zones/areas that pose a high risk to life and/or health. The VVB shall also demonstrate OO's involvement in other activities within the project's geographical area.

The VVB shall report the above-mentioned information in the validation and verification report.

The PD shall document the deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision in the appropriate section of the GS PDD/ Monitoring Report (for the relevant MP).

The validating/verifying VVB shall, through appropriate means at its disposal, evaluate the Project's compliance with the above-mentioned conditions and provides its opinion in the Validation/Verification Report.

SustainCert shall review both the PD's response and the VVB's assessment/opinion of the same and take appropriate steps.

### **1.3 | Is this decision applicable to other project activities under similar circumstances?**

No

**B. To be completed by the Project Developer/Coordinating and Managing Entity and/or VVB requesting deviation** (Submit deviation request form in Microsoft Word format)

**2| Background information**

Deviation Reference Number	DEV_284	
Date of decision	09/08/2022	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	N/A	
Date of submission	29/07/2022	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID – GSXXX
	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GSXXXX
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GS11433, GS11435
Project/PoA/VPA title	GS10789 VPA5: Efficient and Clean Cooking for households in DRC GS10789 VPA7: Efficient and Clean Cooking for households in DRC	
Date of listing	7 March 2022	
GS Standard version applicable	-	
Date of transition to GS4GG (if applicable)	-	
Date of transition to Gold Standard from another standard (e.g. CDM) (if applicable)	-	
Date of design certification/inclusion (if applicable)	-	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	Host country(ies): DRC	
Scale of the project/PoA/VPA	<input type="checkbox"/> Microscale <input type="checkbox"/> Small scale <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large scale	
Gold Standard Impact Registry link of the project/PoA/VPA	<a href="https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3454">https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3454</a> <a href="https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3456">https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3456</a>	
Status of the project/PoA/VPA	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Listed <input type="checkbox"/> Certified design <input type="checkbox"/> Certified project	

Title/subject of deviation	GS4GG Principles and Requirement para 2.1.1 regarding deviation on case-to-case basis for on-site visit in conflict and emergency zones
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	GS4GG Principles and Requirement para 2.1.1: Gold Standard will assess applications on a case-by-case basis. To be eligible for the rule deviation described herein, there must be evidence that demonstrates that VVBs are not willing to go on-site. Furthermore, the applicant must demonstrate prior experience working in conflict zones/areas that pose a high risk to life and/or health. And show involvement in other activities within the considered area, apart from implementing the project under review. Alternatively, the establishment of a formal collaboration with partners who have such experience and involvement in the considered area may qualify under these rules as long as the collaboration is sustained over the entire certification period of the Project.
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date                      End date NA
Submitted by	Contact person name: PETER SCOTT  Email ID: <a href="mailto:peter.scott@burnmfg.com">peter.scott@burnmfg.com</a> Organisation: BURN Manufacturing Co. Project participant: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Validation and Verification body (VVB opinion shall be included, where required by the applicable rules/requirements or request is submitted by the VVB).	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  If yes; VVB name:  VVB Staff name(s):
Any previous deviations approved for the same project activity/PoA/VPA(s)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### 3 | Deviation detail

#### 3.1 | Description of the deviation:

##### 3.1.1 | Deviation detail (to be completed by Project developer):

As per the Gold Standard, GS4GG principles and requirement, version 1.2, dated 24th October 2019, section 2.1.1 "Gold Standard will assess applications on a case-by-case basis. To be eligible for the rule deviation described herein, there must be evidence that demonstrates that VVBs are not willing to go on-site. Furthermore, the applicant must

demonstrate prior experience working in conflict zones/areas that pose a high risk to life and/or health. And show involvement in other activities within the considered area, apart from implementing the project under review. Alternatively, the establishment of a formal collaboration with partners who have such experience and involvement in the considered area may qualify under these rules as long as the collaboration is sustained over the entire certification period of the Project.”

BURN would like to request for this deviation for VPA 11433 and VPA 11435. These projects would help thousands of people in DRC to get access to healthy, energy saving cookstoves which reduces GHG emissions and indoor air pollution resulting in chronic health issues. The project participant is requesting for this deviation due to following reasons:

1. The project area falls in the conflict zone of DRC i.e. these areas are currently witnessing several incidents of violence. The travel to these areas is restricted and very dangerous. Below are some of the publicly available news/information/live videos regarding these regions  
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/26/protesters-demand-un-troops-leave-drc-amid-rising-conflict>  
<https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/democratic-republic-congo-conflict-and-violence-dg-echo-unecho-daily-flash-11-july-2022>
2. There are further challenges due to COVID19 pandemic, which is hampering the ability to travel and visit the project regions. Although we do acknowledge that this is not the primary reason for deviation from the on-site visit requirements.

BURN has already contracted Earthood Services Private Limited (ESPL) to carry out the physical on-site visit for verification. BURN has contracted ESPL to carry out the combined validation and verification for these VPAs and at the point of contracting it was not thought that on-site would not be possible. However, the incidents of violence have broken out in the last week and making it unsafe for VVB to travel to DRC at this point. Since the VVB has already been contracted, BURN is unable to provide statement of unwillingness to travel to DRC from another VVB, which the conflict zone requirements require. It is not clear when the situation will stabilize and BURN is at risk of the project’s timelines getting delayed and the review date for the VPAs being pushed further behind.

Considering the above issues, BURN would like to request that ESPL be allowed to carry out the audit remotely.

In applying this deviation, BURN has adhered to the following core GS principles:

**Environmental integrity:** This deviation doesn't result in any over-estimation of GS VERs.

**Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** The SDG contribution achieved are in line with GS4GG requirement and are not compromised

**Safeguarding principles and Requirements:** Safeguarding Principles Assessment carried out for the VPA are in line with GS4GG requirements.

**Compliance with host country regulations:** The scope of this deviation work does not conflict with host country regulations.

3.1.2 | VVB opinion (to be completed by VVB, if applicable):

### 3.2 | Assessment of the deviation:

3.2.1 | Deviation assessment (to be completed by Project developer):

The proposed deviation does not compromise or have any negative influence on accuracy, completeness or any other requirement of Gold Standard for Global Goals. This deviation is being requested considering project area falls under conflict zone which is making on-site visit difficult.

3.2.2 | VVB opinion (to be completed by VVB, if applicable):

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### 3.3 | Impact of the deviation:

3.3.1 | Impact assessment (to be completed by Project developer):

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 VPA will abide by all Gold Standard requirements.

3.3.2 | VVB opinion (to be completed by VVB, if applicable):

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### 3.4 | Documents:

Version number	Release date	Description
5	11.04.2022	Additional information added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- date of listing, design certification, transition</li> <li>- standard version</li> <li>- specific reference to a requirement deviated from</li> <li>- any previous deviations/design changes approved</li> </ul> Guidance on VVB opinion
4	14.01.2021	
3	16.07.2020	
2	03.05.2018	
1	01.07.2017	Initial adoption