



DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**

Version **5.0**

A. To be completed by Gold Standard

1 | Decision

1.1 | Date – 07/11/2023

1.2 | Decision

The deviation request is approved considering the project developer has taken the necessary steps to complete the process.

Project developer shall document the deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision in the appropriate section of the PDD.

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

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_555	
Date of decision	07/11/2023	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	N/A	
Date of submission	26/10/2023	
Project/PoA/VPA	<input type="checkbox"/> Project	ID – GS12340
	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GSXXXX
	<input type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GSXXXX
Project/PoA/VPA title	Malawi Improved Cookstove Project	
Date of listing		
GS Standard version applicable	V1.2	
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	Malawi	
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		
Status of the project/PoA/VPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Listed <input type="checkbox"/> Certified design <input type="checkbox"/> Certified project	
Title/subject of deviation	Request for extension for Preliminary Review	

<p>Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number</p>	<p>Principles and Requirements V1.2 Clause 5.1.7 (a) (b) and (c): Preliminary review submission is considered 'submitted' when the Project Developer has: (a) signed and submitted the Terms and Conditions AND (b) submitted the Project Documentation AND (c) paid the fee for the Preliminary Review, where required. Regular or Retroactive - both project types shall submit the required documents for preliminary review (time of first submission) within one year of the project start date. Project submitted at a date later than one year from the project start date will not be eligible for Gold Standard certification.</p>
<p>Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)</p>	<p>Start date 13/08/2022 End date 12/08/2027</p>
<p>Submitted by</p>	<p>Contact person name: Joao Farinho Email ID: joao.farinho@climetrek.com Organisation: ClimeTrek Ltd. Project participant: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Validation and Verification body (VVB opinion shall be included, where required by the applicable rules/requirements or request is submitted by the VVB).</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes; VVB name: VVB Staff name(s):</p>
<p>Any previous deviations approved for the same project activity/PoA/VPA(s)?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

3 | Deviation detail

3.1 | Description of the deviation:

**Guidance* Use the space below to describe the deviation and substantiate the reason for requesting deviation from applicable rules/requirements. Please include all relevant information in support of the request. You are requested to follow the principles for requesting deviations, given in the [Deviation Approval Procedure/ Design Change Requirements](#).*

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

This deviation request is about an extension for the Gold Standard Project 12340: Malawi Improved Cookstove Project.

According to Clause 5.1.7 of the Principles and Requirements document, "The Preliminary Assessment starts when the Project Developer has: (a) signed and submitted the Terms and Conditions AND (b) submitted the Project Documentation AND (C) paid the fee for the Preliminary Review, where required.

As per the Gold Standard Principles and Requirements, the above must be done within one year from the project start date. This is a retroactive project with start date of 13th August 2022, therefore the project submission would have to be concluded by the 13th August 2023.

Currently the project's submission date is registered as 5th October 2023, and therefore a date later than one year from the project start date, thus not eligible for Gold Standard certification.

However, the first attempt to submit the documents was made back in August, and since then we have experienced several difficulties that lead to this delay.

Firstly, when we tried to submit the documents for the first time an error message came back. After a few attempts, we emailed help@sustain-cert.com for assistance. After several email exchanges, the issue was finally resolved on the 4th of September, when the Preliminary Review invoice was finally issued. Unfortunately, the invoice was sent to an incorrect email, so a few more days were needed to resolve this. After this was sorted, ClimeTrek paid the invoice but it took 2 weeks for your accounts department to locate our payment. Only after a long exchange of emails, this was sorted. Then it was discovered that the project had been submitted, by mistake, as PoA instead of stand-alone project and over a week passed until this issue was sorted. Then, as the project had changed from PoA to stand-alone project, some extra documents were needed which were attached on the 5th of October 2023, and hence showing document's submission date as the 5th of October 2023.

Owing to such circumstances, we are requesting that the project's submission date be corrected to August 2023 when ClimeTrek attempted to submit the project for the first time.

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

**Guidance* If required by SustainCERT or Gold Standard for this particular deviation, please add here the VVB's opinion.*

n/a

3.2 | Assessment of the deviation:

**Guidance* Use the space below to describe how the deviation complies with the requirements, and, where applicable, the accuracy, completeness and conservativeness is ensured. Please include all relevant information in support of the request.*

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

The requested deviation does not have any effect on the project's activities, on monitoring or monitoring results and on emission reductions or crediting.

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

**Guidance* If required by SustainCERT or Gold Standard for this particular deviation, please add here the VVB's opinion.*

n/a

3.3 | Impact of the deviation:

**Guidance* Use the space below to describe the impact of the deviation on project design, safeguarding principles assessment, SDG assessment, emissions reductions, monitoring frequency, data quality, potential risk or any other relevant aspect of the project. Please substantiate the impact assessment with relevant and verifiable data/information.*

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

The requested deviation does not cause any impact on project design, safeguarding principles assessment, SDG assessment, emissions reductions, monitoring frequency, data quality, potential risk, or any other relevant aspect of the project.

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

**Guidance* If required by SustainCERT or Gold Standard for this particular deviation, please add here the VVB’s opinion.*

n/a

3.4 | Documents:

**Guidance* List of documents provided (note that once a decision has been made by Gold Standard, this deviation form along with supporting documents will be made public on the Gold Standard website. If any of the supporting documents are confidential, please indicate here to ensure they are omitted.)*

Version number	Release date	Description
5	11.04.2022	Additional information added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	14.01.2021	
3	16.07.2020	
2	03.05.2018	
1	01.07.2017	Initial adoption