



DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**

Version **5.0**

A. To be completed by Gold Standard

1 | Decision

1.1 | Date – dd/mm/yyyy

25/20/2024

1.2 | Decision

Deviation is approved.

Based on the information provided in the deviation request, the exemption from a mandatory physical site visit is approved. In light of the ongoing instability in the project region, which is under military coup with recent violent conflicts, movement is heavily restricted. As noted in Section 2.1.1 of the "Applicability of Minimum Site Visit Requirements by VVB," this situation qualifies as a force majeure beyond the control of the project developer. The last monitoring period was verified remotely under similar conditions, and alternative survey methods were employed as approved by SC. Given these circumstances, and in alignment with section 3.1.2, "SITE VISIT AND REMOTE AUDIT REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES, version-2," this deviation request for continued remote audit is approved for the current monitoring period.

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

N/A

B. To be completed by the Project Developer/Coordinating and Managing Entity and/or VVB requesting deviation

2 | Background information

Deviation Reference Number	DEV_809	
Date of decision	25/10/24	
Precedent (YES/NO)	NO	
Precedent details	N/A	
Date of submission	18/09/2024	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID - GSXXXX
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID - GS1729
	<input type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID -
Project/PoA/VPA title	GS1729 Myanmar Stoves Campaign	
Date of listing	NA	
GS Standard version applicable	2.0	
Date of transition to GS4GG (if applicable)	NA	
Date of transition to Gold Standard from another standard (e.g. CDM) (if applicable)	NA	
Date of design certification/inclusion (if applicable)	NA	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	Republic of the Union of Myanmar	
Scale of the project/PoA/VPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Microscale <input type="checkbox"/> Small scale <input type="checkbox"/> Large scale	
Gold Standard Impact Registry link of the project/PoA/VPA	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1498	
Status of the project/PoA/VPA	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Listed <input type="checkbox"/> Certified design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified project	
Title/subject of deviation	Seeking deviation from the mandatory physical site visit.	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	The Gold Standard Simplified Methodology for Efficient Cookstoves, Version 01.1, February 2013.	

Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date 01/01/2022 End date 30/06/2023
Submitted by	Contact person name: Arnfinn Oines
	Email ID: Arnfinn@soneva.com
	Organisation: Soneva Foundation
	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes; VVB name: Ecolance VVB Staff name(s): Prem Kumar Pokhrel
Any previous deviations approved for the same project activity/PoA/VPA(s)?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input 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 requirement of the section 3.1.2 "SITE VISIT AND REMOTE AUDIT REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES" version-2 a physical site visit by VVB is mandatory once within every three years after the first physical site visit date.

The VPAs involved in the current monitoring period 01/01/2022 - 30/06/2023, has been verified remotely for their last monitoring period. Since last verification was done under micro scale methodology rule an exemption has been granted from objective observer visit due to the instability in the region. Also, these VPAs have sought a deviation from normal door to door monitoring survey practice and an alternative survey method has been approved by the SC.

A chronology of earlier verification has been presented below in the table:

VPA number	Number of stoves	Monitoring period	Mode of previous audit
VPA009	1603	01/02/2021- 31/01/2022	Remote
VPA010	1802	01/05/2021 - 30/04/2022	Remote
VPA013	1947	01/01/2021 - 31/12/2021	Remote

VPA014	1804	01/02/2021 - 31/01/2022	Remote
VPA015	1462	01/03/2021 - 28/02/2022	Remote
VPA016	1610	01/06/2021 - 31/05/2022	Remote

The project region is under military coup with recent violent and deadly conflicts. Consequently, movement in the region is restricted and the CME seeks exemption from the mandatory physical site visit for the project. The deviation requested as per the section 2.1.1, of the APPLICABILITY OF MINIMUM SITE VISIT REQUIREMENTS BY VVB. Section.

A few of news web-link has been given in the section 3.4 of this form to support the ground situation of the region. Also, same news link has assessment of the ground situation and their advise was "do not travel".

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

As stated by CME above, VVB also assessed that there are some internal conflicts restricting the movement freely in the project sites for the on-site assessments in Myanmar currently. This is not in control of project developer and is a "force-majeure" in line with para 2.1.1 of "Applicability of Minimum Site Visit Requirements by VVB, dated 16/08/2021". For the VPAs listed in section 3.1.1 above, the remote audit was conducted for last verification due to similar condition. So, VVB recommends for remote audit in line with "SITE VISIT AND REMOTE AUDIT REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES, version-2" which is in-line with para 3.3.1 for the PoA.

3.2 | Assessment of the deviation:

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

NA

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

NA

3.3 | Impact of the deviation:

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

In the current situation of restricted travel, the above arrangement is the best possible option to get credible data from end-users. This will not have any impact on the quality of data received.

The deviation will not affect the project design, SDGs, emission reductions, safeguarding principles and data quality. A remote audit as per the GS4GG guidelines will provide the credible data for the assessment.

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

NA

3.4 | Documents:

List of documents provided

News articles

Web-links:

https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-junta-bombs-civilians-while-thai-air-force-drops-aid.html#google_vignette

<https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/myanmar-junta-troops-kill-three-civilians-in-mandalay-regions-myingyan-township/>

<https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations/asia/myanmar>

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