

# DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

---

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**

Version **5.0**

---

## A. To be completed by Gold Standard

### 1 | Decision

#### 1.1 | Date – 20/10/2022

#### 1.2 | Decision

The requested deviation is approved. It should be noted that the Gold Standard does not recommend visiting the households if there is a risk of infection from COVID-19. The project developer is recommended to ensure that all local stove sales agents visit to the households are done with due consideration and compliance of host country/local government regulations.

If the project developer would like to conduct on-site visits using local stove sales agent, it shall be ensured that the project complies with the following requirements –

#### I. Requirements for the Project Developer

- a. The household monitoring survey shall be done with the primary cook only.
- a. The project must ensure that it applies conservative values for usage rate.

- b. The local stove sales agent shall be trained on how to carry out the project surveys. This training shall be documented and presented to the VVB/SustainCert at time of audit.
- c. PD shall demonstrate that COVID related restrictions exists in the host country.

## II. Requirements for the VVB/SustainCert

- a. The VVB/SustainCert shall cross-verify the results by speaking with randomly selected end-users.
- b. The VVB/SustainCert shall ensure the completeness and conservativeness of the monitored parameters at the time of verification.
- c. The VVB/SustainCert may use alternative means to verify project usage claims and ensure conservativeness; for example, accounting the manufacturer specifications or similar stove specifications on the durability of the stove; project maintenance records; etc.
- d. The VVB shall cross-check the COVID related restrictions in the host country and provide their opinion on the same in the verification report.

## III. Recommendations (non-binding)

The project developer and the VVB/SustainCert should apply the following measures, where reasonably feasible, to substantiate the monitoring results -

- a. Video/telephonic conversations – The project developer may record video/telephonic conversations with the end-user. The project developer/VVB must take due precautions and not record any conversation without seeking prior consent from end-user.
- b. Photographic evidence – The project developer may gather photographs of the project stoves/kitchen, where possible, to collect visual data on the status of the stove. Please refer to Usage guidelines for further instructions on the use of photographic evidence for usage assessment.

## IV. The validity of the deviations

- a. The usage rate results obtained applying the recommended approach can only be used for the current MP requesting deviation (i.e., from 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2021).
- b. The monitoring deviation will end 28 calendar days from the declared end date of COVID 19: Interim Measures. If the project developer can re-

establish monitoring sooner, they may resort to the original registered monitoring approach sooner, clearly recording the date of changing from interim to registered monitoring.

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

The 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 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**

**2| Background information**

Deviation Reference Number	COVID_DEV 314	
Date of decision	20/10/2022	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	N/A	
Date of submission	04/08/2022	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID - GSXXXX
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID - GS1729
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID - GS6129
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	<a href="https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1498">https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1498</a>	
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	Alteration in Monitoring Method: Replacing Door to Door Enumerator Based Surveys with Door-to-Door Virtual Phone Call Surveys with help of village-level project sales agents / Mercy Corp's staff.	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodolo	The Gold Standard Simplified Methodology for Efficient Cookstoves, Version 01, February 2013.	

gy, with exact paragraph reference and version number	
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date 01/07/2020    End date 30/06/2021
Submitted by	Contact person name: Shailendra Kewat
	Email ID: shail.kewat06@gmail.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 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 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):

Soneva Foundation, the CME of the Myanmar Stoves Campaign, in the light of recent COVID events and military coup resulted into movement restrictions, requests the following changes in conducting the household level annual monitoring surveys:

Instead of our earlier method, where we employed independent enumerators to go door-to-door and randomly select households for annual monitoring surveys, we plan to conduct this process with a change, by including the elements of 'remote monitoring' as mentioned under para 3.1.1 of the 'COVID 19: INTERIM MEASURES' published on 14/06/2022.

In our new proposed system, the local stove sale agents, who are already residing in our target villages, will conduct the household interviews by visiting the end users from their villages. They will ask all relevant questions as required by the methodology to the end-users and pass the answers to the implementation partner team via mobile

phone call in real time. In this way, the team at the (home) office, is able to get all relevant data, and engage further with end users for additional information, via the already stationed local sale agents in target villages.

The data collected by the IP team in (home) office, will then be fed in a spreadsheet, and handed over to the CME, which will be used for preparing the annual monitoring reports.

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

NA

### **3.2 | Assessment of the deviation:**

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

The alteration follows all important aspects of monitoring survey requirements. The villages and households are selected randomly, users are surveyed via door-to-door personal visit surveys (following safety measures), and real, credible, and verifiable data is passed on to our competent projects team via a phone call in real time. Instead of enumerators which we employed earlier, we are using the sales agents who are based in their respective villages already, as inter-village travel in most cases is highly restricted for any enumerators/outside as a COVID19 measure. The quality of data is not compromised here. Like the enumerators, our sales agents also have no conflict of interest in terms of collecting and transferring the data to our project team in real time via a call.

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, as the questionnaire/sample size/random selection of households at village level is not affected. The medium for data collection is altered, and this does not pose any significant impact on ensuring completeness and conservativeness of the monitored parameters.

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

NA

**3.4 | Documents:**

*List of documents provided*

N.A.

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