



LESSON 11: HOW TO REQUEST DESIGN CHANGES OR TRANSITION FROM OTHER STANDARDS



Design Change



Transition Review



DEVIATION

Deviation

Refers to a divergence from a prescribed standard, plan, requirement, or expected course of action.

To **temporarily** deviate from the certified design monitoring plan or any relevant methodologies for pre-certification activities with GS4GG, PD must follow the [Deviation Approval Requirements and Procedures](#) document.

() To obtain approval for a design change in a certified project, project developers must submit the necessary documents and notify SustainCERT.*





CLARIFICATION

Clarification

Refers to a request to obtain additional information or explanations regarding the Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG) Requirements, SDG Impact Quantification methodologies, or any relevant methodology.

To seek clarifications, anytime, you can submit your inquiries to SustainCERT via email at help@sustaincert.com, using the email subject line "**Clarification Request.**"





DESIGN CHANGE

Design Change

Refers to a modification, alteration, or adjustment made to the original design of a product, system, or project.

For CDM PoAs and CPAs seeking labeling under GS4GG, they must adhere to the CDM requirements concerning Design Change, which are outlined in the Project Standard for Project Activities/PoAs.

In the event of any actual or proposed changes to the implementation, operation, or monitoring of a certified project activity, the project developer/CME must submit the following information/documents as part of the request for approval of permanent changes:

- a) Revised PDD, PoA-DD, or VPA-DD (both track-change and clean versions) reflecting the actual or proposed changes.
- b) Revised SDG Impact Tool, if necessary.
- c) Any additional supporting documentation (e.g., Environmental Impact Assessment conducted in relation to the project changes, licenses, etc.) shall be provided along with the documents listed above.
- d) VVB opinion on the design change, where required.

**** The submission of a design change request for a certified project must be made to the Certification body.***



DESIGN CHANGE

(*) Changes in:

- ✓ Cover Letter
- ✓ Project Ownership
- ✓ Alteration of Coordinating Managing Entity (CME) or
 - ✓ Changes after the design certification request

Must be submitted to the certification body (CB) and bear signatures of all relevant entities involved.

** If the change, includes new technology or measure, the request for design change approval must be submitted to the CB within 1-year of the start date of proposed technology or measure project competition, failure to meet requirement will result in design change component being **deemed ineligible** for Gold Standard certification.*

PD must follow the [Design change requirements – Gold Standard for the Global Goals](#) document



DESIGN CHANGE: TYPES & REQUIREMENTS

PERMANENT CHANGES	Modifications to the project design and are of a permanent nature, such as: methodology, design certified monitoring plan, project scale, evaluation of safeguards, engagement with stakeholders, impact on SDG, legal requirements. Refer to item 3.1
CORRECTIONS	Alterations/Modification in the project information that impact the project's design. Refer to item 3.2
CHANGES TO THE START DATE OF THE CREDITING PERIOD	The subsequent modifications to the commencement date of the design certified crediting period. Refer to item 3.3
UPDATE AND/OR PERMANENT CHANGES TO DESIGN CERTIFIED MONITORING PLAN	The revised requirements involve describing non-conformance to the certified monitoring plan, proposing an alternative monitoring approach, and using conservative assumptions to avoid overestimating GHG reductions. The proposed changes must comply with the methodology and be feasible for accurate reporting and verification. If changes don't align with the methodology, a revision must be proposed following the Impact Quantification Methodology Approval Procedure. Refer to item 3.4



<p>CHANGES TO THE PROJECT DESIGN</p>	<p>The project design changes may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increasing the capacity with certain conditions for large-scale, small-scale, and microscale projects. b. Decreasing the capacity specified in the design. c. Adding new components or extending existing technologies/measures in the certified design. d. Removing a component or technology/measure from the certified design. e. Making changes to technologies/measures resulting in the same as originally certified. f. Removing or adding sites within a project activity with multiple sites. g. Removing a component/part of component from the certified project activity. h. Using actual operational parameters that differ from the expected parameters, within the project developer's control. i. Any consequential changes to methodologies or other regulatory documents due to the design modifications. j. Voluntary updates to applied methodologies or other standard documents to later valid versions or voluntary changes to other methodologies, meeting requirements. k. Expanding geographical coverage or including additional host Parties by changing the project boundary. Refer to item 3.5
<p>CHANGES TO POAS AND/OR VPA</p>	<p>The permissible changes to PoAs and/or VPAs include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Expanding the geographical coverage or adding additional host Parties. b. Revising eligibility criteria for real case VPAs in PoA or regular VPAs due to certain reasons. c. Removing applied methodologies and/or standardised baselines from the design. d. Changing the specified capacity range in the design. e. Adding new components or extending existing technologies/measures. f. Removing a component or technology/measure from the design. g. Making changes resulting in the same design-certified technologies/measures. h. Consequential changes to methodologies and regulatory documents due to the above modifications. i. Voluntary updates to methodologies or other standard documents, meeting requirements. <p>The changes for included VPAs are similar to those for projects, with some requiring reflection in the PoA first or changes in real case VPA or PoA as appropriate. Refer to item 3.6</p>