

CORONAVIRUS- COVID19 - Impact on certification audits

Recipients: Certified companies under an OQUALIM standard

Tuesday 17th March 2020,

Dear certification participants,

The actions taken to the COVID19 pandemic have an impact on the planning of audits by your certification body. Your certification body will face with difficulties to schedule and perform your audits.

This means that the audit frequency would be impacted and not comply with the requirements defined by OQUALIM in normal conditions.

The coronavirus is designated as an exceptional event and measures defined by International Accreditation Forum (IAF) for exceptional event management applies for accreditation bodies, certification bodies and certified companies.

These actions give your certification body the option to postpone audits with a maximum of six months as of 16th March 2020.

- If a follow-up audit is planned and cannot be carry out, it could be postponed within a 6-month period maximum.
- If a renewal audit cannot be carrying out, the certificate can be extended within a 6-month period maximum.

The certification body must perform a documentary check to collect enough evidence to assess the efficiency of the feed safety management system. The renewal audit on site will be performed during the extension period.

Once the certification body will have performed the renewal audit on site, the start date of the new certificate will follow the initial expiry date of the previous certificate.

The unprecedented situation we are facing oblige us to deal with the context. We will have to precise our positions according to the events and the evaluations conducted by the certification bodies.

For any other questions, do not hesitate to contact your certification body.

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