

## Derogation to allow remote audits for initial and surveillance audits in response to Coronavirus pandemic

Date: March 2020

# Derogation

In response to the coronavirus outbreak and consideration of the welfare of all individuals participating in the Seaweed certification system, the ASC and MSC have issued a derogation to allow for scheduling and conducting of remote site visits and audits for Seaweed Assessments. We have received requests to allow for further flexibility during this period of unprecedented circumstance.

The decision has been taken to allow **remote audits for initial and surveillance audits. In addition, where the initial audit is done remotely, the onsite surveillance audit should be conducted six months earlier from the anniversary date of the certificate issuance.** CABs will not need to submit variation request to undertake a remote audit. CABs will need to update MSC and ASC with changes to assessment/audit timelines.

Further instructions and guidance on how to conduct remote audits will be shared via email. CABs are expected to conduct remotely all the activities for site visits outlined in the CAR.

To support CABs and certificate holders in implementing the derogation, there will be a Q&A kept updated with questions incoming from CABs on the MSC Interpretations log.

For any other questions please contact the Seaweed Team ([seaweedstandard@msc.org](mailto:seaweedstandard@msc.org)). The MSC and ASC will continue to monitor the situation and provide any updates.

Date of issue: 27 March 2020

End of validity: 27 September 2020