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Sent by email

Date: 2/3/2022

Subject: Request for variation to the ASC-MSC Seaweed Certification and Accreditation Requirement v1.01-17.10.2 for JangHeung Mu San Gim Co.Ltd

I write with reference to your submission on 16/2/2022 of a request for variation to the ASC-MSC Seaweed Certification and Accreditation Requirement (CAR) to allow:

The site visit for this initial audit to be conducted remotely by the team leader.

As you are aware, the CAR procedures relating to 17.10.2 state:

The site visit shall include visits to both production sites and management locations as necessary to review the impacts and management of the production unit.

These are integral to ensuring all ASC-MSC accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies operate in a consistent and transparent manner. The ASC-MSC intends that these requirements be met across all seaweed operations and CoC certificate holders, except in exceptional, well-justified circumstances, as part of the AC-MSC programme.

ASC-MSC notes the factors presented supporting your request, including:

- There are travel restrictions for foreign nationals entering Korea (special visa required and mandatory 7-day quarantine, which would lead to a disproportionate financial burden).
- The CAB wishes to mitigate the health risk to the assessment team
- Local audit team members in Korea are able to attend the site visit in person and assist the team leader verify information on-site and assist with stakeholder engagement.
- As the farm being assessed falls under category B(ii), there is no need to assess Principle 1
- The harvest for this facility is in April, which leaves very little time to keep within the assessment process timelines, and the client group is keen to progress the assessment this

Given the rationale provided, the ASC-MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CAR.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Seaweed Accounts Manager.

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: Assurance Services International