

Sam Dignan  
Global Trust Certification Ltd.

**Sent by email**

Date: 12/5/2022

Dear Sam,

I write with reference to your submission on 9/5/2022 of a request for variation to the ASC-  
MSC Seaweed Certification and Accreditation Requirement (CAR) to allow:

An assessor to act as a Lead Auditor and Technical Auditor for ASC-MSC category Cii for  
land-based facilities based on his extensive experience as an auditor including as a Social  
Auditor and as a Lead Auditor in other auditor schemes.

As you are aware, the CAR procedures relating to A.3.2.b.i state:

For audits involving farmed seaweed only (production categories Cii and Cii in Table 2 of the  
Standard), the individual shall have:

- i. Undertaken at least two satisfactory audits as an acting audit team leader,  
shadowed by and under the supervision of a competent team leader.

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 ASC-MSC programme.

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

- It is difficult to find competent auditors that meet the ASC-MSC competencies requirements  
specified in Annex A of the Seaweed CAR.
- ASC-MSC's clarification via Interpretation 4 is that the intent of this requirement is that an  
auditor has the skills needed to evaluate the operation and understand its functioning
- The assessor in question is a vastly experienced auditor and lead in all kinds of social and  
agriculture standards, and has a deep understanding of the internal, social, and environmental  
management systems of producer organisations
- The assessor was part of the assessment team of the initial audit.
- The assessor in question has been active team member of several ASC aquaculture farm  
audits.

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

With the following conditions:

- This variation shall not be taken as precedent for similar situations in the future.

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