

OneCert International Emergency Certification Measures

The policy is documented to provide certification under emergency situations (Coronavirus COVID-19). OneCert aims to protect its own personnel and that of producers and manufacturers of organic products. OneCert also abide by government requirements and travel restrictions around the world in response to the COVID-19 virus. The situation is uniquely challenging for the work of inspection and certification; therefore this procedure shall be implemented with immediate effect with combination of guidance provided by individual scheme owners. This procedure covers OneCert International Certification (EU Equivalent Program), GOTS and TE.

Following shall be done to conduct “inspections” and continue certification process while travelling restrictions are imposed to avoid further spread of the virus:

- OneCert will conduct remote inspections of operations which are currently under certification with OneCert and will have to undergo renewal.
- OneCert will give certificate validity extension for up to 6 months if remote inspections result in positive certification decision.
- OneCert will not conduct remote inspections for new applicants, scope (new production area/ new processing) extensions and transferred operations.
- The decision for conducting remote inspection shall be based on risk assessments and the risk criteria are as following:
 1. Complexity of the operation
 2. Type of products
 3. Annual risk assessment results
- Remote inspection will not be conducted in following conditions:
 1. If operation has any open complaint
 2. If operation has had any non-compliance during last inspection and verification of implementation can only be done through physical inspection onsite.
- OneCert will inform its clients as their renewal approaches and will explain the process of remote inspections. Clients will also be informed about what information may be needed, how remote inspections will be implemented for continuity of their certification.
- Once the decision is made to conduct remote inspection based on risk assessment, discussion with operator and information submitted in annual update; then OneCert will ask for additional items required for preparation of remote audit and discuss mode of inspection (phone call, web-based conference, live video calls).
- Traceback and input-output balance will be performed prior to conducting remote inspections so that any additional questions may be addressed during the inspection or follow up.
- If extension has been given to any operations then their next certificate validity shall start according to their original certificate expiry dates.
- For operations with higher risk, the requirement of additional/unannounced inspection, retail sampling will be proposed and will be completed once the travel restrictions end.

Reference- *Requirements for Certification Bodies: Certification under Emergency Measures caused by Coronavirus COVID-19 issued on March 27, 2020.*