



GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD
ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

GOTS Measures related to COVID-19 Coronavirus outbreak (Extension of Scope Certificates, “Virtual Audits”)

The World Health Organisation has declared the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak a pandemic and countries across the world are battling to halt or contain the spread with emergency measures. GOTS sends its heartfelt support to those affected, those officials, professionals, health workers, volunteers and others working towards containment and sincerely hopes for a quick resolution to be found to the crisis.

Taking cognisance of the developing situation, on 18 February 2020 (followed by 1 March 2020) the GOTS Management issued guidance on audits scheduled, scope certificates recently expired and to expire shortly for all countries and/or regions affected and where authorities have curtailed travel and business operations to contain the spread of the disease.

GOTS has clarified that for affected regions, Scope Certificates which recently expired or will expire in 2020 shall be given an extension of 3 months for arranging recertification. This shall not be considered towards extending the validity period of the new scope certificate which means that the renewed scope certificate, when issued shall expire on the anniversary of the older certificate.

Apart from monitoring the developing situation, GOTS will review this decision in the last week of April 2020 to take a call in order to decide whether further relaxation is required.

As a measure to maintain GOTS credibility for such cases, GOTS will accept Virtual Audits in place of on-site audits. Certification Bodies (CBs) may perform (especially recertification) audits remotely, via video conferencing, using photographs / documents, based on risk assessment until such time that relevant travel and on-site visits are deemed safe by health authorities for both auditors and auditees.

Detailed Guidelines for such Virtual Audits are urgently being developed in conjunction with GOTS Accreditation and Certification Bodies. These guidelines will be made available to GOTS CBs shortly.

For further information, please contact GOTS Managing Director, Rahul Bhajekar by email: bhajekar@global-standard.org

Global Standard gemeinnützige GmbH
Rotebühlstr. 102 · 70178 Stuttgart · Germany

www.global-standard.org