

COVID-19 Announcement, Derogation

Temporary variation statement regarding Accreditation and Certification Requirements in the GSTC-Accredited administered by ASI Manual v2.4

Date: 16th March 2020

To: GSTC Accredited Certification Bodies

CC: Assurance Services International

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak and consideration of the welfare of all individuals participating in the GSTC system, the GSTC is issuing this derogation to allow for scheduling and conducting of remote audits.

The GSTC Accreditation Requirements include the requirements to conduct on-site audits and on-site visits (clauses 8.5.12 and 8.5.15.1).

This derogation allows on-site audits and on-site visits to be conducted remotely, where feasible. The requirement for in-person site audits does not apply during the period of this derogation. This derogation is normative, and no variation request is needed for this derogation to apply.

This derogation shall be used only as necessary. CBs should retain evidence of any travel restrictions that prevent on-site audits; this can include those directed by government bodies or company policies. The existing timeframes for on-site audits (including initial, reassessment and surveillance) shall be followed as required in the normative documents. CBs shall maintain a list of certificate holders where this derogation has been applied and shall make this list available for GSTC and ASI on request.

Technology should be employed to audit as far as possible. CBs shall note in audit reports where this derogation has been applied and shall justify any instances where requirements were not evaluated due to remote auditing. ASI team will be in touch with CBs with further advise on application of the checklist and evidence requirements during remote audits.

Once the travel restrictions and precautions associated with the COVID-19 outbreak have been lifted, on-site assessments shall be conducted as per regular audit procedures. The situation is constantly evolving and GSTC will continue monitoring the COVID-19 outbreak and supporting tourism efforts to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19. GSTC will review this derogation in two months and monthly thereafter and take a decision on when it shall be revoked.

For any other questions please contact GSTC Technical Team (td@gstccouncil.org).
The GSTC will continue to monitor the situation and provide any updates.

Date of issue: 16th March 2020

End of validity: 16th June 2020

The GSTC reserves the right to revoke this derogation if the outbreak is controlled sooner. Equally the GSTC may extend the validity period if the outbreak is not controlled.

Sincerely,



Randy Durband
GSTC CEO

