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## **Policy Change Regarding Requirements for Inspections under the FairTSA Standard**

### **Introducing a Remote Audit Policy**

**March 24, 2020**

With travel and face-to-face meetings severely restricted in many countries due to the novel coronavirus, we are implementing an emergency policy regarding upcoming FairTSA inspections per ISO 17065 exceptions starting Monday, March 23, 2020.

FairTSA introduces a "Remote Audit" option as follows.

#### **1. Remote Audit Option**

The Remote Audit must consist of an extended video call (using Skype or a similar platform) between the FairTSA-trained inspector and the quality manager in charge of the operation. During the call, documentation must be provided in electronic form or via screen-sharing that covers all essential parts of regular inspections. Before the inspection, the inspector needs to be provided with updated lists of all kinds: products, employees, ingredients, etc. From those lists the inspector can choose the object for the trace back audit, the mass balance, employee documentation, occupational health and safety policy and documentation, and others, as applicable during the audit.

Those parts of the inspection that cannot be conducted during the Desk Audit, such as informal interviews with workers, shall be carried out when the next organic, GlobalGap, or similar in-person inspection is due, but no longer than 12 months after the Remote Audit took place, and as soon as possible once travel and face-to-face meetings are feasible again. Companies and organizations eligible for the Remote Audit procedure are defined below.

The Remote Audit option will be reviewed not later than July 15, 2020 and an updated policy will be provided to all participating certification agencies before July 31, 2020.

## **2. Eligibility for Remote Audits**

### **2.1 FairTSA Certification Renewal**

Companies and organizations that were inspected and certified under the FairTSA standard during the last year may be scheduled for a remote audit if:

1. Their certification is expired or is about to expire on or before July 31, 2020.
2. They are without unresolved major noncompliances (nonconformities).
3. An updated FairTSA System Plan has been provided to the certifier.

### **2.2 Initial FairTSA Certification Applicants**

New companies and organizations that wish to acquire FairTSA certification may be admitted if they meet the following criteria:

1. The company or organization has a track record with another Fair Trade certification program or can document a high degree of commitment toward small farmers and workers, including migrant and seasonal workers.
2. Operations must provide a complete FairTSA System Plan to the certifier before they can be admitted to this type of audit.

If at all possible, in such cases an inspector with prior knowledge of the applicant in question should be chosen for the Remote Audit.



Dr. Winfried Fuchshofen, Executive Director