



GOTS MEASURES RELATED TO COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK SCOPE CERTIFICATE EXTENSION AND VIRTUAL AUDITS (UPDATE AS OF 5TH JANUARY 2022)

COVID-19 pandemic has been continuing to pose a serious risk across many parts of the world. In order to tackle with the situation, GOTS released necessary measures on 18th February, 1st March, 19th March, 17th April in 2020 and 27th April 2021 and clarified that Scope Certificates that were expiring in 2020/2021 would be given an extension of 6 months towards arranging recertification.

In some regions of the world, Covid-19 related restrictions are still influencing work and travel routines. In those regions, the need for Virtual Audit is still relevant.

GOTS Management has concluded that Scope Certificates that are expiring in the period of **December 2021 through March 2022 may be extended by 3 months**, on a case-by-case basis, to arrange recertifications for Covid-19 affected regions.

GOTS Approved Certifiers are required to give a prior intimation to GOTS for such cases.

As before, SC extension period shall not be considered with regard to the validity period of the new scope certificates. This means that a renewed (new) scope certificate, when issued, shall always commence on the original anniversary date of the older certificate.

Further, relevant GOTS Fees for 2021/2022 shall be payable by Certified Entities and CBs in all cases since it is a new period.

GOTS recommends Virtual Audits to be performed wherever necessary. Relevant details are provided in the document "[GOTS Guidelines for Virtual Audits in the Time of COVID-19](#)", available on the GOTS website.

GOTS will continue to review the situation at regular intervals and provide updates as required.

For further information or clarifications, please contact Prachi Gupta; prachi@global-standard.org.

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