

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

(Update as of 17 April 2020)

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread rapidly across the world and GOTS sends its heart-felt 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. We sincerely hope all stay safe in these troubling times.

GOTS' measures released on 18 February, 1 March and 19 March clarified that Scope Certificates that recently expired or that were expiring in 2020 would be given an extension of 3 months towards arranging recertification.

With the COVID-19 situation still critical and work and travel restrictions continuing around the world, the GOTS Management has concluded that this period needs to be further extended by 3 additional months.

As before, the extended period 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. Further, Licence Fees for 2020 shall be payable by Certified Entities in all cases because it is a new licensing period.

GOTS recommends Virtual Audits be performed wherever possible. CB Guidelines for the same are available on the GOTS website.

GOTS will review the situation and provide updates as required.

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