



**GOTS Measures related to COVID-19 Coronavirus outbreak
(Extension of Scope Certificates, “Virtual Audits”)
(Update as of 27 April 2021)**

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread rapidly across many parts of the world and 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. We sincerely hope all stay safe in these troubling times.

GOTS’ measures released on 18 February, 1 March, 19 March and 17 April in 2020 clarified that Scope Certificates that recently expired or that were expiring in 2020 would be given an extension of a total of 6 months towards arranging recertification.

With the COVID-19 situation still critical in some countries such as India whereas work and travel restrictions continuing in other parts of the world, the GOTS Management has concluded that Scope Certificates that are **expiring in the period April through September 2021) may be extended by 3 months in such countries and regions** towards arranging recertifications. GOTS Approved Certifiers are empowered to take informed judgments for the same.

As before, the 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 anniversary¹ date** of the older certificate.

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

GOTS recommends Virtual Audits be performed wherever possible. [Guidelines to GOTS Approved Certifiers](#) for the same are 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 GOTS Managing Director, Rahul Bhajekar by email: bhajekar@global-standard.org

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¹ Anniversary is explained in Section B2.2.8 of the GOTS Scope Certificate Policy v 2.1 of December 2019 as: *“The date (month and day) one day after the expiry of the first SC shall be designated as the anniversary date. Future SCs shall expire one day before the anniversary date....”*