

## PSU Derogation

<b>Code</b>	FSC-DER-2020-004	
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	As indicated below	
<b>Request by</b>	FSC accredited CBs and (independent) training providers	
<b>Rationale as provided by CBs / and (independent) training providers</b>	Due to the pandemic of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), vast areas of the world are subject to travel restrictions. This results in difficulties for CBs and (independent) training providers to ensure conformity with FSC requirements with regards to auditor qualification and other requirements specifically related to auditors.	
<b>PSU conclusion</b>	<b>Scenarios for applying this derogation</b>	<p>This derogation applies in situations where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– CBs assess there is a health risk involved in allowing auditors to travel to conform with FSC training and (continuous) qualification requirements;</li> </ul> <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–auditor candidates, qualified auditors, supervising auditors, training providers, trainers and trainees are prevented from conducting and participating in trainings and audits due to travel restrictions.</li> </ul>
	<b>Qualification of auditor candidates</b> FSC-STD-20-001 V4-0 Annex 2, Table 2, 1.1, #5 Annex 2, Table 3, 2.1, #5	<p>It is not possible to qualify FM auditor candidates by replacing on-site audits by desk audits.</p> <p>CoC auditor candidates that participated in at least two on-site audits may conduct CoC desk audits, if they otherwise successfully completed their training program in accordance with FSC requirements. Prior to conducting any on-site audits on their own, such auditors are required to complete the remaining on-site audits.</p>
	<b>Continuous qualification</b> FSC-STD-20-001 V4-0 Annex 2, Table 2, 1.2, #2 Annex 2, Table 3, 2.2, #2	<p>The number of days conducted as desk-based audits may count as auditing days for retaining auditor status and shall be recorded accordingly.</p>
	<b>Continuous qualification</b> FSC-STD-20-001 V4-0 Annex 2, Table 2, 1.2, #3 Annex 2, Table 3, 2.2, #3	<p>All 3-yearly witness audits that are due in 2020 may be postponed for up to twelve (12) months.</p> <p>All required 3-yearly witness audits (including the ones previously postponed) may be done remotely.</p>
	<b>Training courses</b> FSC-PRO-20-004 V2-1 Clause 3.3.5	<p>Training Providers may replace classroom (in-person) training by remote trainings, based on the following specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- travel restrictions are in place for any of the registered trainees or the trainer(s).</li> <li>- the training provider shall document all cases of travel restrictions;</li> <li>- trainings should offer similar opportunities as in-person trainings to conduct practical exercises and allow for interaction of trainer(s) and trainees (as far as technology allows),</li> <li>- decisions about replacing in-person trainings by remote trainings may be based on travel restrictions that are in place up to two months before the scheduled in-person course.</li> </ul>

		<p>This derogation may be retroactively applied to training courses that were cancelled due to coronavirus prior to the publication of the derogation.</p> <p>Note: Clause 1.2 specifying that 'two hours of in-person training are seen as equivalent to one hour of online training' may also be applied to this derogation.</p>
	<p><b>Auditor rotation</b> FSC-STD-20-001 V4-0 Clause 4.3.7 Clause 4.3.8</p>	<p>Where auditor rotation is required, the rotation period may once be extended by one (1) audit.</p>
<b>Scope of derogation</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Generic (applicable by all certification bodies and (independent) training providers)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Specific (applicable only upon individual request and PSU confirmation)</p>	
<b>References</b>	<p>IAF ID 3: 2011: Management of Extraordinary Events or Circumstances Affecting ABs, CABs and Certified Organizations IAF MD 4: 2018: The Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Auditing/ Assessment Purposes</p>	
<b>Approval date</b>	<p>23 April 2020, amended 20 November 2020</p>	
<b>Period of validity</b>	<p>FSC monitors the development of the pandemic of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and will update or withdraw the derogation in full or in part, as necessary.</p>	