



WORLD SUSTAINABILITY ORGANIZATION



Circular nr 02/20

Exceptional measures / COVID 2019

Milan, 14/02/2020

To Whom it may concern.

In consideration of the coronavirus (COVID 2019) outbreak generated from live animals (possibly seafood) markets and the fact that several audits have already been cancelled due to countries not allowing auditors' entrance or auditors/CBs concerns, in order to protect **auditors' health against any unnecessary risk**, the World Sustainability Organization authorizes Friend of the Sea audits to be carried out remotely as long as the following requirements are fulfilled:

1. The **whole audit** has to be video recorded.
2. The video recorded audit must show assessment of **all the relevant areas** of the company undergoing audit (vessels unload, aquaculture sites, processing, cold storages, warehouses, finished products chosen by auditor for traceability test).
3. The video recorded audit must provide evidence of **geolocation**
4. The audit has to be recorded **live** and be **commanded** by the auditor. Videos self recorded by the company undergoing audit would not be deemed acceptable.
5. The whole video recorded audit must be **attached to the Audit Report**.
6. The video audit methodology should further **enhance documental and undisputable evidence and increase audit reports reliability**.

This WSO's decision is in line with principles behind FOS0001's allowances for remote audit as in Exceptional Cases (25, 27), WHO's advises and the precautionary principle.

We trust on everybody's collaboration to prevent the spread of COVID 2019 and unnecessary risk for auditors.

In faith,

Paolo Bray