



Milano, 12/09/2025

Circular 0325

To Whom it may concern.

Subject: Remote Audit.

Accredia has informed WSO/Friend of the Sea that, following Accredia's verification, Accredia's accredited or under accreditation Certification Bodies are NOT performing remote audits in a way equivalent to the conventional onsite audits, as requested by IAF. Accredia has therefore requested WSO/Friend of the Sea to inform that Certification Bodies accredited or under accreditation by Accredia will not be authorized to carry out Friend of the Sea remote audits in the future, until the situation persists.

WSO therefore informs that no remote audits by Certification Bodies accredited by Accredia will be authorized or considered valid in 2026. All pending remote audits have to be carried out within 2025. WSO allows this time for Certification Bodies to honour engagements already established with customers and to organize in carrying out audits onsite in 2026.

For those Certification Bodies who wish to propose in the future remote Friend of the Sea audits, they can send Accredia and WSO examples of Audit Reports (not valid as official Audit Reports) for evaluation. These Audit Reports must provide evidence of equivalence to conventional onsite audits.

In 2026, planning of remote audits by Certification Bodies accredited or under accreditation by Accredia, is authorized only in those cases provided for by the procedure FOS 0001 rev. 9.3 and subsequent versions, unless changes will be communicated by WSO.

In faith,

Paolo Bray
Director and Founder of Friend of the Sea