



Milan, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Circular 0425**

To Whom It May Concern.

**Subject:** Remote Audit.

Accredia has informed WSO/Friend of the Sea that, following Accredia's verification, Certification Bodies are not performing remote audits in a way equivalent to the conventional onsite audits, as requested by IAF. The other Accreditation Bodies currently accrediting Certification Bodies according to the Friend of the Sea standard have agreed with Accredia's conclusions.

WSO therefore informs that no remote audits by Certification Bodies will be authorised or considered valid in 2026. All pending remote audits have to be carried out before the end of 2025.

From 2026, planning of remote audits by Certification Bodies is authorised only in those cases provided for by IAF and by the procedure FOS 0001 rev. 9.3 and subsequent versions, unless changes are communicated by WSO.

In faith,

Paolo Bray  
Director and Founder of Friend of the Sea