


# Friend of the Sea Sustainable Beach Standard

## Friend of the Sea non Seafood Standard

REV	DATE	REASON	VALIDATION	APPROVAL
1	05/04/2019	First issue	<b>Paolo Bray</b>	

## Foreword

Friend of the Sea is a non-governmental organization, which was established in 2008. Its aim is to safeguard the marine environment and its resources by incentivising a sustainable market and implementing specific conservation projects.

Requirements are classified as Essential, Important or Recommendations, according to their level of importance.

**Essential Requirements:** 100% conformity to essential requirements is mandatory in order to be certified. The applicant has to propose effective corrective actions (declaration of intents and implementation plan), to be submitted to the certification body within three weeks from the issuing of the non conformities. This proposal shall also include a timetable concerning the implementation of each corrective measure. Each proposed corrective actions shall be fully implemented within 3 months, where applicable, or within the following 12 months.

**Important Requirements:** 100% conformity to important requirements is mandatory for the certification body to certify the product of the unit of certification. Any lack of compliance with these requirements is to be considered as a Minor Non-conformity and the unit of certification has to propose effective corrective actions (declaration of intents and implementation plan), to be submitted to the certification body within three weeks of the issuing of the Non- conformity. This proposal shall also include a timetable concerning the implementation of each correction measure. Each proposed corrective action shall be fully implemented within the following 12 months.

**Recommendations:** Compliance with recommendations is not mandatory for the product to be certified. However, compliance with recommendations will be verified during the audit and any deficiency will be included in the Audit Report as a recommendation. The applicant shall inform the certification body, during the following audit, regarding any corrective measures implemented.

Requirements which are not applicable to the audited organization will be marked with 'N.A.'

## **Description of the applicant to be audited**

**a) Name of the applicant**

**b) Is the applicant part of a group? If yes, specify the name**

**c) Address of the applicant**

**d) Name, role and contact of the representative(s) of the applicant accompanying the auditor during the inspection:**

**j) Number of employees**

**k) Certification and awards**

**l) Date and type of the audit (initial audit, surveillance audit, recertification audit)**

**m) Other relevant information**



**The Friend of the Sea project has been outlined to the applicant**  
*(If not the auditor shall provide a short description to the organization)*

**The organization was informed of the opportunity, in case of approval, of using the Friend of the Sea logo in association with its dolphin and whale watching activity (e.g. boats, marketing material, and website)**

**The duration of the audit has been agreed upon**

**The information included in the Preliminary Information Form (PIF) was confirmed (in the case of changes to the PIF, an updated version has to be promptly provided).**

<b>CERTIFICATION BODY</b>	<b>AUDIT TEAM:</b>	<b>AUDIT START AND END DATE:</b>
<b>SIGNATURE OF AUDITOR:</b>	<b>NAME OF THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON FROM THE APPLICANT ACCOMPANYING THE AUDITOR DURING THE AUDIT:</b>	<b>AUDIT CODE:</b>

### ***Notes to the auditor***

- 1)The auditor shall fill out all fields in the checklist.**
- 2)Checklist compilation guidelines are highlighted in the blue boxes.**
- 3)The Auditor shall provide an explanation when requirements are not applicable.**
- 4)The Auditor shall write YES when the unit of certification complies with a requirement and NO when it does not.**
- 5)The Auditor shall comment and explain the positive or negative answers.  
Simple**  
**“YES,” “NO,” or “N.A.” are insufficient.**
- 6)Each relevant document shall be added to the final audit report in a separate and numbered attachment.**
- 7)Photographic and video evidences added to the checklist or attached are appreciated.**

## 1. – General requirements

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N	Comments
1.1	Information about Friend of the Sea Sustainable Beaches program must be displayed.	Essential	The auditor shall verify the presence of the information materials		
1.2	Environmental awareness initiatives must be in place at least once a year.	Important	The auditor shall verify agreement with environmental association or activity report/s, photographic evidences.		
1.3	One or more easy to consult maps of the beach facilities must be in place.	Essential	The auditor shall verify the presence of the maps and its accessibility.		
1.4	A code of conduct including related laws and/or regulations governing the use of the beach and surrounding areas must be displayed.	Essential	The auditor shall verify the presence of the information posters or information materials.		
1.5	A Beach Management Committee must be established by the Local Authorities.	Essential	The auditor shall verify relevant documentations.		

## 2. - Environmental requirements

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N	Comments
2.1	Information about water quality must be displayed,	Essential	The auditor shall verify the presence of the information materials		
2.2	Existing natural ecosystems must be protected information must be displayed to explain their importance and the need for protection.	Essential	The audit shall verify procedures in place, and collect all relevant documentation.		
2.3	The beach must fully comply with the national standards and requirements for bathing water quality. Analysis must be regularly performed according to national requirements.	Essential	The audit shall verify procedures in place, and collect all relevant documentation.		
2.4	The beach area must not be affected by undepurated industrial or residential waste discharges.	Essential	The auditor will verify compliance with this parameter, and collect photographic evidence if relevant.		



2.5	The beach must be clean, and waste must be collected separately for recycling at least once a week during the tourist season and once during the low season. Bins must be in adequate numbers.	Essential	The auditor will verify compliance with this parameter, and collect photographic evidence if relevant.		
2.6	Algal vegetation or natural debris must be left on the beach. In case of removal officially authorized by Local Authorities, algal vegetation must be uses as fertiliser or disposed of in compliance with the law.	Essential	The auditor verify all the relevant documentation.		
2.7	Marine and freshwater sensitive habitats (such as coral reefs or sea grass beds) in the vicinity of the beach must be monitored and protected.	Essential	The auditor shall verify the existence of monitoring and protective measures		

<p><b>2.8</b></p>	<p>In case the beach is an eggs deposition site, or the sea area in front of the beach is a reproductive or nursery area, clear information about behavioural rules must be in place, as well as direct phone number to inform Local Authorities.</p>	<p>Essential</p>	<p>The auditor shall verify, if it is the case, the presence of informative materials.</p>		
<p><b>2.9</b></p>	<p>Pollution prevention and emergency plans to limit pollution risks must be in place.</p>	<p>Essential</p>	<p>The auditor verify all the relevant documentation.</p>		

### 3. - Facilities requirements

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N	Comments
3.1	Toilets must have controlled sewage disposal	Essential	The auditor shall verify the relevant documentations.		
3.2	Access to physically disabled must be granted to at least one part of the beach.	Essential	The auditor shall verify the compliance with this parameter and collect photographic evidence if it is relevant.		
3.3	Bars, restaurants and other food providers must be Plastic Free, in order to avoid plastic impacting the beach and the sea.	Reccomended	The auditor shall verify the relevant documentations.		
3.4	Energy should be obtained from alternative sources with a lower impact on the environment (solar, wind, waves)	Reccomended	The auditor shall verify the existence of alternative source of energy.		
3.5	Safety system ( life jacket, first aid kit) and flag signalling system must be in place.	Essential	The auditor shall verify the existence of alternative source of energy.		

## 4. - Best Practices

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N	Comments
4.1	Camping or driving on the beach must not be allowed.	Essential	The auditor shall verify the compliance with this parameter, and perform interview with locals to verify.		
4.2	Domestic animals, if allowed, must not interfere with wild animals present in the area. Organic waste must be removed and properly disposed.	Essential	The auditor shall verify the compliance with this parameter, and perform interview with locals to verify.		
4.3	Sustainable practices must be promoted at the beach, including but not limited to: sustainable transport, use of sustainable UV Creams, soap and shampoos, limited use of shower water, appropriate waste disposal.	Important	The auditor shall verify the compliance with this parameter, and perform interview with locals to verify.		

4.4	Fines and information material must be in place in order to discourage collection of marine life, including but not limited to: sand, coral, sea urchin, starfish, shells, etc.	Essential	The auditor shall verify the compliance with this parameter, and perform interview with locals to verify.		
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## 5. – Social requirements

No.	Requirement	Level	Parameters and information	Y/N	Comments
5.1	Indigenous and local communities must be respected and allowed to use the beach and its resources according to their traditions.	Essential	The auditor shall verify the conformity to this parameter through interview with representatives of the local community.		
5.2	Workers at beach facilities and service providers must be hired in compliance with the national legislation, including what relates to minor labor, forced labor, health insurance, minimum wages.	Essential	The auditor shall verify the conformity to this parameter through interview with representatives of the local community.		

**CONCLUSIONS:**

**The Auditor shall fill out the following fields:**

**The applicant COMPLIES with Sustainable beach requirements**

**The applicant DOES NOT COMPLY with Sustainable beach requirements**

**ESSENTIAL NON-CONFORMITIES**

*List essential Non-conformities*

**IMPORTANT NON-CONFORMITIES**

*List important Non-conformities*

**RECOMMENDATIONS (to be communicated within the next inspection)**

*List recommendations*