



20th March 2020

Gafta Standards – Auditing During COVID-19 Outbreak

Gafta and NSF International are continually monitoring the global impact of COVID-19 and the impact this is having on the auditing of the Gafta Standards.

The key priority is the health and safety of our members and our auditors, however the requirement for Gafta Approved suppliers is crucial for the continued trade of food and feed.

Travel restrictions are in place for many locations making on-site audits impossible. Therefore, all audits will be carried out remotely where possible.

Initial audits to the Gafta Standards, including those transferring from the GTAS scheme, will be carried out remotely via Skype and email and will include Skype/telephone interviews with technicians/operators. For these members second year renewal audits will be carried out on-site.

Members who are unable to complete a remote audit will need to wait until travel restrictions are lifted are lifted to enable an on-site audit to take place before being certified and approved.

Members who are due their annual renewal audit will have these completed remotely as normal. Where this is not possible, previous audit performance will be reviewed by NSF International and Gafta to make the decision to extend the certificate for a defined period of time.

The deadline for members to meet the new requirements for the Gafta Approved Registers, whether by audit to the Gafta Standards, or through ISO accreditation remains 31 May 2021. We will keep this under review as the situation progresses and inform members accordingly.

We urge members to stay safe and follow official guidance during this challenging time. Gafta will continue to monitor the situation and keep members updated.