CI Number | CI-20-01
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**ISSUED BY** | Emmanouil Geneiatakis, FAMI-QS Secretary General
Date of issue: 2020-02-24

**TYPE OF INSTRUCTION** | ☑️ Immediate Implementation ☐ Information ☐ Interpretation 
☐ FAMI-QS Awareness

**APPLICABLE FOR** | ☑️ Certification Bodies ☑️ Feed Business Operators 
☐ Accreditation Bodies ☐ Authorised Training Organisations

**Starting date:** 2020-03-19

**SUBJECT** | Management of Extraordinary Events COVID-19

**PURPOSE** | To define and harmonise the measures with regard to the validity of the FAMI-QS Certificates in view of the Coronavirus situation in the affected areas. Some of the measures are not defined under any accreditation standard, however accreditation standards haven’t foreseen this exceptional situation for the society and the economy. This applies only to FAMI-QS Certified Feed Business Operators that maintain their operation and are not in shut-down status.

**Certification Instruction**

Following an extensive evaluation of the situation, including updated information about the situation on 2020-03-18, with regard to the Coronavirus, the following measures are applied:

Certification Bodies (CB) shall maintain a list with their operations in areas where quarantine measures have been put in place. The file shall be available to the FAMI-QS Secretariat upon request. Tool for the identification of affected areas:

https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6

**Current valid certificates:**

In order for the CB to confirm the annual validity of the FAMI-QS Certified Feed Business Operator, an annual surveillance audit shall be performed as per ISO/IEC 17021-1 requirements - §9.1.3.2 and §9.1.3.3.

Given that the surveillance shall take place in specific time frames, FAMI-QS will grant an exception for the performance of the surveillance audit against Version 6.0 to confirm the validity of the certification until 2020-07-31.
In the event that the surveillance audit is not possible to be conducted by 2020-07-31, the Certification Body shall suspend the certificate for a period of three (3) months. After that period, the certificate shall be withdrawn.

The suspended or withdrawn certificates will be listed on the FAMI-QS website as per the current procedure.

Surveillance Version 5.1
Given that the certificates will expire on 2020-10-01, the surveillance under Version 5.1 can be skipped. In this case, attention can be focused on the re-certification against Version 6.0. Please note that validity of the current 5.1 certificates will not be extended.

Re-certification
Option 1
In the event that a FAMI-QS Certified Feed Business Operator based in one of the affected areas is in process for re-certification (certificate approaching its expiration date), the certificate validity will not be extended. However, for these audits, Certification Bodies can apply only a Stage 2 Audit for when the audit will be scheduled.

Option 2 - measure applicable until 2020-09-30
Certification Bodies can issue a certificate valid for three years based on the review of the audit findings from the remote audit and the previous experience with the organisation. The Certification Body shall have a minimum of three years experience with the organisation in any standard. Auditing time shall be equal to re-certification.

Certificates issued under this condition will require an extension of the auditing time, equal to recertification, during the next surveillance audit. During the next surveillance audit, all the observed NCRs will be raised as major (to force immediate actions). The certification decision shall be detailed enough to justify the decision for granting the certification.

The above proposed measure lies upon the decision of each Certification Body. A list of the certificates issued under Option 2 shall be maintained.

Certification
For initial FAMI-QS audits (newcomers), even if the Certification Body has experience with the feed business operator for three years on other standards, a combination of a remote and an on-site audit shall be applied. A remote audit can only support the initial audit process and cannot replace the initial audit in its entirety. The remote audit shall be a tool to support the audit planning.