

DER-20-011_08 Undertaking CoC Surveillance Evaluations Remotely in parts of Brazil

Normative reference	<i>FSC-STD-20-011 V4-2, clause 2.7</i> <i>ADVICE-20-011_10</i>
Scope	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Generic (applicable by all certification bodies) <input type="checkbox"/> Specific (applicable only upon individual request and PSU confirmation)
Approval	17 June 2024
Effective date	18 June 2024
Period of validity	28 October 2024; To be reviewed one month prior to its expiry.
References	FSC-STD-20-011 V4-2, clause 2.7(c)
Request by CB	Various certification bodies (CB) request a derogation for conducting desk surveillance evaluations for certificate holders located in the state of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil.
Rationale	<p>The CBs request the possibility of conducting desk surveillance assessments, instead of on-site surveillance evaluations, due to government declaration of public emergency and restrictions on travel into the state of Rio Grande do Sul, after a period of severe rainfall and flooding from late April 2024, which has resulted in fatalities in the region.</p> <p>The government of the state of Rio Grande do Sul have issued a public emergency, with the Decree 57,596, which will be in force for 180 days, and refers also to the use of the standard of the Brazilian Codification and Classification of Disasters (Cobrade), informing that the State has reached code 1.3.2.1.4 (intense rainfall within storms). This state communication was issued on 1 May 2024 and is, therefore, in effect until 28 October 2024.</p> <p>Auditors, working on behalf of the accredited certification bodies, are unable to travel into the affected region due to restrictions on travel caused by the flooding and/or internal health and safety policy/policies in place to restrict travel to regions where there is risk to health or life.</p> <p>The CBs planned evaluations, in May 2024 and subsequent months before October 2024, to take place on-site at certified organizations. However, due to the restrictions, the evaluations in May and early June have been postponed until further notice.</p>

PSU Remote Assessments for Surveillance Evaluations
Conclusion

PSU grants the request for remote assessments to replace on-site surveillance evaluations to all FSC-accredited certification bodies conducting chain of custody assessments in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. This derogation is effective from the date of publication until 28 October 2024.

NOTE: The evaluation of corrective actions to close major non-conformities may still require on-site audits.
