



Oxbridge Quality Resources International LLC

1503 South US Highway 301
Suite 36
Tampa FL 33619 USA

Ph: 863.651.3750
OQR@oxebridge.com

Edificio Tempus
Av. Santo Toribio 103 – 117
San Isidro, Lima 27 PERU

Telf: 953-710-915
ventas@iso9001.pe

PUBLIC CALL: DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, IAF MUST EXTEND ALL CERTIFICATIONS & ACCREDITATIONS FOR ONE YEAR

March 20, 2020

To the Secretary of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF):

The global pandemic of the deadly COVID-19 disease brought about by coronavirus is placing unprecedented pressures on every aspect of global trade, and affects not only every industry on the planet, but each human being. Given the extent of the pandemic, the IAF must show leadership and **extend all system certifications and accreditation for one year**, to alleviate the pressures placed on Accreditation Bodies, Certification Bodies, certified organizations and their workers. This must also include **a one-year extension of accreditations held by Certification Bodies**. The IAF must then also use its influence to have related sector schemes, such as those managed by IAQG and IATF, do likewise.

Failure to do so will result in the IAF intentionally placing at risk the health of workers all over the world, as well as adding stress to industries which are already at the breaking point. To continue to press for ongoing certification and accreditation audits fails to address key realities:

1. CBs and ABs across the planet are woefully unprepared to conduct remote audits, despite the rules for such audits being available for decades. CBs and ABs are simply unable to ramp up those procedures now, during the pandemic, when their own staff is limited, and their resources already stretched to the breaking point.
2. Continuing to mandate audits, even given the mild extensions IAF is currently allowing, will only result in poor audits that will not identify nonconformities and not ensure the quality of supply chains anyway. These will be meaningless, expensive “paperwork” exercises only.
3. Certified clients will be expected to pay the same fees as if the audits were of the same level of adequacy as those prior to the pandemic, while doing so at a time when such organizations have less funds to spend on such things due to limited staff and reduced operations.
4. Clients will not have the resources to support escorts or attend ISO audits even if conducted remotely.
5. The aging auditor pool means the auditors required to conduct such audits are predominantly in the highest risk of developing fatal symptoms of the disease.
6. For decades, IAF has historically shown an unwillingness to enforce accreditation rules on ABs and CBs under normal circumstances. Given the global pandemic, IAF now has a justifiable reason to suspend the rules pertaining to certification and accreditation audits, in order to ensure the health of auditors and clients alike.

I urge the IAF to take swift action and announce a one-time, one-year extension of all such certifications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CP', with a stylized flourish extending to the left.

Christopher Paris
VP Operations, Oxbridge Quality Resources International LLC