

Interpretation Question: Auditors competencies -Requirements Table A3.1 and A2.1

Requirements

Current requirement A.3.1 of Lead auditor competencies states:

For audits involving farmed seaweed only (production categories Bii and Cii in Table 2 of the Standard), the team leader shall have the same education and work experience as the individual auditor and technical experts (see A2.1i and ii).

Requirement A.2.1 states:

For audits involving farmed seaweed only (production categories Bii and Cii in Table 2 of the Standard), the environmental auditor shall have:

- i. At least a post-high school diploma or equivalent (minimum course duration of two years) in a discipline related to the scope of certification, or
- ii. At least two years of experience relevant to the operation.

Question:

In a Cii operation (land based without supply from the wild), does the lead auditor need to have aquaculture background. Can the social auditor with background in “environmental science” be qualified as lead auditor?

Response:

The intent of this requirement is that auditor has the skills needed to evaluate the operation and understand its functioning. The requirements require a post high diploma or equivalent or two years of experience relevant to the scope of certification. The requirement does not specific state aquaculture and could include environmental science or any other post-high school diploma related to the scope of certification.