

Lloyds Register (Acoura)
6 Redheughs Rigg
Edinburgh
United Kingdom
EH12 9DQ

Sent by email

Date: 02/12/2020

Subject: Request for variation to the ASC-MSC Seaweed Certification and Accreditation Requirement v1.01-17.10.1 for Haedam Co., Ltd.

Dear Francisco Padilla,

I write with reference to your submission on 23/11/2020 of a request for variation to the ASC-MSC Seaweed Certification and Accreditation Requirement (CAR) to allow:

Lloyd's Register request that the initial audit for Headam can be conducted as an 'Assisted Remote Audit' (not a fully remote audit), with the Technical Expert on-site to facilitate the audit and provide translation and the Environmental and Social Auditors directing the audit remotely online.

As you are aware, the CAR procedures relating to 17.10.1 state:
The team shall carry out the site visit as announced.

These are integral to ensuring all ASC-MSC accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies operate in a consistent and transparent manner. The ASC-MSC intends that these requirements be met across all seaweed production units, except in exceptional, well-justified circumstances, as part of the ASC-MSC programme.

ASC-MSC notes the factors presented supporting your request, including:

- There are travel restrictions and health risk concerns related to COVID-19 should the Environmental and Social Auditors travel to the Republic of Korea to attend the site visit.
- Conducting this audit as "Assisted Remote" is considered low risk as the internet connection with the Assessors and the Client has been tested as sufficient and the Assessors are very familiar with conducting Remote Audits, either through use of the LR Remote App, or other means of online communication with an active discussion and video mechanism (e.g. MS Teams).
- All stakeholders were contacted via email and are able to communicate online as necessary, and the audit will be facilitated with a member of the audit team on-site.
- The risk of conducting this audit as 'Assisted Remote' is considerably reduced with the Technical Expert on-site who will be able to easily and transparently verify documentation, electronically transmit supplementary information, and physically inspect the required aspects of the facility's operations as required.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CAR.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Seaweed Account Manager.

Aquaculture Stewardship Council/Marine Stewardship Council
cc: Assurance Services International

