Marine Stewardship Council

Controlled List of MSC Derogations Version 10.0 Date: 11 July 2025



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Derogation: A derogation is a temporary normative measure that allows for an MSC requirement to be applied differently, or not at all.

Derogations apply to the version of the document that is specified, and any earlier versions still in use. As of March 2020, derogations are published on the MSC Interpretations Log.



Program Derogations: Current versions

Derogation identification		Date version	Date version	Affected document(s) and requirement(s) and
Title	Version	effective	expires	additional information
Fisheries program derogations				
Derogation 10: Extension to implementation timeframes for MSC Fisheries Standard v3.0/v3.1	2.0	10 July 2025	01 March 2030	 Fisheries Standard v3.0 and v3.1 (section 'Implementation timeframes') Fisheries Certification Process (FCP) v3.0 and v3.1 (section 'Implementation timeframes') Fisheries Certification Process (FCP) v2.3, v3.0 and v3.1 (section 7.32 and 7.26.7) Fisheries Standard Toolbox v1.1 and v1.2 (section 'Implementation timeframes') Improvement Program Requirements and Guidance v3.0 (section 'Implementation timeframes')
Derogation 5: PI 2.4.2.a scoring issue a	1.0	05 November 2020	Until fisheries are assessed against the next version of the MSC Fisheries Standard.	 Fisheries Certification Process (FCP) v2.1 and v2.2, section 7.17 Fisheries Standard v2.0 and v2.01, PI 2.4.2 scoring issue a
CoC program derogations				
Derogation 9: Use of both ASC and MSC labels on products coming from seaweed production category Bii	1.0	06 November 2023	This derogation will be withdrawn once it has been incorporated into the next version of all affected program documents, and those documents are made effective (MSC Chain of Custody Standard (Default & Group), MSC General Certification Requirements and ASC-MSC Seaweed	

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Derogation identification		Date version Date version	Date version	Affected document(s) and requirement(s) and
Title	Version	effective	expires	additional information
			(Algae) Certification and Accreditation Requirements (CAR)).	



Program Derogations: Superseded versions

Derogation identification		Date version Da	Date version	Affected document(s) and requirement(s) and	
Title	Version	effective	expires	additional information	
Scheme wide derogations					
Derogation 1: Covid-19 pandemic	1.0	27 March 2020	27 September 2020	 A range of requirements in the Fisheries Certification Process v2.1 and v2.2 relating to on- site visits and assessment/audit timelines. A range of requirements in the Chain of Custody Certification Requirements v3.1 relating to on-site audits. 	
Derogation 3: Covid-19 Fishery and Chain of Custody Remote Auditing	5.0	29 March 2023	28 September 2023	 Extension of application, updated references to the Fisheries Certification Process to align with versions 2.3 and 3.0, as appropriate. <u>Supersedes</u>: Derogation 3: Covid-19 Fishery and Chain of Custody Remote Auditing v4.0 	
Derogation 3: Covid-19 Fishery and Chain of Custody Remote Auditing	4.0	29 March 2022	28 March 2023	• Extension of application, amendments to initial audit requirements and clarifications for Chain of Custody, including addition of 1.5.b-c, 1.7, 1.14.a and 1.19.	
Derogation 3: Covid-19 Fishery and Chain of Custody Remote Auditing	3.0	28 March 2021	28 March 2022	 A range of requirements in the Fisheries Certification Process v2.1 and v2.2 relating to on- site visits. A range of requirements in the Chain of Custody Certification Requirements v3.1 relating to on-site audits. 	
Derogation 3: UPDATE 02/09/2020 Covid-19 Pandemic Derogation– Effective 28 September 2020	2.0	28 September 2020	27 March 2021	 A range of requirements in the Fisheries Certification Process v2.1 and v2.2 relating to on- site visits. A range of requirements in the Chain of Custody Certification Requirements v3.1 relating to on-site audits. 	
Derogation 4: Extension of ISO 19011 (GCR v2.4.1 – 6.1.3)	1.0	29 September 2020	This derogation will be incorporated into the next full update of the General Certification Requirements and	 General Certification Requirements v2.4.1 and v2.5, clause 6.1.3. 	



Derogation identification		Date version	Date version	Affected document(s) and requirement(s) and
Title	Version	effective	expires	additional information
			will expire on the effective date of that version.	
Fisheries program derogations				
Derogation 6: Covid-19 Fishery Conditions Extension	1.0	28 March 2021	The derogation applies until all eligible conditions have been extended for all applicable fisheries.	 Conditions related to management decision making, monitoring and compliance extended for 12 months for all fisheries.
Derogation 10: Extension to implementation timeframes for MSC Fisheries Standard v3.0	1.1	22 July 2024	01 November 2030	 Fisheries Standard v3.0 (section 'Effective dates of the MSC Fisheries Standard v3.0') Fisheries Certification Process (FCP) v3.0 (section 'Effective date of the Fisheries Certification Process v3.0') Fisheries Certification Process (FCP) v2.3 and v3.0 (section 7.32 and 7.26.7) Fisheries Standard Toolbox v1.1 (section 'Effective date of the MSC Fisheries Standard Toolbox v1.1') In-Transition to MSC (ITM) Program Requirements and Guidance (section 'Effective date of the ITM Program Requirements and Guidance – Pilot v2.0'
Derogation 10: Extension to implementation timeframes for MSC Fisheries Standard v3.0	1.0	01 February 2024	01 November 2030	 Fisheries Standard v3.0 (section 'Effective dates of the MSC Fisheries Standard v3.0') Fisheries Certification Process (FCP) v3.0 (section 'Effective date of the Fisheries Certification Process v3.0') Fisheries Certification Process (FCP) v2.3 and v3.0 (section 7.32 and 7.26.7) Fisheries Standard Toolbox v1.1 (section 'Effective date of the MSC Fisheries Standard Toolbox v1.1 (section 'Effective date of the MSC Fisheries Standard Toolbox v1.1 (section 'Effective date of the MSC Fisheries Standard Toolbox v1.1') In-Transition to MSC (ITM) Program Requirements and Guidance (section 'Effective date of the ITM Program Requirements and Guidance – Pilot v2.0'



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Derogation 2: Covid-19 Chain of Custody Labour Pause	2.0	31 March 2021	27 May 2021	 MSC Chain of Custody Default Standard v5.0, clause 5.7.2. MSC Chain of Custody Group Standard v2.0, clause 5.7.2. MSC Chain of Custody CFO Standard v2.0, clause 5.8.2. General Certification Requirements v2.4.1, clause 4.8.6.c. All requirements in the MSC Third-Party Labour Audit Requirements v1.
Derogation 2: Covid-19 pandemic Labour	1.0	06 May 2020	30 March 2021	 MSC Chain of Custody Default Standard v5.0, clause 5.7.2. MSC Chain of Custody Group Standard v2.0, clause 5.7.2. MSC Chain of Custody CFO Standard v2.0, clause 5.8.2. General Certification Requirements v2.4.1, clause 4.8.6.c. All requirements in the MSC Third-Party Labour Audit Requirements v1.
Derogation 7: Chain of Custody Labour Audit Risk Revision	1.0	28 May 2021	Until certificate holders are assessed against the next version of the MSC Chain of Custody Standard.	 Introduction of two options self-assessment & revision of risk-based audit. Clauses affected identified in document across the relevant MSC Chain of Custody Standard and the MSC Chain of Custody Certification Requirements.
Derogation 8: Chain of Custody Labour Eligibility Requirements	1.0	01 May 2023	This derogation will expire on the effective date of the next version of the affected program documents. Referenced requirements relating to: CoC Standards expire on 15 May 2023; CoC Certification	 MSC Chain of Custody Standard: Default V5.0: Clause 5.7 MSC Chain of Custody Standard: Group V2.0: Clause 5.7 MSC Chain of Custody Standard: Consumer- Facing Organisation v2.0 Clause 5.8 MSC Chain of Custody Certification Requirements v3.1: Clauses 7.1.8; 8.2.2k; 8.2.14; 8.2.15; 8.3.1 l; 8.3.15; 8.3.16; 9.2.1 b; 9.2.8 c MSC Third-Party Labour Audit Requirements MSC CoC Certificate Holder Statement of Understanding of Labour Requirements



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Derogation identification		Date version	Date version	Affected document(s) and requirement(s) and
Title	Version	effective	expires	additional information
			Requirements expire on 1 November 2023.	Derogation 7: Chain of Custody Labour Audit Risk Revision