

## **Prolongation of Certificates and execution of surveillance according EN 15085 under special conditions of SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) pandemic**

Because of the special situation according the CoVid-19 pandemic we have to react by adapting the general ECWRV rules.

All member MCBs of the Online-Register EN 15085 have to save the activities of certification and surveillance for the welding companies especially if the validity of the certificate comes to its end.

For a situation that does not allow a standard procedure with an audit onsite, we propose the following practical possibilities for the prolongation of certificates in case of the Re-Certification and for the surveillance audits:

### **Re-Certification:**

1. The welding company has to fill in the application form and to ask for prolongation of their certificate for 12 month after expiration date.
2. The welding company sends to the MCB the audit documentation including a declaration that all requirements for quality assurance are fulfilled sufficiently.
3. The MCB will check the documents by paper assessment and has to clarify questions with the company by means of Emailing or a Telephone / Video Conference. The Technical interview is included. A risk analysis is necessary and has to be documented.
4. If the paper assessment comes to the result, that the prolongation of the certificate is given, the certificate can be extended for one year after expiration date.
5. All these activities must be documented in the Online-Register as usual.

### **Surveillance Audit:**

1. The MCB will get in contact with the welding company to ask for the actual situation and for changes about their quality assurance.
2. The welding company send to the MCB the audit documentation and declare that all requirements are fulfilled or inform about changes.
3. The MCB will check the documents by paper assessment and has to clarify questions with the company by means of Emailing or a Telephone / Video Conference. The Technical interview is included.
4. The MCB performs the paper assessment with the result that in the case of major changes an audit onsite is required during the next 6 month or without an audit onsite if all requirements are fulfilled. In this case, the certificate can be continued for one year until the next scheduled audit.

After a maximum of one year, an audit onsite has to be essential for the prolongation of certificate for maximum 3 years.

From the point of time, that the restrictions caused by CoVid-19 are withdrawn, the audits onsite have to be carried out in the same way and frequency as before. This is valid both for recertification as well as for surveillance.

An initial certification cannot be done, if the audit onsite is impossible. That's why the initial certification has to be postponed. Individual other solutions are possible but have to be documented for an open discussion in ECWRV. The certified company has to agree with this solution. Such an initial certification is limited on maximum one year.

If a production company interrupt the production the status of the certificate could set as "Suspended" in the Online-Register.

This document is valid until 2021-12-31.

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This paper is in line with the following document:

- IAF ID 3:2011      **Informative Document for Management of Extraordinary Events or Circumstances Affecting ABs, CABs and Certified Organizations**

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We thank all the members of ECWRV for their comments and advises to finalise this paper as quick as possible. Please give your further comments to [martin.lehmann@dvs-hg.de](mailto:martin.lehmann@dvs-hg.de) .

We wish all of you health!