



**CERTIND POLICY ON HANDLING OF CERTIFICATIONS  
ISSUED FOR ORGANIZATIONS/ LOCATIONS IN REGIONS AFFECTED BY  
EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS**

**Annex 4 PO-01**

During a certification cycle, a certified organization can find itself in an extraordinary situation which can not be controlled. Such situations are, among others, situations out of the control of the certified organization, commonly known as “Force Majeure”, like war, strike, political instability, geopolitical tension, terrorism, crime, pandemic, floods, earthquake, cyber piracy, and other natural man-made calamities.

This policy describes how CERTIND treats the situations in which certified organizations or locations included in the certification scope become affected by extraordinary events, events that may temporarily prevent compliance with the audit programme for the certification cycle of the certified organization, respectively carrying out on-site planned audits.

Some hypothetical situations which a CERTIND certified organization may face, as well as the way of action of CERTIND in the each situation are described below:

***1. Geographical location is unsafe/ affected by extraordinary situation/ Force Majeure and the organization can not be audited in accordance to the audit programme.***

In the event that, based on official information available, CERTIND determines that a certain region is unsafe for travel and/ or the risks on its assessment personnel are high, the following actions will apply.

- in agreement with the certified organization, CERTIND will use alternative methods to determine if the management system/ factory production control/ product conformity continues to be effective, for a period of max.6 months (these alternative methods refer, but are not limited to requesting the relevant documentation to carry out an evaluation off-site of the conditions for maintaining the certification, proactive communication with the representatives of the organization, etc.);

- The surveillance/recertification audit will be postponed for a period of max. 6 months from the planned date and will be performed during this period if it is possible.

- If, after 6 months, it is still not safe to perform the audit, CERTIND will suspend/ reduce the scope of certification for a period of max.6 months or proceed to conditional maintaining of the certification for a period of 9 months, as the case may be. If the surveillance audit cannot be carried out in the next 3-6 months, CERTIND will decide to withdraw the certification granted;



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- If the organization decides to suspend its own activity for a limited period (max.6 months), CERTIND will re-schedule the audit so that it is performed immediately after the organization resumes activity. If, during the next 6 months, the surveillance audit is still not performed, CERTIND will withdraw the certification granted for that organization.

- CERTIND can accept that the organization performs the recertification audit within 6 months of the expiry date of the previous certification cycle, otherwise any further requests will be treated as initial certification.

***2. An organization decided to close a production facility or activities outside the production facility, included in the scope of certification.***

After being informed by the organization of such a situation, CERTIND will withdraw/reduce the scope of certification for that organization.

Depending on the certification scheme involved, CERTIND can decide to inform third parties (accreditation bodies, etc.) about the existing context.

***3. A location owned by an organization and included in the certification scope was destroyed or is under the control of armed forces/rebels.***

CERTIND may be informed of such a situation by the organization itself or from other sources- in which case CERTIND will confirm the information from other sources, before forming a decision.

After confirming the information, CERTIND will withdraw/ reduce the scope of certification for that organization.

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**General Manager,  
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