



Derogation: 2026 D1

Rules of sampling and surveillance for the 2026 harvest transition period

SFA Programme document(s) and clause reference(s):

Assurance and Certification Manual (ACM) v2.0

D.1.1 – Clause 20.2 and Clause 20.3

D 1.2 – Clause 18.4 and Clause 19.5 (new)

Publication Date: 11/03/2026

Effective date: 11/03/2026

Expiry Date: 28/02/2027

Scope:

These derogations are applicable to the assessments and certifications conducted against the SFA's Animal Fibre Standard (AFS) v1.01; the Chain of Custody (CoC) Standard v1.1, and the Assurance and Certification Manual (ACM) v2.0.

These derogations temporarily address the following: (1) setting out an amended sampling procedure for site assessments by Conformity Assessment Bodies and (2) an amended approach to surveillance as a result.

To: SFA-approved Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs)

1. Objective

The intent of the derogations is to enable CABs to facilitate a practical approach to sampling and surveillance for the purpose of completing the audits required to enable producer entities to transit into the new regimes of the AFS and CoC standards.

1.1. Eligibility

All registered producer entities and non-producer entities are eligible.

1.2. Derogation requirements

- a) 2026 D1.1 – The CAB shall assess a random sample of at least $(\sqrt{N})/2$ of sites (e.g., $\sqrt{100}/2=5$), subject to a minimum of the following numbers of sites, whichever is larger, based on the number of sites covered by the entity's scope certificate



less than 45 sites – 3 sites (minimum)

46-79 sites – 4 sites (minimum)

over 80 sites – 5 (minimum)

2026 D1.1 temporarily supersedes clauses 20.2 and 20.3 in the ACM v2.0.

- b) 2026 D1.2 All entities participating in the first round of audits against the AFS will be considered as high risk for the purposes of subsequent surveillance audit frequency. The entity risk level – determined according to risk factors outlined in the ACM and guided by the Risk Assessment Matrix provided – shall still be determined and recorded by the CAB

2026 D1.2 temporarily supersedes clauses 18.4 and 19.5 (new) in the ACM v2.0.