

Derogation D2: Delay to implementation of the SFA Animal Fibre Standard in China

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

Animal Fibre Standard v1.02

Assurance and Certification Manual v 2.1

Joint Animal Welfare Code of Practice

Publication Date: 28.09.26

Effective date: 28.09.26

Expiry Date: 28.09.28

Scope:

This derogation is applicable to the assessments and certifications conducted against the SFA's Animal Fibre Standard (AFS) v1.02; the Chain of Custody (CoC) Standard v1.1, and the Assurance and Certification Manual (ACM) v2.1.

These derogations temporarily address the following:

To: SFA-approved Conformity Assessment Bodies, Producer Organisations, Members

Cc: SFA, Oversight Body

1. Objective

The derogation postpones the effective date of application of the AFS v1.02 to producers in China, who seek to become 'SFA Certified'. This postponement is to enable them to build capacity, adjust their processes and transition to the Animal Fibre Standard with adequate capacity, systems and processes in place.

It also provides time for a China-specific version of the Animal Fibre Standard to be consulted on and confirmed; this is planned in conjunction with the ICCAW.

The derogation also offers sufficient time for the Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) in China to adjust their policies, practices and procedures and to plan a transition to undertake auditing and inspection activities against the China AFS effectively.

2. Derogation requirements

2.1. Eligibility

All registered and non-registered producer entities are eligible.

2.2. Derogation requirements

- 2026 - **D 2.1** moves the effective date for all new producer assessments to be conducted to the AFS standard from 01/07/2025 to 01/03/2028
- 2026 - **D 2.2** temporarily extends the validity of the Joint Animal Welfare Code of Practice in China as a basis for audit until 28/09/2028.
- 2026 **D 2.3** includes a temporary requirement in the ACM (26.13.d) to limit the validity period to 24 months from the date of issue for certificates issued against the JAWCOP until 28/02/2028