



Resumption Of New MSPO Certification Applications And The Provision Of Temporary Exemptions

Following extensive consultation with key stakeholders, the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) is issuing the following additional guidelines on the following matters:

1. Resumption of new MSPO certification applications
2. The provision of temporary exemptions for selected MSPO requirements (ie: GHG and HCV assessments).

1. Resumption of New MSPO Certification Applications:

MSPO will resume accepting new MSPO certification applications, previously on hold, subject to the following conditions:

- **No New Planting/Establishment:** No new planting or establishment activities shall have occurred after December 31, 2019, within the proposed certified area. Discovery of such activities during the audit will result in the halting or suspension of the certification process pending a full High Conservation Value (HCV) assessment and approval by MSPO.
- **Compliance with MS 2530:2022 Standards:** The entity shall be audited against the MS2530:2022 Standard Series.
- **Accreditation of Certification Bodies:** The auditing Certification Body (CB) must be accredited by the Department of Standards Malaysia (DSM) for the relevant scopes of MS 2530:2022 before issuing the MSPO certificate.

2. Temporary Exemptions for Selected MSPO Requirements (ie: GHG and HCV Assessment)

Recognising the need for a phased transition to the requirements outlined in MS 2530:2022, temporary exemptions are granted to certificate holders for the following elements, effective immediately:

- **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Calculation:** Exemptions are granted once during the transition period. The subsequent surveillance or recertification audit shall fulfil the exempted requirements. The certificate holders should implement the requirements as soon as the documents or guidelines are finalised by the scheme owner. Subsequent surveillance or recertification audits will require compliance with GHG emission calculation requirements.
- **High Conservation Value (HCV) Assessment:** Exemptions are granted for existing certified areas with no new planting/development activities after 31st December 2019. Exemptions are granted once during the transition period. The subsequent surveillance or recertification audit shall fulfil the exempted requirements. The certificate holders should implement the requirements as soon as the documents or guidelines are finalised by the scheme owner.
- **New Planting and/or New Establishment:** Exemptions are granted for entities with no new planting or establishment activities after December 31, 2019.

Important Notes:

- **Temporary Exemptions:** These exemptions are granted only once during the transition period. Subsequent audits will assess compliance with the exempted requirements. Exempted requirements will not be audited during this transition and will not be subject to nonconformity reports. Any Non-Conformity (NC) raised prior to this circular is considered annulled, as this announcement supersedes earlier conditions

- **New Planting/Development:** Discovery of new planting/development activities within an existing certified area during a transition audit will result in the halting or suspension of the certification process pending a full HCV assessment and approval by MSPO.

For inquiries regarding this circular, please contact us via email at csu@mspo.org.my.

Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil

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