

True Source Certified

COVID-19 Provisional Standards

Effective – December 8, 2021, through March 31, 2022

### **Annual Recertification Audits and Initial Certification Audits**

Recertification Audits should occur on-site if possible. Companies will be granted a 90-day extension by local Certification Body offices **upon the request of the certified facility** and under the following circumstances:

- Local regulations prohibit the activities of auditors.  
On-site audits should continue as normal in the continental US where businesses are “mostly open” and where there are no “stay at home orders” in place. For consistency, use the guide below. It is updated at least daily.  
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/states-reopen-map-coronavirus.html>
- Certification Body Offices prohibit the activities of auditors.
- Individual factories prohibit the activities of auditors based on local/regional authority lockdowns or restrictions. (note this provision will elicit comparative scrutiny against other factories in the region and may result in suspension of certification after the 90-day extension term).

Companies seeking certification will be required to wait until resumption of normal business activity to proceed.

Should current conditions persist beyond 90 days, these provisional standards will be evaluated against the general level of activity.

### **Virtual Recertification Audits**

Recertification Audits should occur on-site if possible. A virtual recertification audit conducted by local Certification Body offices can occur **upon the request of the certified facility** and under the following circumstances:

- Individual factories/companies restrict access to visitors/auditors based on their internal vaccination policies intended to protect their employees.

### **Load Inspection and Sampling in High Risk Countries**

Under the three conditions identified above; Local Regulations, Certification Body Offices and Individual Factory closures, no high-risk load inspections will take place. Any high-risk load shipped without inspection must be clearly identified in accompanying documents as **“No Inspection Conducted”**. In addition, all loads shipped without inspection must be declared in the **“Uninspected Load Register”** form (attached).

Each non-inspected load must be accompanied by a statement/document issued by the local Certification Body office, clearly dated, indicating the dates during which service was unavailable. Such statements can cover a stated term or can be issued individually as determined by the local office. Without such declaration, any load shipped must be classified as non-Compliant within the compliance percentages.

Upon arrival in North America, loads identified as **“No Inspection Conducted”** must be tested using NMR or HRMS for authenticity and Pollen Analysis or NMR for origin confirmation via the Bruker Honey Screener™ Database. The collection of the sample to be tested is ultimately the responsibility of the Packer however if after discussion between Packer and Importer it is determined that it is more practical for the sample to be collected upon arrival in North America by the Importer, this is permitted, providing the Packer approves. Records of testing must accompany the documents retained for each load. During a packer audit, as part of sample selection and testing, at least one non-inspected load must be identified and sampled if in current inventory. The selected load will be tested using NMR or HRMS for authenticity and NMR for origin confirmation.

### **Suspension of Provisional Standards**

At such time as normal activity resumes, as communicated by True Source Certified, all requirements will be in full effect. Note that this schedule may vary by country or possibly within countries depending upon local conditions.

Where the site declares they are shut down during a specific time period, the auditor will verify during the next on-site audit that the site was not in production during that stated term.

### **Annual Recertification Audits and Initial Certification Audits for Made With True Source Honey Program**

While the Covid – 19 Provisional Standards are in effect, virtual audits are permissible for this program until such time that an on-site visit can be conducted. An on-site visit is required once the Covid – 19 Provisional Standards are no longer in effect.

On-site audits should continue as normal in the continental US where businesses are “mostly open” and where there are no “stay at home orders” in place. For consistency, use the guide below. It is updated at least daily.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/states-reopen-map-coronavirus.html>