# Regenagri Auditing and Certification requirements

## Farm Certification Scheme

Version 3.0

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# Regenagri Auditing and Certification requirements – Farm Certification Scheme

Version 3.0

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# Log of Updates

| Version No. | Update | Update date | Effective date |
|---|---|---|---|
| Version 1.0 | Initial release | | March 2023 |
| Version 1.1 | | | January 2024 |
| Version 2.0 | | | June 2024 |
| Version 2.1 | Update of sampling requirements for group of farms | 21 June 2023 | 1 July 2024 |
| | ICS requirements | 21 June 2023 | 1 July 2024 |
| | List of mandatory supporting documents for certification | 21 June 2023 | 1 July 2024 |
| | Due diligence policy | 21 June 2023 | 1 July 2024 |
| | Update of soil sampling requirement | 21 June 2023 | 1 July 2024 |
| | Clarification for combined Scope – Farm and CoC | 21 June 2023 | 1 July 2024 |
| | Water sampling requirements | 21 June 2023 | 1 July 2024 |
| | Update to the name of the document | 8 July 2024 | 8 July 2024 |
| | Clarification on checklist and Management Plan update | 8 July 2024 | 8 July 2024 |

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|---|---|---|---|
| | Clarifications on Improvement Plan details – 8.3.2. | 26 August 2025 | 26 August 2025 |
| Version 2.2 | • Clarifications on Change in Scope (Section 9)<br>• Clarification on sampling requirements for surveillance audits (4.1.)<br>• Clarifications on CI (Section 8)<br>• Added new Section 10 – Data Integrity and Issue management<br>• Added pre-audit requirements to 4. Audit preparation | 24 October 2025 | 04 November 2025 |
| Version 3.0 | Restructuring and clarification on audit and certification requirements | December 2025 to July 2026 | 24 September 2026 |

# Introduction

Regenagri Standard – Farms is an international certification scheme for regenerative agriculture owned by Regenagri CIC (hereinafter referred to in this document as "Regenagri").

The Regenagri Farm Certification Scheme is a third-party conformity assessment scheme designed to verify and support regenerative agriculture outcomes at the farm level. The Regenagri Auditing and Certification requirements define how the Regenagri Standard – Farms shall be evaluated, how certification decisions are made, and how certified status is maintained over time.

CBs shall operate in accordance with ISO/IEC 17065 for the Regenagri Farm Certification Scheme. This document establishes additional Regenagri-specific process requirements for evaluating conformity with the Regenagri Standard – Farms.

The document specifies the audit requirements, including audit frequency and timing, sampling requirements, audit duration and interview requirements, and on-farm audit conduct; minimum mandatory supporting documentation and evidence expectations; non-conformity classification, corrective action handling, and certification decision requirements; Continuous Improvement (CI) audit, change of scope requirements; data integrity and integrity concern management requirements.

In case of inconsistency, requirements in the Regenagri Standard – Farms define organisation conformity requirements, whereas this Document defines CB audit and certification process requirements. ISO/IEC 17065 applies to CB competence and process requirements unless Regenagri adds scheme-specific requirements.

Any references to ISO 19011:2018 are for audit-conduct guidance only.

**How to read and use this document**

All provisions using the verbal form "shall" are mandatory requirements for certification and continued certification under the Regenagri Farms Certification Scheme.

Provisions using "should" are recommendations intended to support effective implementation and performance against the Continuous Improvement (CI) framework.

Provisions using "may" indicate permission, and "can" indicate possibility or capability.

**Related scheme documents:**

1. Regenagri Glossary (normative)
2. Regenagri Standard – Farms (normative)
3. Regenagri Scoring Matrix (normative)
4. Regenagri Implementation Guidance (informative)

Defined terms appear underlined and shall be interpreted using the Regenagri Glossary.

All current versions of documents are available at www.regenagri.org.

# 1. Scope

These Auditing and Certification requirements apply to:

- Certification Bodies (CBs), which shall use this document to plan and conduct conformity assessment activities, including on-farm audits, review and audit results, make certification decisions, and manage certification status; and
- Regenagri technical and administrative staff.

# 2. Contracting and scoping requirements

## 2.1. CB application and contracting for certification services

2.1.1. Before contracting for certification services, the CB shall verify that Regenagri has confirmed the applicant's registration and Licence agreement status – see Appendix I.

2.1.2. The CB shall have a signed contract with all organisation seeking to certify or are already certified to Regenagri Standard – Farms.

2.1.3. The CB shall handle applications and contracting in accordance with ISO/IEC 17065:2012.

2.1.4. In addition, the CB shall confirm:

a. The certification scope requested (individual; group or multi-site – see Appendix II); and
b. Any conditions for scope change defined under Section 2.4. of this document.

2.1.5. The CB shall make its services available to all applicants whose activities fall within the scope of the Regenagri Standard – Farms, except where the application may be declined in accordance with ISO/IEC 17065:2012 and the requirements of Section 5 to 7 of this document.

## 2.2. Eligibility verification

2.2.1 Prior to conducting an on-farm audit, the CB shall assess the applicant's conformity with the Regenagri Eligibility requirements specified in Regenagri Standard – Farms at organisation level (see Section 5 of this document, Annex II of Regenagri Standard – Farms and Appendix III).

2.2.2 As a minimum, the CB shall verify that the organisation is not:

- Subject to a final court judgment establishing fraud, corruption, scheme-related enforcement action, or other serious unlawful conduct;
- Suspended, withdrawn, terminated, or excluded from another voluntary certification, assurance, or sustainability scheme for reasons of fraud, serious misconduct, etc.

2.2.3 The CB shall perform this audit using publicly available information and, where appropriate, information obtained from competent authorities, certification scheme owners, or other reliable sources.

2.2.4 Only organisations that satisfy the eligibility requirements specified in this section may proceed to a conformity assessment within the certification scope defined in Section 2.3.

## 2.3. Scope of certification

2.3.1. For farm certification, the CB shall ensure that the scope includes all farm operations under the operational control of the organisation, including:

a. All agricultural land;
b. All crops and livestock operations (where applicable); and
c. Conservation areas and non-productive land under management control.

## 2.4. Scope change

2.4.1. The CB shall determine the appropriate audit method for handling scope changes, which shall be based on the type, scale, and associated risks of the change.

2.4.2. The CB shall evaluate any requests for scope change and determine whether additional audit activities are required in line with the CB's internal procedures, which shall be aligned with the requirements of this Section.

2.4.3. Prior to approving a scope change and updating the scope of certification for medium- and large-sized farms under individual or group certification, the CB shall conduct an audit where any of the following applies:

a. The certified agricultural land increases by more than 20% through the addition of new farms or land;
b. The replacement of existing farms within the certified scope affects compliance with the applicable sampling requirements specified in Section 3.3. of this document; or
c. New operational or management activities (e.g. livestock production) are introduced that are not included within the current scope of certification.

2.4.4. For group of smallholders, where a scope change is requested, the following provisions shall apply:

2.4.4.1. The scope of certification may be reduced where:

a. One or more group members fail to comply with the requirements of the Regenagri Standard – Farms; or
b. One or more group members voluntarily withdraw from the certification.

2.4.4.2. The CB may approve the following change in scope, ensuring that the Internal Control System (ICS) demonstrates that the Continuous Improvement requirements are met:

a. An increase in certified land;
b. An increase in the number of group members; or
c. The replacement of existing group members with new members that have not yet undergone conformity assessment and compliance confirmation (as part of a surveillance, recertification, or interim audit).

2.4.4.3. Where the increase in land or group membership cannot be accommodated within the existing certification scope, the ICS may request the establishment of a separate certification project covering the additional land and/or group members.

2.4.5. For group of medium- or large-sized farms, where a scope change is requested, the following provisions shall apply:

2.4.5.1. An increase in certified land and/or an increase in the number of group members, and/or the replacement of existing members with new members that have not undergone prior conformity assessment and compliance confirmation (as part of a surveillance, recertification, or interim audit) is permitted only after the CB has conducted a prior conformity assessment and has confirmed compliance of the newly added members.

2.4.5.2. The organisation may choose one of the following approaches:

a. Inclusion of the newly added members in the sample during the next scheduled surveillance or recertification audit;
b. Undergo an interim audit limited to the newly added members, while maintaining the validity period of the existing certification; or
c. Establish a separate certification scope for the newly added members, subject to a new initial audit.

2.4.6. The CB shall approve the scope change request and update the Regenagri Scope Certificate, providing the updated certification information to Regenagri within a maximum of seven (7) calendar days from the date the update is completed.

2.4.7. The CB shall take into consideration any change in scope when planning the next year's audit and adjust the sample size and audit activities.

2.4.8. For group of farms certifications, the CB shall select and confirm with the organisation which sample of farms will be assessed during the on-site visit (see to Section 3.3. of this document).

# 3. Audit planning

## 3.1. Preliminary evaluation

3.1.1. The CB shall request the completion of a Preliminary Evaluation by all organisations applying for initial certification, and by certified organisations prior to each annual surveillance and recertification audit.

3.1.2. For group certifications, the CB shall determine and confirm the sample for the Preliminary Evaluation and the on-site audit prior to requesting information and documentation from the organisation, in accordance with the sampling requirements specified in this Section and Section 3.3 of this document.

3.1.3. The farms selected for the on-site audit shall be included within the Preliminary Evaluation sample.

3.1.4. The CB shall use the current effective Regenagri Preliminary Evaluation template authorised by Regenagri, which is made available to all authorised CBs.

3.1.5. The Preliminary Evaluation requirement applies to both individual farms and all groups of farms (including medium-, large-scale farms and smallholders under an Internal Control System).

3.1.6. For group certifications, the CB shall request Preliminary Evaluation submissions according to the minimum sampling requirements set out in Table 1 overleaf.

*Table 1. Minimum Preliminary Evaluation Sampling Requirements*

| **Group Size/Category** | **Minimum Preliminary Evaluation Sample** |
|---|---|
| Smallholder groups | Representative sample determined by the CB based on risk, complexity, and geographical distribution – see Section 3.3. of this document. |
| Medium/Large groups | Minimum square root or1.4 square root (when high-risk) of the total number of farms in the group, or 5, whichever is the greater. |

3.1.7. The CB shall ensure that the completed Preliminary Evaluation is collected in accordance with the following timelines:

a. Initial certification audits: no later than 3 months after the Regenagri licence agreement start date;
b. Recurring audits (surveillance and re-certification): no later than 11 months from the anniversary date.

3.1.8. The Preliminary Evaluation shall be submitted to Regenagri within fourteen (14) calendar days from the date the Preliminary Evaluation is collected by the CB.

## 3.2. Risk assessment

3.2.1. Prior to the audit, the CB shall review data collected in the Preliminary Evaluation and use the information obtained to support a risk assessment and conformity assessment during the on-farm visit.

3.2.2. The CB shall also conduct a risk assessment annually prior to each audit, using a Regenagri-approved risk assessment methodology.

3.2.3. The classification of risk categories for Labour and Social requirements described in Section 8 of the Regenagri Standard – Farms shall form part of the overall risk assessment.

3.2.4. The CB shall ensure that it uses only Regenagri-approved risk assessment methodology.

3.2.5. Any material changes to the approved risk assessment methodology, including changes to risk assessment criteria, sampling calculations, or audit scope determinations, shall be submitted to Regenagri for approval prior to implementation.

3.2.6. As a result of the risk assessment, and where appropriate, the CB may adjust the sample size and/or audit effort based on the identified risk level.

3.2.7. The CB shall document the justification for the overall risk classification.

## 3.3. Soil sampling planning

3.3.1. As part of the audit planning, the CB shall determine if soil sampling and analysis will be required. This is required when the organisation has not conducted its own sampling and soil analysis (see Appendix VII).

## 3.4. Audit duration

3.4.1. The CB shall determine the audit duration and interview requirements in accordance with Annex I of this document, ISO 19011, and ISO 17065.

3.4.2. The CB shall ensure that sufficient audit time is allocated to evaluate conformity with all applicable Regenagri requirements within the certification and conformity assessment scope.

3.4.3. The CB shall ensure that sufficient interviews are conducted with relevant workers, group members, and other relevant stakeholders, as applicable, to evaluate conformity with Regenagri requirements.

3.4.4. Where the organisation is classified as high risk, the CB shall not reduce the scope or extent of the conformity assessment for the requirements of Section 8 of the Regenagri Standard – Farms (see Section 3 of this document and Section 8 of the Regenagri Standard – Farms).

3.4.5. Where an organisation is not classified as high risk according to the classification and methodology in Section 8 of Regenagri Standard - Farms, the CB may apply a risk-based approach to the conformity assessment of Chapter 8 requirements where the likelihood of non-conformity is assessed as low (see Section 3 of this document and Section 8 of the Regenagri Standard – Farms).

3.4.6. In determining the likelihood of nonconformity, the CB may consider factors including previous audit results, the effectiveness of applicable legal and governance systems, the maturity of the management system, and other relevant risk indicators (see Section 3 of this document and Section 8 of the Regenagri Standard – Farms).

3.4.7. Any reduction from the CB's audit time calculation methodology shall be justified, documented, and reported to Regenagri.

3.4.8. The CB shall ensure that audit duration reflects the complexity, scale, scope, certification model, and risk profile of the organisation being audited.

## 3.5. Worker interviews

3.5.1. The CB shall apply the audit duration calculation methodology, interview requirements, and sampling requirements specified in Annex I of this document.

3.5.2. The CB shall conduct worker interviews using methods that maximise the reliability and credibility of information obtained while taking into account local cultural, social, and safety considerations.

3.5.3. Where confidential interviews are not feasible or may create safety concerns, significant discomfort, or other barriers to obtaining reliable information, the CB shall apply alternative interview approaches appropriate to the circumstances.

3.5.4. Such approaches may include:

a. Conducting interviews with the support of a competent interpreter;
b. Conducting interviews in small groups;
c. Conducting interviews in a location that provides the greatest practicable level of confidentiality;
d. Using interviewers whose language skills, cultural awareness, or other competencies are appropriate to the workforce being interviewed; and
e. Taking measures to minimise undue influence from management or other parties.

3.5.5. Where fully confidential interviews cannot be conducted, the CB shall document:

a. The reasons why confidential interviews were not possible;
b. The interview conditions and any persons present; and
c. Any limitations on the reliability of the information obtained.

3.5.6. For groups of smallholders with no hired labour, worker interviews are not applicable.

3.5.7. The CB shall retain documented justification for any audit duration adjustments applied in accordance with Annex I of this document.

## 3.6. Requirements for group of farms sample selection

### 3.6.1. General principles

3.6.1.1. Prior to the audit, the CB shall collect and confirm key context data, including:

a. The geolocation of farms, including farms under group certification;
b. The number of geographical distributions covered;
c. Distances between farms and other operational units, and other data that may influence the sample selection; and
d. Agroecological conditions (climate and weather patterns e.g. temperature, rainfall, humidity; soil type and fertility; topography and water availability).

*Note: This may be verified through self-declaration by the farm and regional formal databases.*

3.6.1.2. The CB shall confirm conditions across the different geographical distributions of the farms, including crop types and farm management practices, such as:

a. The use, or lack of use, of conservation tillage;
b. Planting of cover crops and soil-covering practices; and
c. Participation in other sustainability or certification standards and whether all farms or crops are included.

3.6.1.3. The sample of farms shall reflect the diversity of the entire group and shall have the same characteristics such as:

a. Size, geographical location;
b. Diversity in environmental conditions (e.g. soil type, climate, geography); and
c. Diversity in farming operations (e.g. crop types, nutrient management and crop protection strategies, production systems).

3.6.2. Cluster formation

3.6.2.1. For sampling purposes, the CB shall group farms into clusters of comparable[1] farms and document it, and shall ensure minimising variability within each cluster, taking into account criteria such as:

a. Geographical location (with each cluster encompassing farms within a 25-kilometre radius);
b. Environmental and agroecological conditions;
c. Production systems and activities;
d. Operational complexity; and
e. Other relevant risk factors.

*Note: Groups of farms and clusters may include post-harvest and primary processing operations, where applicable, which shall be assessed under the Regenagri Chain of Custody Standard (see Annex I of Regenagri Standard – Farms).*

3.6.2.2. The CB shall select farms from each cluster to ensure a representativeness of the sample.

[1] Comparable refers to farms that operate under similar conditions, implement similar farming practices, cultivate the same crops, and share a comparable production context..

3.6.3. Farms sample selection

3.6.3.1. The sampling methodology shall:

a. Be risk-based (see Section 3 of this document);
b. Include a random selection element;
c. Reflect the geographical distribution of farms;
d. Reflect the diversity of production systems and operational characteristics within the certification scope; and
e. Where relevant to the certification scope, ensure adequate representation of farms managed or operated by women to enable audit and assessment of conformity across applicable Regenagri requirements.

3.6.3.2. Where a group includes farms located in more than one country or geographical region (e.g. state or province), the CB shall determine the sample separately for each country or geographical region.

3.6.3.3. Each country or geographical region shall be subject to a separate Regenagri audit.

3.6.3.4. Where a farm differs significantly from the characteristics of the cluster to which it belongs, the CB shall assess that farm separately or include it as an additional sampled farm.

3.6.3.5. Any reduction in audit effort or adjustment to sampling of farms within groups or applicability of requirements shall be justified and retained as part of the audit records.

3.6.4. Sample size

3.6.4.1. The CB shall determine sample sizes in accordance with Table 2 and its Regenagri-approved risk assessment methodology (see Section 3).

*Table 2. Minimum sample size requirements for group certification*

| **Certification stage** | **Risk category** | **Minimum sample size** |
|---|---|---|
| Initial audit | Low risk | Greater of 5 farms or $\sqrt{n}$ |
| Initial audit | High risk | Greater of 5 farms or $1.4 \times \sqrt{n}$ |
| Surveillance audit | Low risk | Greater of 5 farms or $\sqrt{n}$ (40% not yet audited + 60% audited in previous year) |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Surveillance audit | High risk | Greater of 5 farms or $1.4 \times \sqrt{n}$ (40% not yet audited + 60% audited in previous year) |

*Where:*

- *n = total number of farms within the certification scope.*
- *Sample size calculations shall be rounded up to the next whole number.*
- *The CB may increase the sample size based on risk considerations.*

## 3.7. Surveillance audits – rotation of farms sample

3.7.1. For surveillance audits, the CB shall ensure an appropriate rotation of sampled farms throughout the certification cycle.

3.7.2. The rationale for the selected sample shall be documented.

3.7.3. In cases of uncontrollable events (e.g. extreme weather such as drought, floods, fires, or storms), the CB shall ensure that:

a. When deviations from the standard sampling selection occur, the CB conducts an interim audit before the subsequent year's audit to ensure full compliance with the requirements of the Regenagri Standard – Farms.
b. This interim audit shall only cover those farms that did not receive the regular audit.

3.7.4. For group of smallholders the following specific requirements shall be followed by the CB:

a. The CB shall ensure that an up-to-date list of all farmers is submitted and reviewed, and that a correct sample is selected for each audit.
b. The CB shall first assess the conformity of the ICS, and only when the ICS is deemed compliant shall the CB shall conduct farm-level audits.
c. The CB shall audit a sample of farms to assess the implementation and effectiveness of the ICS and the conformity of the group.
d. Audit of the ICS shall include assessment of both the ICS management system and farm-level implementation.
e. Non-conformities identified within the ICS and farm-level audits shall be considered when determining conformity and certification status.

*Note: Groups of farms and clusters may include post-harvest and primary processing operations, which, where applicable, shall be assessed under* the *Regenagri Chain of Custody Standard (see Annex I of Regenagri Standard – Farms).*

## 3.8. Outsourcing of audit activities

3.8.1. The CB may outsource the following audit activities in accordance with ISO/IEC 17065:2012 and the requirements set out in Section 3 of Regenagri requirements for CB approval:

a. Soil and water sampling and analysis (to bodies meeting ISO/IEC 17025); and
b. Translation services.

3.8.2. The following shall not be outsourced under any condition:

a. The on-farm audit by the audit team;
b. The ICS audit;
c. The review under Section 6 of this document; or
d. The certification decision under Section 7 of this document.

# 4. On-site Audit

## 4.1. On-site audit period and audit cycle

4.1.1. The CB shall determine audit timing using a documented risk-based approach that allows for an effective audit of applicable requirements, taking into account seasonality, crop cycles, labour intensity, environmental and social risks, previous findings, corrective actions, and the need to observe relevant crop management practices.

4.1.2. The CB shall aim to carry out audits ideally during the post-harvest of one or more of the main cash crops, or when not feasible, during production periods when compliance can be verified, allowing for an assessment of all crop management practices.

4.1.3. Audits shall be conducted on-site at the certified location(s).

4.1.4. In exceptional circumstances (e.g. force majeure events), the CB may apply remote auditing, provided that a documented risk assessment has been conducted beforehand and the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065:2012 and IAF MD 4 are met.

4.1.5. The certification cycle shall be for a duration of three (3) years, and the cycle start date shall be the date of the initial certification decision.

4.1.6. The CB shall conduct annual surveillance audits no earlier than twelve (12) months and no later than fifteen (15) months after the anniversary date.

4.1.7. Re-certification audits shall be conducted prior to the expiry of the certificate.

4.1.8. The re-certification audit may be conducted no earlier than two (2) months prior to the expiry of the certificate.

4.1.9. The CB shall have procedures for conducting unannounced, short-notice, and interim audits where these are necessary to verify continued conformity with Regenagri requirements.

4.1.10. The CB shall conduct unannounced, short-notice, and interim audits where justified by risk, including but not limited to:

a. Allegations or complaints relating to conformity, integrity, or fraud;
b. Significant changes to the certified operation;
c. Serious or repeated nonconformities;
d. Elevated risk identified through the CB's risk assessment process; or

e. Other circumstances that may affect confidence in continued conformity with Regenagri requirements.

4.1.11. The rationale for conducting unannounced, short-notice, and interim audits shall be documented.

4.1.12. The legally enforceable contract shall include provisions permitting such audits, and organisations shall be informed that acceptance of these provisions is a condition of certification.

4.1.13. In the event that an organisation's certification expires and is not renewed within three (3) months of the expiry date, and the organisation applies for certification again, it shall be treated as a new applicant and the CB shall conduct the initial certification audit.

4.1.14. Where an annual surveillance audit was not conducted within the timelines specified in this Section, and the lapse is equal to or more than three (3) months from the deadline, the CB shall treat the organisation as a new applicant and conduct an initial certification audit resulting in the issuance of a new Scope Certificate.

4.1.15. Where the lapse in certification or audit timeline is less than three (3) months, the CB shall submit a Scope Certificate extension request to Regenagri.

## 4.2. Opening meeting

4.2.1. The CB shall conduct an opening meeting in accordance with the applicable requirements of ISO/IEC 17065 and the guidance provided in ISO 19011.

4.2.2. In addition to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065 and ISO 19011, the CB shall:

a. Confirm the Regenagri certification scope, including, where applicable:

- Certified land area;
- Crops and livestock activities;
- Conservation and non-productive areas; and
- Group members included within the certification scope.

b. Confirm any approved scope exclusions or limitations;
c. Obtain permission for the collection and use of photographs, videos, geolocation data, and other evidence required for certification activities, where applicable;
d. Confirm arrangements for access to sampled farms, sites, records, personnel, and group members included within the audit sample; and

e. Ensure that attendance at the opening meeting is recorded and maintained as part of the audit records.

## 4.3. On-site audit

4.3.1. The CB shall verify conformity with the applicable requirements of the Regenagri Standard – Farms through a document review, interviews, observations, measurements, and other objective evidence.

4.3.2. The CB shall:

a. Review all documented information explicitly required by the applicable Regenagri Standard – Farms requirements;
b. Verify the implementation and effectiveness of the documented information;
c. Record the evidence reviewed in the Regenagri Audit; and
d. Ensure that the evidence recorded is sufficient to demonstrate conformity.

4.3.3. The examples of objective evidence listed in this section are informative and shall not create additional certification requirements beyond those specified in the Regenagri Standard – Farms.

4.3.4. The CB shall submit the following supporting documentation together with the Regenagri Audit report to Regenagri:

a. The list of farms (where group certification applies);
b. A Continuous Improvement Plan (after the first year of the certification cycle);
c. Farm maps (covering the entire area within the scope, including cultivation area, forest, water bodies, conservation area, buildings and any other land within the defined scope boundary) in the following format: .KML and/ or .KMZ; and
d. Extreme weather event records (where applicable for farms which have been subject to extreme weather events).

4.3.5. The CB shall verify compliance of the organisation with the Management and Operational requirements (Section 2 of Regenagri Standard – Farms).

4.3.5.1. The CB shall verify that:

a. The certification scope includes all applicable operations;
b. Farm boundaries are accurately represented;
c. No evidence exists of prohibited land conversion;
d. HCV risks have been appropriately assessed and mitigated (when farm areas are adjacent to, overlapping with, or within the defined HCV area or buffer with HCV area);

e. Evidence of HCV area locations and boundaries within the farm and in the surrounding landscape which can come from sources such as national protected area documentation, local conservation plans, credible NGO datasets, HCV screening maps, etc.;
f. Indigenous Peoples' rights and local community rights have been appropriately considered and addressed;
g. ICS systems are effectively implemented where applicable;
h. successful completion of the Regenagri training for ICS coordinators and key workers.
i. The Management Plan addresses all key requirements for implementation such as cover cropping and soil cover, conservation tillage and conventional tillage reduction, crop rotation, perennial cropping, synthetic inputs (including Crop Protection Plan), soil management, biodiversity management, livestock management, etc.;
j. Role-specific training records of workers covering Management Plan and Regenagri Standard requirements are maintained;
k. The organisation maintains records of grievances made known to it, including any actions taken in response (see Section 2 of Regenagri Standard – Farms and Appendix IV).

4.3.5.2. The CB shall record the geolocation of all areas in scope of the audit.

4.3.5.3. Examples of objective evidence for demonstrating compliance with the applicable requirements include:

a. Conservation commitments;
b. Farm maps and, when EUDR is applicable, farm polygons as GeoJSON files;
c. Satellite imagery;
d. Government land-use records;
e. HCV assessments;
f. Consultation records;
g. FPIC documentation;
h. ICS records; and
i. Internal inspection reports.

4.3.6. The CB shall verify compliance of the organisation with Continuous Improvement requirements (Section 3 to Section 8 of Regenagri Standard – Farms)

4.3.6.1. The CB shall review and approve the Continuous Improvement Plan prior to the first annual surveillance audit and shall inform the organisation of the outcome of the review.

4.3.6.2. The CB shall also verify that:

a. Applicable improvement actions are included in the Continuous Improvement Plan and have been implemented according to it after the first year of the certification cycle;
b. Progress is monitored and recorded; and
c. Improvement targets remain relevant.

4.3.7. The CB shall verify compliance of the organisation with Labour, Health and Safety requirements (Section 8 of Regenagri Standard – Farms)

4.3.7.1. Where a different worker interview methodology is applied, the CB shall assess conformity with all applicable labour, health and safety, and governance requirements of Section 8 of the Regenagri Standard – Farms. The methodology shall be aligned with the ILO (2019) Labour Inspection Guidelines, the ILO (2012) Indicators of Forced Labour, OECD - Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains, and ISO 19011 Guidelines for Auditing Management Systems.

4.3.7.2. The CB shall verify through document review, interviews, and observations that:

a. No child labour is present;
b. Young workers are adequately protected;
c. Employment is freely chosen;
d. Workers understand their terms of employment;
e. Wages are paid in accordance with applicable legal and contractual requirements;
f. Working hours comply with applicable legal and contractual requirements;
g. Grievance mechanisms are implemented and accessible to workers;
h. Workers are not subject to discrimination, harassment, or abuse;
i. Freedom of association is respected;
j. Health and safety risks are identified and managed;
k. Workers receive appropriate training; and
l. Subcontracted workers receive equivalent health and safety protection where applicable.

4.3.7.3. Examples of objective evidence include:

a. Worker registers;
b. Employment contracts;
c. Payroll records;
d. Timesheets;

e. Age verification records;
f. Training records;
g. Risk assessments;
h. Health and safety procedures;
i. Incident records;
j. Grievance records;
k. Worker interviews; and
l. Subcontractor agreements.

4.3.7.4. Where an organisation is not classified as high risk (see Sections 3 of this document) and the CB has determined that a reduction in the scope of the conformity assessment is justified, the CB may exclude selected requirements of Section 8 of the Regenagri Standard – Farms from the audit. The following list provides requirements that may be excluded:

a. Sections 8.1.3. to 8.1.5. of the Regenagri Standard – Farms;
b. Sections 8.2.5. to 8.2.7. of the Regenagri Standard – Farms;
c. Sections 8.5.8. to 8.5.12. of the Regenagri Standard – Farms.

4.3.8. The CB shall verify compliance of the organisation with Regenerative Crop Production requirements (Section 4 of the Regenagri Standard – Farms)

4.3.8.1. The CB shall verify the presence of all documents required by Section 4 of the Regenagri Standard – Farms.

4.3.8.2. The CB shall also verify that:

a. Soil cover requirements are implemented;
b. Soil disturbance reduction measures are implemented;
c. Crop rotation requirements are met;
d. Intercropping and multi-cropping requirements are implemented where applicable;
e. Nutrient management practices are implemented;
f. Natural fertiliser strategies are applied where applicable;
g. Synthetic fertiliser reduction measures are implemented;
h. Crop protection measures are implemented;
i. Biological and natural crop protection measures are used where applicable;
j. Synthetic CPP reduction requirements are implemented;
k. Hazardous pesticide requirements are met – see Appendix X and Appendix III;
l. Irrigation efficiency measures are implemented;
m. Soil analysis records are available and Soil health improvement measures are implemented; and

n. Yield/harvest records are maintained for all crops grown during that agricultural year.

Two approaches are acceptable for yield data, depending on the timing of the audit:

- If the crops have already been harvested, the CB shall review and record the actual yield data for all crops within the certification scope since the date of the previous audit; or
- If the audit takes place prior to harvest, the organisation shall provide the CB with forecast yield data. The CB shall review and evaluate the assumptions and methods used by the farm to estimate the forecast yield. Forecast yield data shall be clearly identified as "forecast" within the applicable audit recording system. Following each annual surveillance audit, or earlier if the farm subsequently submits verified yield data with supporting records, the CB shall update the yield data in all relevant documentation and systems and notify Regenagri of the updates made.

4.3.8.3. The CB shall:

a. Verify nutrient sources, application rates, and application frequencies;
b. Verify crop protection products used, application rates, and compliance with applicable legal requirements;
c. Verify implementation of the Hazardous Pesticide derogation, reduction, and transition requirements of Appendix X and requirements in Section 4.9. to 4.12. of the Regenagri Standard - Farms;
d. Verify implementation of soil management practices through field observations;
e. Verify irrigation infrastructure and water management practices, where applicable; and
f. Verify soil and water analysis requirements.

4.3.8.4. The CB shall verify that soil sampling and analysis have been conducted in accordance with Section 4.14. of the Regenagri Standard – Farms and Appendix VII and shall record the data in the Regenagri audit.

4.3.8.5. Examples of objective evidence include:

a. Fertiliser inventories;
b. Fertiliser invoices;
c. Application records;
d. Agronomic recommendations;
e. CPP inventories;

f. Purchase invoices;
g. Equipment calibration records;
h. Pest monitoring records;
i. Crop records;
j. Soil analysis reports;
k. Water analysis reports; and
l. Field observations.

4.3.9. The CB shall verify compliance of the organisation with Regenerative Livestock Management requirements (see Section 5 of Regenagri Standard – Farms)

4.3.9.1. The CB shall verify the documented information explicitly required by the applicable requirements of Section 5 of Regenagri Standard - Farms.

4.3.9.2. The CB shall verify:

a. Grazing management practices;
b. Animal health and welfare measures;
c. Feed sourcing and feeding practices;
d. Animal handling practices;
e. Transport and slaughter requirements, where applicable;
f. Breeding practices; and
g. Species-specific welfare requirements.

4.3.9.3. Examples of objective evidence include:

a. Grazing plans;
b. Animal health and welfare plans;
c. Veterinary records;
d. Medicine records;
e. Feed records;
f. Animal inspection records or procedures;
g. Mortality records; and
h. Training records.

4.3.10. The CB shall verify compliance of the organisation with Landscape Management Requirements (Section 6 of Regenagri Standard – Farms)

4.3.10.1. The CB shall verify the documented information explicitly required by Section 6 of the Regenagri Standard – Farms.

4.3.10.2. The CB shall verify:

a. The biodiversity plan and enhancement measures, including the list of actions and measures implemented and supporting evidence, and the monitoring plan including expected outcomes;
b. Protection of watercourses;

c. Hedgerow and windbreak management;
d. Conservation of natural habitats and HCV areas; and
e. Afforestation activities, where applicable.

4.3.10.3. Examples of objective evidence include:

a. Habitat maps;
b. Restoration records (hedgerows, windbreaks, etc.);
c. Tree planting records;
d. Monitoring records; and
e. Photographs.

*Note: The CB audit shall be context-specific, taking into account farm size, structure, and landscape configuration. For smallholder systems, emphasis shall be placed on the presence and functionality of landscape elements, while for larger farms, greater coverage, distribution, and connectivity across the farm area shall be expected.*

4.3.11. The CB shall verify compliance of the organisation with Environmental Impact Requirements (see Section 7 of Regenagri Standard – Farms)

4.3.11.1. The CB shall verify documented information explicitly required by Section 7 of the Regenagri Standard - Farms.

4.3.11.2. The CB shall verify:

a. Pollution prevention measures and plans;
b. Waste management and reduction practices;
c. Water quality and wastewater management;
d. Regenerative hydrology measures; and
e. Renewable energy initiatives where applicable.

4.3.11.3. Examples of objective evidence include:

a. Pollution prevention records;
b. Waste management records;
c. Waste disposal receipts;
d. Water quality and analysis records (see Appendix VIII); and
e. Monitoring reports.

4.3.11.4. The CB shall verify documented information explicitly required by Section 7 of the Regenagri Standard – Farms.

4.3.11.5. The CB shall verify implementation of GHG calculation measures and monitoring activities.

4.3.11.6. Examples of objective evidence include:

a. Energy records;
b. Fuel records;
c. Carbon calculations; and
d. Monitoring reports.

## 4.4. Closing meeting

4.4.1. The CB shall conduct a closing meeting in accordance with the applicable requirements of ISO/IEC 17065 and the guidance provided in ISO 19011.

4.4.2. In addition to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065 and ISO 19011, the CB shall:

a. Confirm the final certification scope evaluated during the audit, including, where applicable, the certified land area (including agricultural land and conservation area), crops, livestock activities, and group members included within the certification scope;
b. Communicate any Regenagri-specific observations relevant to certification;
c. Explain the applicable non-conformity correction and corrective action requirements, including the timelines specified in Annex II of the Regenagri Standard – Farms and Appendix III;
d. Explain any applicable remediation actions and mitigation measures requirements where Severe Non-conformity (SNC) has been identified, in accordance with Annex III of this document and Appendix III;
e. Explain the next steps in the Regenagri certification process and the applicable timelines;
f. Inform the organisation that additional evidence supporting correction, corrective action, remediation actions, mitigation measures or clarification of audit findings may be submitted after the closing meeting and shall be

considered by the CB during the review process, provided such evidence is received no later than one (1) month after the closing meeting date;

g. Inform the organisation that the Regenagri audit shall be completed within thirty (30) calendar days of the last on-site audit date, provided all non-conformities have been closed;
h. Inform the organisation that the certification review and certification decision shall be completed within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of all required information and documentation necessary for the certification decision;
i. Inform the organisation that, where the certification decision is positive, the Scope Certificate shall be issued within seven (7) calendar days of the certification decision;
j. Confirm any requirements for submission of additional evidence requested by the CB;
k. Inform the organisation that the data collected and verified during the certification process are used to assess compliance and confirm certification status; and
l. Ensure that attendance at the closing meeting is recorded and maintained as part of the audit records.

## 4.5. Audit Reporting

4.5.1. The CB shall ensure that the Regenagri audit report is completed within thirty (30) calendar days of the last on-site audit date and after all identified non-conformities have been closed (see Section 5 of this document).

4.5.2. The CB shall ensure that all corrections and corrective actions have been verified and closed prior to submission for certification review.

4.5.3. The CB shall ensure that all required audit data and supporting documentation are completed and provided as part of the Regenagri audit.

# 5. Non-conformity management

## 5.1. Conditions of compliance, requirements and non-conformity classification

5.1.1. For conditions of compliance, requirements and non-conformity classification, the CB shall refer to Annex II of the Regenagri Standard – Farms and Appendix III.

## 5.2. Correction and corrective action and evaluation

5.2.1. Where corrective actions are required, the CB shall verify that these actions have been implemented prior to the certification decision, in accordance with ISO/IEC 17065 requirements and Appendix III.

5.2.2. Evaluation of corrections and corrective actions may be conducted through documentation review, photographic evidence, remote audit, or additional on-site audit, depending on the nature and severity of the non-conformity.

5.2.3. For continuous improvement, in the event that a Continuous Improvement Plan is updated and re-submitted to the CB, the CB shall review and approve the revised Continuous Improvement Plan and ensure that the outcome is communicated to the organisation within one (1) month of submission.

5.2.4. The CB shall assess the objective evidence provided by the organisation for justifying the update, and determine whether it justifies the deviations from the initial planned improvement.

## 5.3. Non-compliance with Eligibility Requirements

5.3.1. Initial Certification

5.3.1.1. Where a new applicant does not meet the Regenagri Eligibility requirements, the CB shall not proceed with the conformity assessment and shall reject the application.

5.3.2. Certified Organisations

5.3.2.1. Where a certified organisation is found to no longer meet the Regenagri eligibility requirements, the CB shall apply certification actions in accordance with Section 7 of this document and its documented certification procedures.

## 5.4. Non-compliance with Mandatory and Continuous Improvement Requirements

### 5.4.1. Initial Certification

5.4.1.1. Where non-conformities are identified during an initial certification audit, the CB shall classify the non-conformities in accordance with Annex II of the Regenagri Standard – Farms and Appendix III.

5.4.1.2. The CB shall classify non-conformities against Mandatory requirements in accordance with the predetermined Major or Minor classification assigned to each requirement in the Regenagri Standard – Farms.

5.4.1.3. The CB shall not reclassify a predetermined Major non-conformity as Minor, or a predetermined Minor non-conformity as Major, except where expressly required by the Regenagri Standard – Farms or Annex III of this document.

5.4.1.4. For each Major non-conformity, the CB shall determine whether the non-conformity also constitutes a Severe Non-conformity (SNC) by evaluating the severity in accordance with Annex III of this document which triggers the application of Appendix III.

5.4.1.5. Where a Major non-conformity is classified as SNC (see Annex III of thid document), the CB shall evaluate the adequacy, implementation, and effectiveness of remediation actions and mitigation measures in accordance Appendix III and Annex III of this dcoument.

5.4.1.6. For Minor non-conformities, the CB shall verify implementation of corrections and corrective actions within the timelines specified Annex II of Regenagri Standard – Farms and Appendix III.

### 5.4.2. Surveillance and Recertification audits

5.4.2.1. Where non-conformities are identified during surveillance or recertification audits, the CB shall classify the non-conformities in accordance with Annex II of the Regenagri Standard – Farms.

5.4.2.2. The CB shall classify non-conformities against Mandatory requirements in accordance with the predetermined Major or Minor classification assigned to each requirement in the Regenagri Standard – Farms. The CB shall not reclassify a predetermined Major non-conformity as Minor, or a predetermined Minor non-conformity as Major, except where expressly required by the Regenagri Standard – Farms or Annex III of this document.

5.4.2.3. For each Major non-conformity, the CB shall determine whether the non-conformity also constitutes a Severe Non-conformity requiring application of Annex III of this document by evaluating the severity of the actual or potential social or environmental harm arising from the non-conformity and triggering the application of Appendix III.

5.4.2.4. Where a Major non-conformity involves severe social or environmental harms, the CB shall apply Annex III of this document and verify the adequacy, implementation, and effectiveness of remediation actions and mitigation measures in Appendix III of this document and the CB's approved auditing and certification procedures.

5.4.2.5. For Minor non-conformities, the CB shall verify implementation of corrections and corrective actions within the timelines specified in Appendix III.

5.4.2.6. Where an organisation fails to meet applicable continuous improvement requirements, the CB shall apply certification actions in accordance with Section 7 of this document and Annex II of Regenagri Standard - Farms.

5.4.2.7. Where an organisation fails to meet yearly continuous improvement targets in two (2) consecutive years, the CB shall apply certification actions in accordance with Annex II of Regenagri Standard - Farms and Section 7 of this document.

5.4.2.8. The CB may raise non-conformities where the organisation fails to comply with certification-related administrative, contractual, licensing, reporting or payment obligations required to maintain certification.

# 6. Certification review

## 6.1. Certification review

6.1.1. The CB shall conduct an independent certification review of the Regenagri audit and all supporting documentation prior to making a certification decision.

6.1.2. The CB shall ensure that the certification review and certification decision are completed within fifteen (15) working days of receiving all required information and documentation.

6.1.3. Upon completion of the certification review, the CB shall submit the Final Regenagri audit together with all mandatory documentation specified in Section 4 of this document to Regenagri.

6.1.4. Where the certification review identifies issues that may pose a significant risk to the credibility, integrity, or reputation of the Regenagri certification scheme, the CB shall notify Regenagri without undue delay and manage the case in accordance with Section 7 of this document and its documented certification procedures.

6.1.5. The CB shall sign the Final Regenagri audit Report and send it to the organisation for countersignature.

6.1.6. The CB shall submit the signed copy of the Final Regenagri audit Report to Regenagri within seven (7) days from signature.

## 6.2. Clarification process

6.2.1. Regenagri may request clarification regarding audit data, findings, supporting evidence, or certification conclusions within fourteen (14) calendar days of receipt of the Final Regenagri audit Report.

6.2.2. The CB shall provide all requested clarifications and supporting information within fourteen (14) calendar days.

6.2.2.1. The CB shall not submit the Final Regenagri audit Report to the organisation until Regenagri has confirmed closure of all requested clarifications in writing.

6.2.2.2. Where changes to audit data, findings, or supporting evidence are identified after completion of the Final Regenagri audit Report, the CB shall evaluate and approve such changes within fourteen (14) working days and issue an updated Final Regenagri audit Report where necessary.

# 7. Certification decision

## 7.1. Granting certification

7.1.1. Following completion of the certification review and resolution of any Regenagri clarification requests, the CB shall make a certification decision based on:

a. The Final Regenagri audit Report;
b. The certification review outcome;
c. Objective evidence collected during the audit process; and
d. All applicable Regenagri certification requirements.

7.1.2. The CB shall take a documented certification decision and maintain records in accordance with its certification procedures.

7.1.3. Certification decisions resulting in suspension, withdrawal, or reinstatement shall be implemented in accordance with this Section.

7.1.4. The CB shall issue the Scope Certificate within seven (7) calendar days of the certification decision and only where the certification decision is positive.

7.1.5. The CB shall grant certification only where:

a. All identified non-conformities have been addressed in accordance with Annex II of the Regenagri Standard – Farms, Appendix III and Section 5 of this document;
b. All certification review activities have been completed; and
c. The CB has determined that the organisation conforms with the applicable Regenagri certification requirements.

## 7.2. Certification documentation

7.2.1. Issuance and maintenance of certification documentation

7.2.1.1. The CB shall ensure that all Regenagri Scope Certificates are issued using the official Regenagri certificate template (refer to Annex II of this document).

7.2.1.2. The CB shall retain all certification records (application, audit, review, decision, surveillance, complaints, and corrective actions) for a minimum of two full certification cycles, equal to six (6) years, after the closure of the most recent certification decision, in accordance with ISO/IEC 17065.

### 7.2.2. Scope certificate content, use, and claims

7.2.2.1. The CB shall submit the issued Scope Certificate to Regenagri within seven (7) calendar days of issuance.

7.2.2.2. The CB shall submit the issued Scope Certificate together with the Final Regenagri audit Report to the organisation within seven (7) calendar days of issuance.

7.2.2.3. The Scope Certificate shall include a description of certified products, certified areas, and group or multisite members included in the certification scope.

7.2.2.4. The CB shall ensure that the certificate is returned or destroyed upon request in cases of withdrawal, suspension, or expiry.

7.2.2.5. The CB shall ensure that claims referring to Regenagri certification are only made in line with the approved scope of certification (see Regenagri Claims requirements).

7.2.2.6. The CB shall ensure that claims relating to Regenagri certification are not made in a manner that could damage the reputation of the CB or Regenagri, and that no misleading or unauthorised statements regarding certification are made.

7.2.2.7. For cease-use of claims upon suspension or withdrawal, see Section 7.3. of this document.

## 7.3. Certification status changes

### 7.3.1. General

7.3.1.1. The CB shall determine and implement suspension, withdrawal, and reinstatement in accordance with Annex II of the Regenagri Standard – Farms, and the CB's documented certification procedures.

7.3.1.2. These actions may result from:

a. Non-compliance with Eligibility requirements (Section 5 of this document);
b. Non-compliance with Mandatory or Continuous Improvement requirements (Section 5 of this document);

c. Failure to comply with certification-related administrative, contractual, licensing, reporting, or payment obligations;
d. Failure to implement required remediation actions and mitigation measures under Annex III of this document and Appendix III;
e. Any other circumstances specified in Regenagri requirements or the CB's documented certification procedures.

7.3.1.3. The CB shall make a formal written decision based on available objective evidence.

7.3.2. Suspension of certification

7.3.2.1. The CB shall suspend certification where required by Annex II of the Regenagri Standard – Farms, or where certification requirements of Section 5 of this document are not met or are no longer fulfilled but withdrawal is not yet justified.

7.3.2.2. A suspension decision shall include:

a. Scope of suspension;
b. Reasons for suspension;
c. Required corrective actions;
d. Deadline for resolution;
e. Conditions for reinstatement; and
f. Consequences of failure to resolve the identified issues.

7.3.2.3. The suspension period shall not be longer than six (6) months.

7.3.2.4. Within two (2) working days of the suspension decision, the CB shall formally notify the organisation in writing, including:

a. The client name and certificate number;
b. The reason for suspension;
c. The effective date; and
d. A corrective action deadline.

7.3.2.5. A suspension shall become effective on the date stated in the suspension notice, which shall normally be the date of notification to the organisation, unless otherwise specified.

7.3.2.6. The CB shall communicate to Regenagri the suspensions decisions within seven (7) calendar days.

7.3.2.7. During suspension, the organisation shall not make any Regenagri certification claims relating to the suspended certification scope.

7.3.2.8. The imposition, review, and lifting of suspensions shall be managed in accordance with the CB's risk management and compliance procedures (see Section 3 of this document).

7.3.3. Reinstatement

7.3.3.1. The CB may reinstate certification where the organisation has implemented all required corrective actions and the CB has verified effective resolution of the issues that led to suspension.

7.3.3.2. The CB shall document the reinstatement decision and maintain records in accordance with its certification procedures.

7.3.4. Withdrawal of certification

7.3.4.1. The CB shall withdraw certification where:

a. The organisation fails to resolve the causes of suspension within the specified timeframe;
b. Annex II of the Regenagri Standard – Farms and this Section of this document require withdrawal;
c. The organisation no longer fulfils applicable certification requirements;
d. The organisation voluntarily requests withdrawal; or
e. Continued certification would undermine the integrity or credibility of the Regenagri certification scheme.

7.3.4.2. A withdrawal of certification decision shall include:

a. The scope of withdrawal;
b. The reasons for withdrawal;
c. The effective date of withdrawal; and
d. The consequences of withdrawal.

7.3.4.3. Within two (2) working days of the withdrawal decision, the CB shall formally notify the organisation in writing.

7.3.4.4. The CB shall communicate to Regenagri the withdrawal decisions within seven (7) calendar day.

7.3.4.5. A withdrawal shall become effective on the date stated in the withdrawal notice, which shall normally be the date of notification to the organisation, unless otherwise specified.

7.3.4.6. Upon withdrawal, the CB shall inform the organisation that it shall:

a. Immediately cease use of certification claims;
b. Remove Regenagri certification references from marketing materials;
c. Stop selling products as Regenagri-certified; and
d. Return or destroy certification documents if requested by the CB.

## 7.4. Ban from participation in Regenagri Certification scheme

### 7.4.1. General Ban requirements

7.4.1.1. The CB shall be responsible for determining whether an organisation is subject to a temporary or permanent ban from participation in the Regenagri certification scheme, in accordance with its documented procedures.

7.4.1.2. A ban may be imposed where the organisation does not meet or no longer fulfils Regenagri eligibility requirements, or where circumstances specified in Regenagri requirements such as product integrity, fraud, or anything else, justify exclusion from participation in the certification scheme.

7.4.1.3. The duration of a ban shall be:

a. Permanent, where no remediation actions or mitigation measures are available; or
b. Temporary, where remediation actions or mitigation measures are available and accepted by the CB.

### 7.4.2. Temporary Ban requirements

7.4.2.1. During a temporary ban:

a. The organisation shall not make Regenagri certification claims.
b. The CB shall classify the organisation as presenting increased certification risk and shall apply the relevant risk category in accordance with its approved risk assessment matrix (see requirements in Section 3 of this document).

c. The CB may apply an additional interim audit, other audit, or surveillance activities as required by its risk assessment process (see requirements in Section 3 of this document).

7.4.3. Ban Approval process

7.4.3.1. Where the CB identifies circumstances that may warrant a ban of an organisation from participation in the Regenagri certification scheme, the CB shall notify Regenagri within two (2) working days and provide supporting evidence.

7.4.3.2. Where a ban is proposed, the CB shall formally inform Regenagri in writing, including:

a. The justification for the proposed ban;
b. The proposed scope of the ban; and
c. The proposed duration of the ban.

7.4.3.3. The CB shall maintain records supporting the proposed ban decision and make such records available to Regenagri upon request.

7.4.3.4. A ban shall only become effective following written approval by Regenagri.

7.4.3.5. Upon receipt of Regenagri approval, the CB shall formally notify the organisation in writing of:

a. The ban decision;
b. The effective date;
c. The duration of the ban;
d. Any applicable remediation actions or mitigation measures requirements (see Appendix III); and
e. Conditions for lifting the ban, where applicable.

7.4.4. Lifting a Temporary ban

7.4.4.1. A temporary ban may only be lifted following:

a. Implementation of all required remediation actions or mitigation measures;
b. Audit by the CB of the implementation and effectiveness of such measures; and
c. Written approval by Regenagri.

7.4.4.2. The CB shall document the audit activities and recommendation for lifting the ban.

7.4.4.3. Following Regenagri approval, the CB shall notify the organisation in writing that the temporary ban has been lifted.

## 7.5. Appeals

7.5.1. The organisation shall have the right to appeal any certification decision or certification-related action taken by the CB, including decisions to grant, refuse, suspend, withdraw, or reinstate certification, or to impose a temporary or permanent ban from participation in the Regenagri Certification Scheme. Appeals shall be managed in accordance with the CB's documented appeals procedure and the Regenagri Requirements for CB approval.

7.5.2. The CB shall cooperate with Regenagri in the review of appeals where the appeal relates to scheme governance, the imposition of a ban, or any other matter requiring Regenagri's involvement.

7.5.3. Submission of an appeal shall not automatically suspend or delay implementation of the certification decision or certification-related action unless otherwise determined by the CB or, where applicable, by Regenagri.

7.5.4. Regenagri may review appeals involving scheme governance matters in accordance with the Regenagri Grievance Mechanism.

7.5.5. The CB shall maintain records of all appeals and their outcomes and shall provide Regenagri with any information necessary to support the review of appeals and maintain accurate scheme records.

# 8. Data integrity and integrity concern management

## *CB duties*

8.1. Commitment to Data Integrity

8.1.1. The Regenagri certification system is founded on the principle of data integrity.

8.1.2. CBs shall ensure that all reported data are accurate, verifiable, traceable, and scientifically proven.

8.1.3. Upon receipt of a concern regarding the accuracy or interpretation of certification data, the CB shall:

a. Register the concern under its complaints and appeals procedure (in accordance with ISO/IEC 17065);
b. Initiate investigation and determine whether additional verification, audit, or corrective and preventive actions are required;
c. Escalate the matter to Regenagri where the concern affects scheme integrity;
d. Where the risk identified justifies it, suspend the related Scope Certificate until the matter is satisfactorily resolved.

8.1.4. Organisation obligations for data integrity are defined in Annex III of the Regenagri Standard – Farms.

8.1.5. The CB's competence and impartiality requirements for handling integrity concerns are defined in the Regenagri Requirements for CB approval.

# Annex I – Audit time calculation guidance

## 1. Interview planning

### 1.1. Senior Management interview

a. Single farm: Minimum one (1) interview.
b. Group of medium- and large-size farms: One (1) interview with group management (group certification coordinator).
c. Group of Smallholders: One (1) interview with ICS coordinator.

### 1.2. Worker interview duration and number of interviews

a. Individual worker interviews shall have a minimum duration of twenty (20) minutes.
b. Group worker interviews shall have a minimum duration of forty (40) minutes.
c. For high-risk regions (according to the WGI classification), the CB shall select 1 worker or 10% of the total workforce – whichever is greater (including seasonal workers) from each selected farm, and shall conduct at least one (1) group interview.
d. For low-risk regions (according to the WGI classification), the CB shall select one (1) worker from the selected farms, and shall conduct at least one (1) group interview
e. For groups of smallholders, if no hired labour is employed, this requirement is not applicable; and where casual or seasonal workers are employed, the CB shall interview a minimum of two (2) workers from each sampled farm.

# 2. Audit time calculation for on-site audits

2.1. The audit time calculation is based on the minimum number of hours needed by the CB for conducting an on-site audit.

2.2. The CB should increase the audit duration based on the risk assessment results and the specific context.

2.3. The following minimum audit time calculation matrix shall be applied for on-site audits:

| **Certification Type** | **Base Time** |
|---|---|
| Single medium farm (5-500 ha) | Minimum 6 hours |
| Single large farm (>500 ha) | Minimum 8 hours |
| Group certification – medium/large farms | Minimum 6 hours at ICS (if applicable) + 0.5 day (4 hours) per sampled farm |
| Group certification - Smallholders | Minimum 6 hours at ICS + 0.25 day (2 hours) per sampled farm |

# Annex II – Farm SC Template

**CERTIFICATE N.: _______**

**COMPANY N: _______**

# CERTIFICATE

**Issued to:**

_______

_______

**[*CB name*] declares that the practices adopted by the farms listed on this certificate have been found to be compliant with the Regenagri® Standard – Farms.**

| Address | No. of Certified Farms | Type of farms (crops) | Total Area (hectares) |
|---|---|---|---|
| .. | .. | .. | .. |

**Valid from: DD/MM/YYYY**

**Valid to: DD/MM/YYYY**

**Authorized by: _____**

**Certifier's name: _____**

**Responsible CB office: _____**

**CB's office address: _____**

**CB's contacts: _____**

**Date of Certification decision: DD/MM/YYYY**

Footnote: *This Scope Certificate (SC) is valid only in conjunction with verified data supporting the corresponding Regenagri audit reports.

# Annex III – Handling of severe NCs – Requirements for CB

## 1. Handling severe nonconformities

1.1. When a severe nonconformity is identified, the CB shall:

a. Evaluate the severity and scope of the issue;
b. Map stakeholders such as labour inspectorates, child protection bodies, environmental regulators, NGOs, and Indigenous/community representatives to support remedy proportional to the case; and
c. Determine the appropriate certification decision in accordance with Section 5 to 7 of this document.

1.2. Evaluation of severity – The CB shall evaluate whether the case is severe. If the answer to any of the questions below is "Yes", the case shall be treated as a severe NC case:

a. Does the case present an immediate danger to life, health, liberty, or irreversible ecological harm?
b. Is the incident systemic (e.g. multiple cases or a pattern across sites or seasons)?
c. Could the incident result in lifelong/long-term harm to people or permanent ecosystem loss?
d. Is there evidence that management knew of, enabled, or concealed the violation?
e. Does the case involve fraud, falsified traceability, or misuse of Regenagri claims?

## 2. Product integrity and traceability

2.1. Where nonconformities affect product integrity or traceability, the CB shall ensure that appropriate actions are taken to protect the integrity of Regenagri claims.

2.2. Such actions may include:

a. Identification, segregation, and blocking of affected products;
b. Suspension of Regenagri claims;
c. Holding or cancelling Transaction Certificates; and
d. Reviewing of traceability documentation.

2.3. Where fraud or misuse of claims is suspected, the CB shall inform Regenagri without delay.

2.4. Where the affected product has already entered the market, the CB shall require the organisation to inform downstream customers within fourteen (14) calendar days.

2.5. The cancellation of related Transaction Certificates (see Appendix V) shall be communicated to Regenagri.

2.6. Where the CB initiates an investigation related to suspected fraud or misuse involving Regenagri Transaction Certificates or claims, the CB shall notify Regenagri within 24 hours of initiating the investigation.

2.7. The notification shall identify the certified organisation, the suspected facts, the TCs affected (if any), and the initial actions taken.

## 3. Evaluation and Closure of Severe Non-Conformities (SNC)

3.1. The CB shall evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of mitigation measures and remediation actions through defined audit activities.

3.2. These activities may include:

a. Interim audits, including unannounced audits;
b. Additional document review;
c. Stakeholder consultations or interviews; and
d. Increased monitoring where justified.

3.3. The CB may:

a. Reject closure evidence;
b. Request additional evidence;
c. Require further remediation actions or mitigation measures; or
d. Apply or recommend additional certification actions in accordance with the ection 7 of this document.

3.4. SNCs shall be closed only when the organisation has demonstrated that corrective actions, remediation actions, and mitigation measures, where applicable, have been effectively implemented, and the CB has formally confirmed closure (see Appendix III and Annex II of Regenagri Standard - Farms).

# 4. Notifications and actions timeline overview when remediation actions and mitigation measures are required

4.1. The CB shall verify and monitor the organisation's progress through each stage of the timelines defined below in Table 1 in conjunction with requirements specified in Appendix III and Annex II of the Regenagri Standard – Farms).

*Table 1. Timelines*

| Timeframe | Stage | Activities | Responsible party |
|---|---|---|---|
| 48 hours | Immediate safeguarding | CB requires the organisation to stop ongoing harm immediately or secure victims. Confidentiality shall be respected. | CB |
| 4 weeks | Severity evaluation and confirmation | CB conducts a severity evaluation. | CB |
| 14 weeks | Remediation actions and mitigation measures approval | CB reviews and approves plan within fourteen (14) calendar days from the date of the submission actions in accordance to Appendix III by the organisation. | CB |
| Up to 52 weeks | Actions implementation | CB evaluates the implemented actions and closes the SNC. | CB |
| Throughout | Remediation action s – monitoring | CB monitors effectiveness for 12 months after closure, with increased frequency for high risk or repeat cases (see requirements in Section 3 of this document). | CB |

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