

Handling results of witness audits (QS and Animal Welfare)

If the need for improvement is observed during a witness audit, the responsible certification body shall take appropriate measures to improve the auditor's qualification. The successful implementation of these measures shall subsequently be demonstrated to QS.

Based on the following explanations, a (minimum) framework should be created that is as uniform as possible. Nevertheless, it is generally the responsibility of the corresponding certification body to define and implement suitable measures, which may also go beyond the measures listed here.

1. Auditor for initial approval

Summary of the witness audit:
<p>[...]</p> <p>Based on the identified need for improvement [...] are measures to improve audit quality required.</p> <p>[...]</p>

- **QS/ITW:** From receipt of the witness audit report (usually sent by e-mail), the auditor may conduct a maximum of 10 audits at the corresponding level of approval independently until the implementation of the following measures has been demonstrated to QS. In the case of approvals for several certification bodies, the auditor must ensure that the total number of audits does not exceed the specified number.
- **Measures considered necessary** to improve audit quality:
 - Conducting a refreshing training
 - Conducting three (regular, initial or confirmation) audits¹ of non-connected sites² together with an auditor approved for that level.
 - Final performance of a witness audit³ by the certification body: The result must be documented and proven to QS.

Summary of the witness audit:
<p>[...]</p> <p>[...] is only a need for improvement in some areas [...] However, in a K.O. criterion [...] the evaluation [...] is not (fully) comprehensible.</p> <p>[...]</p>

or

Summary of the witness audit:
[...] Based on the identified need for improvement [...] are measures to improve audit quality required . Especially in a K.O. criterion [...] the evaluation [...] is not (fully) comprehensible . [...]

- **QS:** From receipt of the witness audit report (usually sent by e-mail), the auditor may conduct a maximum of 10 audits at the corresponding level of approval independently until the implementation of the following measures has been demonstrated to QS. In the case of approvals for several certification bodies, the auditor must ensure that the total number of audits does not exceed the specified number.
- **ITW:** No final approval. This will be granted at the earliest after proof of appropriate measures to QS.
- **Measures considered necessary** to improve audit quality:
 - Conducting a refreshing training
 - Conducting five (regular, initial or confirmation) audits¹ of non-connected sites² together with an auditor approved for that level.
 - Final performance of a witness audit³ by the certification body: The result must be documented and proven to QS.
- In at least one K.O. criterion the **evaluation is not (completely) comprehensible**:
 - Submission a statement on how the certification body will deal with discrepancies in the observations / evaluations (especially K.O.s) of the auditor and special auditor.

2. Approved auditors

Summary of the witness audit:
[...] Based on the identified need for improvement [...] are measures to improve audit quality required . [...]

- **QS/ITW:** From receipt of the witness audit report (usually sent by e-mail), the auditor may conduct a maximum of 10 audits at the corresponding level of approval independently until the implementation of the following measures has been demonstrated to QS. In the case of approvals for several certification bodies, the auditor must ensure that the total number of audits does not exceed the specified number.
- **Measures considered necessary** to improve audit quality:
 - Conducting a refreshing training
 - Conducting one (regular, initial or confirmation) audit¹ of non-connected sites² together with an auditor approved for that level.
 - Final performance of a witness audit³ by the certification body: The result must be documented and proven to QS.

Summary of the witness audit:
<p>[...]</p> <p>[...] is only a need for improvement in some areas [...] However, in a K.O. criterion [...] the evaluation [...] is not (fully) comprehensible.</p> <p>[...]</p>

or

Summary of the witness audit:
<p>[...]</p> <p>Based on the identified need for improvement [...] are measures to improve audit quality required. Especially in a K.O. criterion [...] the evaluation [...] is not (fully) comprehensible.</p> <p>[...]</p>

- **QS/ITW:** From receipt of the witness audit report (usually sent by e-mail), the auditor may conduct a maximum of 10 audits at the corresponding level of approval independently until the implementation of the following measures has been demonstrated to QS. In the case of approvals for several certification bodies, the auditor must ensure that the total number of audits does not exceed the specified number.
- **Measures considered necessary** to improve audit quality:
 - Conducting a refreshing training
 - Conducting two (regular, initial or confirmation) audits¹ of non-connected sites² together with an auditor approved for that level.
 - Final performance of a witness audit³ by the certification body: The result must be documented and proven to QS.
- In at least one K.O. criterion the **evaluation is not (completely) comprehensible:**
 - Submission a statement on how the certification body will deal with discrepancies in the observations / evaluations (especially K.O.s) of the auditor and special auditor.

Explanations:

To ¹:

Depending on the individual training needs, the audit can be

- conducted independently by the auditor, the accompanying auditor intervenes only when necessary,
- or
- accompanied ('observer') by an approved auditor
- or
- conducted jointly as a team of auditors.

To ²:

“*non-connected sites*” means,

that e.g. sites with the same VVVO number but individually production scopes or sites with several VVVOs at one site can only be counted as one audit.

To ³:

Witness audit:

The witness audit shall be performed by qualified persons (usually responsible employees of the certification body) who ensure an objective assessment of the audit performance.