

Extension to COVID-19 Support Arrangements for EcoMerit Members

Date of Issue: 11 January 2021

We are mindful of the impact COVID-19 is having on our members and we have added the following arrangements to avoid putting members at unnecessary risk or under unnecessary pressure:

- We have adopted Zoom as our method of carrying out surveillance visits until such time as it is deemed safe for all concerned to reinstate personal site visits;
- We have introduced an extended six-month grace period for completion and close-out of scheduled surveillances;
- We have removed the requirement for the 2020 performance report to be submitted by the end of January 2021. Instead, it may be submitted any time before the next scheduled surveillance visit.

With Covid still impacting all our members, we want to continue providing as much support as possible, without devaluing the EcoMerit certification each of you holds.

To this end, we have created a new classification of 'Renewal Pending' applicable to all members in any or all of the following circumstances:

- If your EcoMerit certificate has expired during the course of 2020/21 and you have been unable to meet the normal renewal requirements (i.e. performance reporting and surveillance);
- If your performance report for 2019 has not been submitted and accepted;
- If your surveillance has not been completed and closed-out within 6 months of the scheduled surveillance date.

The 'Renewal Pending' classification came into effect on 1st January 2021 and will be applied instead of suspension or withdrawal of the certificate. Please note:

- The EcoMerit website will identify your certification status as 'Renewal Pending';
- Any third party querying your certification status will be advised that this is an exceptional circumstance arising from Covid and that renewal will be expected in the near future;
- All members given 'Renewal Pending' status will be individually notified when this occurs;
- The 'Renewal Pending' status will be retained for an agreed period, the duration of this period to be agreed with EcoMerit within 2 months of it coming into effect, on the basis that the certificate holder engages with EcoMerit and we agree a course of action and timescales for full re-instatement of the certificate;
- Failure to engage with EcoMerit within two months of the 'renewal pending' classification will result in certificate suspension and ultimately withdrawal in the normal manner.

If you have any questions about your certification status or any aspect of the above arrangements, please contact EcoMerit. We will be pleased to help.

From: The EcoMerit Team