GLOBAL WIND ORGANISATION

MEMO

15 September 2021

To: All GWO Training Providers and Certification Bodies
From: GWO Secretariat
Cc: GWO Audit & Compliance Committee
Subject: Advisory Notice on CoronaVirus (COVID-19) – Update 11

Contents

Reverting to normal governance 1
Remaining governance exemptions that are phased out up to 1.october 2021. 1
Change Log 2

Reverting to normal governance

Throughout the global COVID-19 pandemic, the GWO executive committee has issued advisory notes communicating agreed advice, guidance and exemptions from our regular governance (requirements and standards).

GWO confirms today that in accordance with its previous advisory note 10 (18th June 2021) we will revert to our normal governance on 1.October 2021.

As all the remaining COVID-related exemptions to our normal governance will be removed, some of the measures initially adopted as exemptions have become part of normal governance, including a new standardized digital partial version of basic safety training (BSTR-P) and options for performing surveillance audits remotely.

Should local situations change for the worse, and merit that we locally re-instate measures and exemptions, these may be considered by the GWO Audit and Compliance Committee upon written proposal from members, certified training providers or approved auditors.

GWO continues to advise training providers to follow World Health Organisation guidelines for prevention in schools, workplaces and institutions, as well as to follow recommendations from national health authorities. During the delivery of GWO training, take reasonable precautions to deliver the learning objectives while observing precautionary measures to avoid spread. Specific guidance was given in previous versions of this advisory.

Remaining governance exemptions that are phased out up to 1. October 2021.

The temporary measure to allow attendance to refresher training up to 60 days after ordinary expiry of previous training will expire on 30 September 2021. GWO will remove this exemption on 1 October 2021 and from this date, all refresher training must be completed before expiry of existing valid training record in WINDA. Course participants who owing to a Covid-related cancellation are unable to attend a refresher course within the 24 months validity period before October 1, may refresh expired training for the period up to Sept 30 2021.

1. Anyone requesting the 60 day extension should be aware that as a result of the above, any application made from August 1 2021 would have received the full 60 days; September 1, 30 days, September 20, 10 days and so on until the measure's expiry on 1 October.

In such cases, the course participant shall take steps to do so at the earliest possible opportunity and must prior to being admitted to a refresher course as far as practicable, document to the training provider reasonable COVID-related justification for cancellation of the original planned training. The measure to allow attendance to refresher courses after expiry does not constitute an extension of agreed validity periods for GWO training and does not constitute a general exemption towards employers and duty-holders to ensure employees have adequate safety competences. It remains an employer prerogative to make decisions on whether to require valid training or give exemption.

GWO encourages employers who employ technicians whose training validity expires and who have reasonable reasons for expiry, to consider making exemptions and to take other measures to maintain necessary safety skills in whatever way is locally practicable, such as through exercises and managerial supervision. It continues to be important that the affected persons remain competent to perform their job functions safely and does not pose risk to themselves or to others working around them in the interim period.

Change Log		
13th Sept 2021	Advisory 11	Reverting to a normal governance, with some changes to it based on learning during pandemic. The temporary measure to allow attendance to refresher training up to 60 days after ordinary expiry of previous training will expire on 30 September 2021 and be removed on 1st October 2021

18th June 2021	Advisory 10	Remote audit included as a permanent option in the Requirements for Certification Bodies version 8, released on 1 April 2021 Removal of temporary provision allowing audits 30 days additional flexibility The temporary measure to allow attendance to refresher training up to 60 days after ordinary expiry of previous training will be extended until 30 September 2021. However, there is a clear expectation from GWO to remove this exemption 1 October 2021, unless for those countries with severe travel restrictions or lockdowns.
10th February 2021	Advisory 9	Removing the word "planned" in item 1 of section '60 days flexibility for refreshing existing training'. This will allow course participants and training providers to handle local COVID-19 issues without the need for a pre-planned refresher Removing the previous item 3 requiring training providers to contact GWO for further instructions in this instance.
26-November	Advisory 8	During training, use face masks whenever appropriate, however considering that during physically demanding exercises face masks may inhibit comfortable breathing, other preventive measures should also be considered. BSTRP-P is adopted as a permanent training standard, allowing flexibility for course participants who for whatever reason are not able to attend a physical training course, and where a digital partial can provide operational flexibility. All certifications by certification bodies may be extended to certified training providers and shall follow ordinary surveillance/recertification schedules. Extensions of certificates must be sent to GWO at info@globalwindsafety.org. The temporary measure to allow remote auditing, Annex 3, is extended until 31.march, with a view to determining permanent guidance in the next revision (version 8) of the requirements for certification bodies due for release on 1 April 2021.
19-May	Advisory 7	Extend temporary measure to allow 60 days of flexibility following certificate expiry in order to completed a refresher training until 31.12.2020
21-Apr	Advisory 6	Digital learning in Requirements for Training Provider, version 9 Remote auditing in Requirements for Certification Body, version 7 Interim measure: Eligibility to offer training in BSTR-P prior to completion of audit
20-apr	Advisory 5	Adding BSTR-P as interim measure to address skills fade
20-Mar	Advisory 4	Allowing audits 30 days additional flexibility Further clarifying guidance to training providers on delivery of training

16-Mar	Advisory 3	Extend temporary measure until 1 June. Extension of refresher period to 60 days as response to WHO declaration of pandemic Initial guidance on delivery of training
12-Mar	Advisory 2	Measure extended until 14 April and affected regions outside China
21-Feb	Advisory 1	Temporary measure until 1 April, limited to affected regions in China Extended refresher period 30 days