



NEW ZEALAND FARM ASSURANCE INCORPORATED (NZFAI)

Unite
against
COVID-19

COVID-19 AUDIT OPTIONS

**Applicable for any farmers at any time when under
Alert Level 3 (Restrict) or 4 (Lockdown)**

The following audit procedure options are available to farmers for their New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme (NZFAP) audits should their farm location be under alert level 3 or 4 at any time.

AsureQuality (AQ) has been declared an essential service and can continue to operate the associated farm audits under strict operational guidelines. At Alert Level 3 and 4, AsureQuality's operational guidelines include a pre visit risk assessment, mandatory mask wearing, social distancing, strict hygiene protocols, and contact tracing. Under alert Level 4 AsureQuality's preference is to delay and reschedule all work that cannot be completed off-site/ remotely, unless it is deemed critical, and mutually agreed with customers.

The new procedures are designed to ensure the continued flow of farm assured product (livestock or wool) to NZFAI member companies, to enable new suppliers to join NZFAP, and allow existing suppliers to retain certification while avoiding on-farm visits.

OPTIONS FOR NEW AND EXISTING SUPPLIERS:

NOTE: With Covid-19 Government requirements and restrictions potentially a moving target these procedures are under constant review and subject to change at any time.

Option One: Business as usual audit

- New or existing suppliers can choose to undergo the business as usual audit. This will be carried out on farm under all Government and essential service requirements, including physical distancing rules between the auditor and farmer.

Option Two: Interim Assurance Audit (Remote Audit)

- Suppliers both new and existing, will be required to undertake a remote audit (including the completion of a declaration) that will grant them respectively either an 'interim status of farm assured' or 'certification extension' for 12 months, but not longer.
- By the end of the interim period, a full on-farm audit will need to be completed to 'obtain' (for new suppliers) or 'retain' (for previously existing suppliers) full NZFAP certification.

Option Three: Roll-over Extension (No Audit)

- Existing suppliers who do not want to undertake an on-farm audit or a remote audit at this point, may request a roll-over of their certification. This will extend your existing farm certification for a maximum of three months, after which you would need to either:
 - Undertake a full in-person on farm audit to retain full NZFAP certification, or
 - Complete a remote audit by phone. This would be valid for a further nine months.