

Date: 16th March 2020

Impact of COVID-19 on Inspection Schedule

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JIG acknowledges that the COVID-19 outbreak is affecting Members' abilities to carry out their scheduled inspections. It is JIG's intention to ensure that maximum flexibility is offered to Members, whilst ensuring that provisions are made to follow-up with the locations that require it most.

To this end, JIG would like to announce the following measures, effective immediately, to manage the 2020 Inspection program:

- Inspections planned between March and June 2020 may be postponed for up to 6 months. Member Coordinators will be responsible for deciding which inspections should be delayed, and for how long.
- The user permissions of all Member Coordinators and Inspectors will be upgraded to enable them to adjust the planned inspection date of their own inspections to any suitable date in 2020 (ordinarily, this is restricted to +/-1.5 months).
- Member Coordinators should ensure that (wherever possible) priority is given to complete the inspections of locations receiving a "Less Than Satisfactory" result in the previous inspection, then "Satisfactory" inspections, as soon as international travel becomes safe.
- JIG recommends that Member Coordinators assign local/ in-country inspectors wherever possible. To this end, JIG has decided to temporarily waive the rule that a location cannot be inspected 3 times consecutively by the same Inspector.
- It is important that Inspectors keep Site Management informed of any postponements, for all inspections that are assigned to them.
- Inspectors are encouraged to conduct offline desktop reviews with the affected sites, wherever possible, prioritising those with a prior "Less Than Satisfactory" result.
- When international travel safely commences again, Member Coordinators may bring some inspections forward if they are in the vicinity, so that they can be covered by one trip.
- Site managers should still endeavour to close out the prior inspection findings by the agreed due dates and be ready to accommodate the revised inspection schedule and possible desktop reviews when requested by Inspectors.

JIG Newsflash



- Please be reminded that FOS sends an automatic notification to Site Managers when an inspection date is changed.
- Inspectors may consider suggesting that Site Managers conduct a self-assessment using the JIG inspection checklist until the inspection is carried out, to document and flag up any concerns.
- JIG intends to review the situation in 3 months to decide:
 - How best to avoid backlogs at the end of the year. This will be a risk-based approach based on prior inspection results; eg. It may be necessary to skip inspections which received a “Good” result in 2020, to accommodate all inspections within the second half of 2020.
 - In consultation with Member Coordinators, whether to postpone inspections to 2021, or to skip 2020 inspections (if accepted by all participants, and supported by a good inspection history)

Any further updates will be communicated in due course.