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## **UPDATED Policy regarding LEAF Marque Audits, Audit-Related Travel and Coronavirus**

*This policy was adopted by LEAF Marque on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020*

As the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic deepens, LEAF has taken immediate action in order to protect the health of our members and auditors, as well as maintaining the credibility of the LEAF Marque system.

The LEAF Marque Team are reviewing our policies daily and work closely with the Certification Bodies.

**As of Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March, LEAF Marque will be temporarily suspending the requirement for all physical inspections and moving to a remote assessment phase.**

In consultation with our Certification Bodies and Accreditation Bodies, we have developed a Remote Assessment Protocol in order to remain a LEAF Marque certified business. From Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May there will be a phased roll out of the new Remote Assessment Protocol. Businesses affected should contact their Certification Body with any queries.

LEAF Marque considers COVID-19 as a 'force majeure' situation and so extension of LEAF Marque certifications, under clause 3.2 of the [LEAF Marque System Rules](#) (v4) may be permitted. Certification Bodies must seek approval from LEAF Marque secretariat ([Lucy.Redmore@leafuk.org](mailto:Lucy.Redmore@leafuk.org)) for certificate extension.

This policy is applicable to all [LEAF Marque Certification Bodies](#) and all existing LEAF Marque certified businesses.

LEAF members who were scheduled to have their first LEAF Marque inspection during this period should contact the LEAF Marque secretariat in the first instance.

Further updates to this policy will be considered in light of evolving circumstances and communicated accordingly.

Our focus is to protect public health and we thank all stakeholders for their continued support and understanding at this unprecedented time.

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