

Risk Assessment of GFA Certification GmbH concerning options to replace on-site audits by remote audits due to the coronavirus COVID 19

Risk assessment related to replacement of on-site audits by desk audits COVID 19 (global without China)

Date	Source	Risk declaration
16.03.2020	WHO Corona Virus Report 55	Very high health risk at global scale
16.03.2020	RKI Risikobewertung	High health risk regions in Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Austria, USA, South Korea, China, Iran
16.03.2020	John Hopkins University	High and fast rising number of infections in China, Iran, South Korea, USA, Italy, Germany, France, Switzerland, Spain and many more European countries.
16.03.2020	German Ministry of foreign affairs	Global travel warning for not necessary travels, reference to fast changing and rising travel restrictions.
16.03.2020	IATA immigration travel information	Special immigration rules and restrictions in more than 100 countries, situation is changing constantly and rapidly.
16.03.2020	International press	Many countries have immigration stops (USA, many European countries, Vietnam, others), situation is becoming worse fast, many scientists and politicians recommend social distancing to reduce the speed of spreading COVID 19, many countries including Germany close public and private places.
16.03.2020	GFA emails	Many CHs cancel the audit as they stopped operations or do homeoffice or are afraid that external visitor will bring infection cases to their companies, many companies restricted the access for any external people to their premises.
16.03.2020	Conclusion	The health situation and travel restrictions applied in the EU, Switzerland and the USA do not allow traveling and on-site auditing. GFA will switch to desk based audits in these areas for all cases not exempted by SSP_PRO_Desk_Audits until further notice . For all other regions individual evaluations of the conditions will be conducted. This is permitted by FSC_DER_2020_001 18.03.2020 .
23.03.2020	Updated sources above	No significant changes to situation, some more countries closed borders for non-residents (e.g. Chile, Costa Rica). Conclusion maintained.
01.04.2020	Updated sources above	No significant changes to situation, RKI excluded China from international risk areas, IATA reports almost every country having immigration restrictions, many countries do not allow foreigners to enter at all without 14 days quarantine. "Lock downs" in Germany and many other countries. Conclusion maintained.
07.04.2020	Updated sources above	No significant changes to situation, RKI added Netherlands, UK and Ireland to international risk areas, Germany still entire country as risk area, IATA reports almost every country having immigration restrictions, many countries do not allow foreigners to enter at all without 14 days quarantine. Russia raised April as payed leave month. Number of infections globally still raising significantly. "Lock downs" in Germany and many other countries. Conclusion maintained.
13.04.2020	Updated sources above	RKI withdrew the identification process for international/national risk areas on 10.04.2020 as there

		<p>is global risk due to the fact that more than 200 countries are affected, the risk of becoming infected is at global scale, IATA reports almost every country having immigration restrictions, many countries do not allow foreigners to enter at all without 14 days quarantine. Number of infections globally still raising significantly. "Lock downs" in Germany and many other countries.</p> <p>Conclusion maintained.</p>
19.04.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI changed documentation to Situation Report where the risk for German population is considered to be high to very high and international risk areas are no longer differentiated as there is currently a global risk for acquiring COVID19. WHO still calls very high risk at global level. IATA travel restriction report unchanged. Number of infections globally still raising significantly. German Auswärtiges Amt still calls out a global travel security warning referring to unpredictable und constantly changing situations.</p> <p>Conclusion maintained.</p>
27.04.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI judges the risk for German population is considered to be high to very high and international risk areas are no longer differentiated as there is currently a global risk for acquiring COVID19. WHO still calls very high risk at global level. IATA travel restriction report unchanged. Number of infections globally still raising significantly. German Auswärtiges Amt still calls out a global travel security warning referring to unpredictable und constantly changing situations. "Lock downs" in Germany and many other countries.</p> <p>Conclusion maintained.</p>
04.05.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI judges the risk for German population is considered to be high to very high and international risk areas are no longer differentiated as there is currently a global risk for acquiring COVID19. WHO daily situation reports still show global emergency situation which is not under control. IATA travel restriction report unchanged. John Hopkins Institute Dashboard shows that number of infections globally still raising significantly. German Auswärtiges Amt still calls out a global travel security warning referring to unpredictable und constantly changing situations which was already extended to Mid of June 2020. "Lock downs" in Germany and many other countries.</p> <p>Conclusion maintained.</p>
11.05.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI judges the risk for German population is considered to be high to very high and international risk areas are no longer differentiated as there is currently a global risk for acquiring COVID19. WHO daily situation reports still show global emergency situation which is not under control. IATA travel restriction report unchanged. John Hopkins Institute Dashboard shows that number of infections globally still raising significantly. German Auswärtiges Amt still calls out a global travel security warning referring to unpredictable und constantly changing situations which was already extended to Mid of June 2020. "Lock downs" in Germany and many other countries however slight ease in requirements visible in some countries (France, Spain, Germany,.....) but unclear how spreading of corona virus will be impacted.</p> <p>Conclusion maintained.</p>

19.05.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI despite decreasing infection and death rates in Germany still judges the risk for German population as considered to be high to very high (for risk groups) and recommends to minimize contacts in private and professional life as much as possible. WHO still reports strong increase in infections and death globally, several trials of treatments against COVID19 are tested but not proven to be effective, new IATA interactive map show that almost all countries worldwide have either totally restrictive or partially restrictive travel restrictions which may change quickly, John Hopkins Institute Dashboard shows that number of infections globally still raising significantly. German Auswärtiges Amt still calls out a global travel security warning referring to unpredictable and constantly changing situations which was already extended to Mid of June 2020. "Lock downs" in Germany and many other countries however slight ease in requirements visible in some countries (France, Spain, Germany,.....) but unclear how spreading of corona virus will be impacted.</p> <p>Conclusion maintained.</p>
25.05.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI despite decreasing infection and death rates in Germany still judges the risk for German population as considered to be high to very high (for risk groups) and recommends to minimize contacts in private and professional life as much as possible. Restaurants may open again in Germany under strict hygiene rules. WHO still reports strong increase in infections and death globally, several trials of treatments against COVID19 are tested but not proven to be effective, new IATA interactive map show that almost all countries worldwide have either totally restrictive or partially restrictive travel restrictions which may change quickly, John Hopkins Institute Dashboard shows that number of infections globally still raising significantly. Situation in Germany improves in comparison to many other European countries, USA still huge increase in infection and death rates. German Auswärtiges Amt still calls out a global travel security warning referring to unpredictable and constantly changing situations which was already extended to Mid of June 2020. Social distancing rules in Germany and many other countries however slight ease in requirements visible in some countries (France, Spain, Germany,.....) but unclear how spreading of corona virus will be impacted. Restaurants may open again in Germany under strict hygiene rules. Individual outbreaks due to restaurant visits or church gatherings.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
02.06.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: "At the global and the national level, the situation is very dynamic and must be taken seriously. The number of newly reported cases is decreasing. The RKI currently assesses the risk to the health of the German population overall as high and as very high for risk groups." WHO still reports strong increase in infections and death globally. IATA interactive map show that almost all countries worldwide have either totally restrictive or partially restrictive travel restrictions which may change</p>

		<p>quickly. John Hopkins Institute Dashboard shows that number of infections globally still raising significantly. Situation in Germany improves in comparison to many other European countries, USA still huge increase in infection and death rates. German Auswärtiges Amt still calls out a global travel security warning referring to unpredictable und constantly changing situations which was already extended to Mid of June 2020. Social distancing rules in Germany and many other countries however slight ease in requirements visible in some countries (France, Spain, Germany,.....) but unclear how spreading of corona virus will be impacted. Restaurants may open again in Germany under strict hygiene rules. Individual outbreaks due to restaurant visits or church gatherings.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
08.06.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: "At the global and the national level, the situation is very dynamic and must be taken seriously. The number of newly reported cases is decreasing. The RKI currently assesses the risk to the health of the German population overall as high and as very high for risk groups." RKI reports larger individual outbreaks in 4 cities. Rules of social distancing still apply in Germany, but infection cases re decreasing despite of lifting of some measures. WHO still reports strong increase in infections and death globally. GFA key markets apart from China still belong to areas with medium to very strong infection rates, IATA interactive map show that almost all countries worldwide have either totally restrictive or partially restrictive travel restrictions which may change quickly. John Hopkins Institute Dashboard shows that number of infections globally still raising significantly. Situation in Germany improves in comparison to many other European countries, USA still huge increase in infection and death rates. German Auswärtiges Amt still calls out a global travel security warning referring to unpredictable und constantly changing situations which was already extended to Mid of June 2020. Plans announced to lift travel warning within EU from 15.06.2020. Social distancing rules in Germany and many other countries however slight ease in requirements visible in some countries (France, Spain, Germany,.....) but unclear how spreading of corona virus will be impacted. Restaurants may open again in Germany under strict hygiene rules.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
15.06.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: "At the global and the national level, the situation is very dynamic and must be taken seriously. The number of newly reported cases is decreasing. The RKI currently assesses the risk to the health of the German population overall as high and as very high for risk groups." RKI reports larger individual outbreaks in several states, including meat processing plants, logistics companies,</p>

		<p>seasonal harvesting workers, religious events and family gatherings. Rules of social distancing still apply in Germany, but infection cases decreasing despite of lifting of some measures. WHO still reports strong increase in infections and death globally. GFA key markets apart from China still belong to areas with medium to very strong infection rates, WHO and media report new Coronavirus outbreak on a market in Beijing, IATA interactive map show that almost all countries worldwide have either totally restrictive or partially restrictive travel restrictions which may change quickly. John Hopkins Institute Dashboard shows that number of infections globally still raising significantly. Situation in Germany and other European countries improves, USA, Brazil, Russia, India, UK are heavily impacted, many Latinamerican countries are heavily impacted, German Auswaertiges Amt lifts travel warning for some European countries (excluding Spain, Skandinavian Countries, UK/Ireland but extends travel warning for all other countries until 31.08.2020, Social distancing rules in Germany and many other countries however slight ease in requirements visible in some countries (France, Spain, Germany,.....) but unclear how spreading of corona virus will be impacted. Restaurants may open again in Germany under strict hygiene rules.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
23.06.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Situation unchanged. WHO: Situation unchanged. IATA: Situation unchanged. John Hopkins University: Situation unchanged. German Auswaertiges Amt: Situation unchanged. Still social distancing rule in Germany and other countries applicable. New individual outbreaks reported in press media and by RKI (e.g. Meat Processing Plant Tönnies with more than 1.500 new cases).</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
30.06.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Situation unchanged. WHO: Situation unchanged. IATA: Situation unchanged. John Hopkins University: Situation unchanged. German Auswaertiges Amt: Situation unchanged. Still social distancing rule in Germany and other countries applicable. New individual outbreaks reported in press media and by RKI (e.g. refugee camps, nurseries, meat processing plants).</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
07.07.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Situation unchanged. WHO: Situation unchanged. IATA: Situation unchanged. John Hopkins University: Situation unchanged. German Auswaertiges Amt:</p>

		<p>Situation unchanged. Still social distancing rule in Germany and other countries applicable. New individual outbreaks reported in press media and by RKI (e.g. refugee camps, meat processing plants).</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
10.07.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Situation unchanged. WHO: Situation unchanged. IATA: Situation unchanged. John Hopkins University: Situation unchanged. German Auswaertiges Amt: Situation unchanged. Still social distancing rule in Germany and other countries applicable. New individual outbreaks reported in press media and by RKI (e.g. refugee camps, meat processing plants).</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
21.07.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Situation unchanged. WHO: Situation unchanged. IATA: Situation unchanged. John Hopkins University: Situation unchanged. German Auswaertiges Amt: Situation unchanged. Still social distancing rule in Germany and other countries applicable. New individual outbreaks reported in press media and by RKI (e.g. refugee camps, meat processing plants).</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
27.07.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Situation unchanged, but situation may even get worse since stated: <i>“In the past few weeks, the number of districts that have not submitted any COVID-19 cases over a period of 7 days has decreased continuously. In parallel, the COVID-19 incidence has risen in many federal states. This situation is worrying.”</i> WHO: Situation unchanged. IATA: Situation unchanged. John Hopkins University: Situation unchanged. German Auswaertiges Amt: Situation unchanged. Still social distancing rule in Germany and other countries applicable. New individual outbreaks reported in press media and by RKI (e.g. refugee camps, meat processing plants). General rise of infection cases in Germany and other European countries e.g. Spain) reported. Media discussion about coming of second infection wave.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
03.08.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: <i>“An increase in COVID-19 case numbers since last week occurred in many of the federal states. Nationwide, there are many smaller case outbreaks in different administrative districts in various settings, such</i></p>

		<p>as larger family events, leisure activities, occupational settings, but also in community and health facilities. In addition, COVID-19 cases are increasingly being identified among people returning from travel abroad. The number of new cases reported daily has been increasing since last week. This development is very concerning and will continue to be monitored very closely by the RKI. A further worsening of the situation must be avoided. This will only succeed if the entire population continues to be committed to decreasing transmission, e.g. by consistently observing rules of distance and hygiene - also in outdoor settings -, by airing indoor areas and, where necessary, wearing a community or face mask correctly.”. WHO: Situation unchanged. IATA: Situation unchanged. John Hopkins University: Situation unchanged. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travel warnings for all countries outside of the EU + some countries inside EU showing more than 50 new infections per 100.000 capita in last 7 days, travel warnings and restrictions may change quickly and are effective without prior warnings. Press media: General rise of infection cases in Germany and other European countries e.g. Spain) reported. Media discussion about coming of second infection wave.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
07.08.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Situation unchanged. WHO: Situation unchanged. IATA: Situation unchanged. John Hopkins University: Situation unchanged. German Auswaertiges Amt: Situation unchanged. Still social distancing rule in Germany and other countries applicable. New individual outbreaks reported in press media and by RKI (e.g. refugee camps, meat processing plants).</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
24.08.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Situation is becoming worse and health risk is still considered high to very high, increasing number of infections, especially under younger generations and travelers is reported. WHO: Changed from daily situation reports to weekly situation reports. Last report from 16.08.2020. Increases in infection rates reported for many European, American and Asian countries. IATA: Still totally restrictive and partially restrictive travel rules in place for almost all countries in the world. John Hopkins University: Situation unchanged. German Auswärtiges Amt: Still travel warning active for all countries outside Europe, inside Europe active travel warnings for countries with higher infection rate of 50 cases per 100.000 capita in 7 days (currently in Spain, Belgium, Croatia, Rumania, Bulgaria). Press Headlines: Increasing infection rates in many regions/countries, some countries expect vaccination to be ready in Q1 2021, no tested vaccination available, yet.</p>

		General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.
31.08.2020	Updated sources above	RKI: Situation unchanged. WHO: Situation unchanged. IATA: Situation unchanged. John Hopkins University: Situation unchanged. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travel warning for countries outside Europe extended until 15.09.2020. Press Headlines: Situation unchanged. General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.
08.09.2020	Updated sources above	RKI: Situation unchanged. WHO: Situation unchanged. IATA: Situation unchanged. John Hopkins University: Situation unchanged. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travel warning for countries outside Europe extended until 15.09.2020. Press Headlines: Situation unchanged. General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.
11.09.2020	Updated sources above	RKI: Situation unchanged. WHO: Situation unchanged. IATA: Situation unchanged. John Hopkins University: Situation unchanged. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travel warning for countries outside Europe extended until 15.09.2020. Press Headlines: Situation unchanged. General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.
22.09.2020	Updated sources above	RKI: Situation unchanged. WHO: Situation unchanged. IATA: Situation unchanged. John Hopkins University: Situation unchanged. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travel warning for all countries outside Europe extended until 30.09.2020, inside Europe active travel warnings for countries with higher infection rate of 50 cases per 100.000 capita in 7 days (currently for Regions in France, Spain, Belgium, Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania, Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Netherlands, Switzerland). Press Headlines: Situation unchanged. General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.
28.09.2020	Updated sources above	RKI: Situation unchanged. WHO: Situation unchanged, last report published 21.09.20. IATA: Situation unchanged. John Hopkins University: Situation unchanged. German Auswärtiges Amt: Situation unchanged. Press Headlines: Situation unchanged.

		<p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
05.10.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Further increase worldwide and in Germany, Risk still high to very high for the population. WHO: Still increasing cases worldwide, worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having significant number of cases (apart from China currently), last report published 27.09.2020, IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally. German Auswärtiges Amt: Expiration of global travel restrictions for countries outside of Europe, but specific risk assessments for all countries (>50 per 100.000) and listing of risk areas, almost all countries are listed. Press headlines: Situation unchanged, many corona hotspots worldwide, political debates about new corona lock downs initiated.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
12.10.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Further increase worldwide and in Germany, Risk still high to very high for the population. WHO: Still increasing cases worldwide, worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having significant number of cases (apart from China currently), last report published 05.10.20 IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas, German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare IATA). Press headlines: Situation unchanged, many corona hotspots worldwide, political debates about new corona lock downs ongoing, Many German states decided prohibition to host travelers from inner German risk areas without 2 negative corona tests.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
19.10.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Further increase worldwide and in Germany, risk still high to very high. WHO: Still increasing cases worldwide, worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having significant number of cases (apart from China currently), last report published 12.10.20). IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University:</p>

		<p>Still strongly increasing infection rates globally. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare IATA). Press Headlines: Situation unchanged, many corona hotspots worldwide, political debates about and implementation of new corona lock downs, German Bundeskanzler Angela Merkel calls to stay at home.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
26.10.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Further increase worldwide and in Germany, risk still high to very high. WHO: Strong increase in infections and death rates in Europe (+25%, +29%), declines in infection rates in the Americas but incidents of new infections remains high, worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having significant number of cases (apart from China currently), last report published 20.10.20); IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare designated risk areas and IATA). Press Headlines: Situation unchanged, many corona hotspots worldwide, political debates about and implementation of new corona lock downs, German Bundeskanzler Angela Merkel calls to stay at home.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
02.11.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Further increase worldwide and in Germany, risk still high to very high. WHO: Strong increase in infections and death rates in Europe (+33%, +35%), some increases in the Americas, Africa, Eastern Europe, slight declines in South-East Asia, worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having significant number of cases (apart from China currently), last report published 27.10.20). IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare designated risk areas and IATA). Press Headlines: Situation unchanged, many corona hotspots worldwide,</p>

		<p>political debates about and implementation of new corona lock downs, e.g. Germany, German Bundeskanzler Angela Merkel calls to stay at home.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
09.11.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Further increase worldwide and in Germany, risk still high to very high. WHO: Strong increase in infections and death rates in Europe (+22%, +46%), some increases in the Americas, Africa, Eastern Europe, slight declines in South-East Asia, worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having significant number of cases (apart from China currently), last report published 03.11.20). IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare designated risk areas and IATA). Press Headlines: Situation is becoming worse in many countries due to upcoming winter scenarios, almost all countries in the world are high risk countries >50 per 100.000, first high intensity medical care institutions are overcrowded by COVID19 patients.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
16.11.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Further increase worldwide and in Germany, risk still high to very high. WHO: Strong increase in infections and death rates in Europe (+11%, +44%), some increases in the Americas, Africa, Eastern Europe, South East Asia, worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having significant number of cases (apart from China currently), last report published 10.11.20). IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare designated risk areas and IATA). Press Headlines: Overall globally increasing infection numbers, political debates about increasing local lockdown measures in some countries, how to deal with schools / kindergardens, one promising vaccination developed in Germany but not endorsed yet, however experts consider it to take until 2021 until sufficient people are vaccinated.</p>

		<p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
23.11.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Further increase worldwide and in Germany, risk still high to very high. WHO: “The number of new cases being reported globally continues to rise (Figure 1), with almost 4 million new cases in the past week (9–15 November) alone. The number of new deaths globally has also grown by 11%, with almost 60 000 new deaths reported, of which 81% were in Europe and the Americas (Table 1). Although the European Region continues to report the highest number of new cases globally (46%), it has seen a 10% fall in the past week following the strengthening of public health and social measures across the region. However, the number of new deaths in Europe has increased substantially with over 29 000 new deaths reported in the past week. The Region of the Americas reported a sharp upward trend, with a 41% increase in new cases in the past week. The Eastern Mediterranean, African and Western Pacific Regions also reported increases in the number of new cases. The South-East Asia Region, on the other hand, reported a decline in the number of new cases and new deaths.”; worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having significant number of cases (apart from China currently), last report published 17.11.20). IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare designated risk areas and IATA). Press Headlines: Overall globally increasing infection numbers, political debates about increasing / extending local lockdown measures in some countries, several promising vaccination developed not endorsed yet, however experts consider it to take mid/end 2021 until sufficient people are vaccinated.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
30.11.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Further increase worldwide and in Germany, risk still high to very high. WHO: “This past week, the global acceleration in case incidence has slowed down, with around 4 million new cases reported; however, death rates continue to increase with over 67 000 new deaths reported (Figure 1). The European and South East Asia Regions continued downward trends in weekly cases; however, the European Region remains the largest contributor to new cases and new deaths in the past 7 days. The Region of the Americas reported increases in both new cases and new deaths and the Region</p>

		<p>continues to account for the greatest proportion of cumulative cases and deaths. While cases numbers remain relatively low, the African Region reported the highest increase in new cases (15%) and deaths (30%) this week. The Eastern Mediterranean and Western Pacific regions also reported an increase in new cases and deaths this week. As of 22 November there have been over 57.8 million cases and 1.3 million deaths reported globally since the start of the pandemic.” worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having very high numbers of cases (apart from China currently), last report published 24.11.20). IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare designated risk areas and IATA). Press Headlines: Overall globally increasing infection numbers, political debates about increasing / extending local lockdown measures in some countries, several promising vaccination developed not endorsed yet, however experts consider it to take mid/end 2021 until sufficient people are vaccinated.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
07.12.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Further increase worldwide and in Germany, risk still high to very high. WHO: Similar situation like last week, worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having very high numbers of cases apart from China currently (last report published 01.12.20). IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare designated risk areas and IATA). Press Headlines: Overall globally increasing infection numbers, political debates about increasing / extending local lockdown measures in many countries, political debates about loosening lockdown for Christmas and new year or not, several promising vaccination developed but not endorsed yet,</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
14.12.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Further sharp increase worldwide and in Germany, risk assessment was updated to “<i>RKI now judges the</i></p>

		<p><i>level of danger to the health of the general population as very high” very high”</i>. WHO: Similar situation like last week, worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having very high numbers of cases apart from China currently (last report published 08.12.20). IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare designated risk areas and IATA). Press Headlines: Overall globally increasing infection numbers, political debates about increasing / extending local lockdown measures in many countries, announcement of hard lockdown in Germany until 10.01.2021, first 3 Mio vaccination doses supplied in USA.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
21.12.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Further sharp increase worldwide and in Germany, <i>“RKI now judges the level of danger to the health of the general population as very high”</i>. WHO: <i>“in the past week the number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths continued to rise with 70 million cumulative cases and 1.6 million deaths globally since the start of the pandemic. The Regions of the Americas and Europe continue to shoulder the burden of the pandemic, accounting for 85% of new cases and 86% of new deaths globally.”</i>, worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having very high numbers of cases apart from China currently (last report published 13.12.20). IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare designated risk areas and IATA). Press Headlines: Still strongly increasing figures, new coronavirus mutation seems to be far more infectious than others, still lockdowns in many countries, also through Christmas and new year. Vaccination programs started in some countries, endorsement process in Germany shall be finalized today.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
28.12.2020	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Further sharp increase worldwide and persistently high cases in Germany, new virus type determined with unknown attributes, <i>“RKI now judges the level of danger</i></p>

		<p>to the health of the general population as very high". WHO: "New COVID-19 cases and deaths continued to increase during the past week, by 6% and 4% respectively (Figure 1, Table 1). The Region of the Americas again accounted for the greatest proportion, reporting over 2.3 million new cases (half of the global cumulative), while the European Region reported the highest number of new deaths (36 286; 46%) in the past week. The African Region accounted for the greatest relative increase in new cases (27%) and deaths (34%) compared to the previous week. Increasing trends were also observed in the Western Pacific Region, while the South-East Asia and Eastern Mediterranean Regions were the only two that reported a decrease in both cases and deaths.", worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having very high numbers of cases apart from China currently (last report published 22.12.20). IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare designated risk areas and IATA). Press Headlines: Still increase in figures, vaccination programs started in some countries, some infrastructural problems, some countries endorse additional financial corona rescue funds for 2021, lock downs in many countries are estimated to extend until March 2021.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
05.01.2021	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Further sharp increase worldwide and persistently high cases in Germany, new type of virus with unknown consequences, "RKI now judges the level of danger to the health of the general population as very high". WHO: "Globally in the past week, over 4 million new cases were reported. Although this is a 12% decrease compared to the previous week, this and other short-term trends in data should be interpreted with caution over the end-of-year holiday season, as numbers may be influenced by presentation, testing and reporting delays. New deaths decreased by 8% to 72 730 (Figure 1, Table 1). The Region of the Americas accounts for 48% of all new cases and 42% of all new deaths globally. While new cases and deaths remained high in the European Region, which accounted for 37% and 42% respectively, both decreased compared to the previous week. New cases and deaths declined in South-East Asia and Eastern Mediterranean regions. In the African Region, while both new cases and deaths remained low compared to other regions, there was a 20% increase in new cases and 37% in new deaths. In the Western Pacific Region, new cases increased by 13% and new deaths increased by 4%.", worldmap showing infection</p>

		<p>cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having very high numbers of cases apart from China currently (last report published 29.12.20). IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare designated risk areas and IATA). Press Headlines: Vaccination programs started in many countries, infection numbers still increasing, many countries with lockdown and discussions about more strict measures.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
12.01.2021	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: Further sharp increase worldwide and in Germany, new type of virus with unknown consequences, <i>“RKI now judges the level of danger to the health of the general population as very high”</i>. WHO: <i>“For the third week in a row over 4 million new cases were reported globally, although this week saw a slight decrease compared to the previous week. However, this and other short-term trends in data should be interpreted with caution owing to the end-of-year holiday season, as numbers may be influenced by presentation, testing and reporting delays. The decrease seen last week in new deaths has been reversed with deaths rising by 3% to 76 000 (Figure 1, Table 1). The Region of the Americas accounted for 47% of all new cases and 42% of all new deaths globally in the past week. New cases and deaths remained high in the European Region, which accounted for 38% and 43% respectively, showing a slight decrease in new cases and a slight increase in new deaths. New cases and deaths continue to decline in the South-East Asia and Eastern Mediterranean regions. In the African Region, while both new cases and deaths remain low in absolute numbers, for the fourth week in a row, the Region is reporting the largest percentage increase globally in weekly reported case numbers and this week there was a further 13% increase in new cases and 28% increase in new deaths. In the Western Pacific Region, new cases remained comparable to the previous week, but new deaths rose by 10%. As we welcome the New Year, and look eagerly towards COVID-19 vaccination campaigns worldwide, the current epidemiological situation with near record numbers of new cases and deaths, makes it imperative to continue to adhere to safety measures to prevent further transmission and loss of life.”</i>, worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having very high numbers of cases apart from China currently (last report published 05.01.2021). IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally. Majority of currently active cases in</p>

		<p>Europe, India and the Americas. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare designated risk areas and IATA). Press Headlines: High death rates in some countries, especially UK, vaccination programs ongoing but not without disturbances, enough vaccination doses expected by April 2021, German Chancellor Merkel expects more hard weeks in shutdown, corona mutations seem to cause re-infections and problems, politicians make pressure to economy to allow more homeoffice as preventive measure against spread of COVID19.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
19.01.2021	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: <i>"In view of persistently high case numbers, the RKI currently assesses the threat to the health of the general population to be very high."</i> WHO: <i>"Following two weeks of low reporting, likely due to the year-end holiday period, the overall upward trend seen in earlier weeks has resumed, with just under 5 million new cases reported last week globally. The number of new deaths has also shown a similar trend, with over 85 000 reported last week, an 11% increase (Figure 1, Table 1). All regions apart from South-East Asia showed an increase in new cases, with the Western Pacific, Africa and the Americas reporting increases of over 30%. The Region of the Americas accounted for 51% of all new cases and 45% of all new deaths globally in the past week. The European Region had a lower increase in new cases (10%), however still accounts for over a third of new cases globally. In South-East Asia, the decline in new cases and new deaths seen since the end of November 2020 continues. Although the Eastern Mediterranean Region is showing an 11% increase in new cases, new deaths have fallen by 9%, continuing a downward trend since a peak in mid-November. The African Region reported 175 000 new cases and 4300 new deaths, an increase of over 30% in new cases and new deaths, far exceeding previous peaks in July 2020. The Western Pacific also reported an increase of more than 30% in new cases, while the number of new deaths also rose by 14%.."</i>, worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having very high numbers of cases apart from China currently (last report published 12.01.2021). IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare designated risk areas and IATA). Press Headlines: Lockdown in Germany extended until 14.02.2021, vaccination programs ongoing but delays, political</p>

		<p>debates around obligatory homeoffice, curfews, obligatory medical masks, etc. ongoing.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
27.01.2021	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: <i>"In view of persistently high case numbers, the RKI currently assesses the threat to the health of the general population to be very high."</i> WHO: <i>"Globally, 4.7 million new cases were reported in the past week, a decline of 6% from last week (Figure 1). At the same time, the number of new deaths has climbed to a record high at 93 000, a 9% increase from last week. Over 2 million people have now lost their lives to COVID-19. The Americas, Europe, and South-East Asia regions showed declines in new cases, with Europe showing a 15% decline and the Americas and South-East Asia regions showing more moderate declines of 2% and 1% respectively (Table 1). On the other hand, the Eastern Mediterranean, African, and Western Pacific regions reported increases in new cases, with the Western Pacific showing the largest increase (14%). All regions reported increases in new deaths; case incidence continues to be one of the primary drivers of mortality – where increases in the number of COVID-19 related hospitalizations and deaths follow large numbers of cases after a short time lag."</i>, worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having very high numbers of cases apart from China currently (last report published 19.01.2021). IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare designated risk areas and IATA). New categories "areas of variant of concern" and "high incidence areas" have been added: Press Headlines: Political debates about fair distribution of vaccines, discussion about corona mutations, high death rates, Homeoffice</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
01.02.2021	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: <i>"In view of persistently high case numbers, the RKI currently assesses the threat to the health of the general population to be very high."</i> WHO: <i>"Globally, 4.1 million new cases were reported in the past week, a decline of 15% from the previous week and the second week of decline after global case incidence peaked in the first week of January 2021 (Figure 1). This downward trend is largely attributed to relative reductions in case incidence in several countries that have contributed the highest numbers in recent months,</i></p>

		<p><i>but hides continued upward trends in other countries in the same regions. The ongoing and prolonged high rates of new infections continues to strain health systems in many countries around the world. All regions reported a decline in new cases except the Western Pacific Region which reported a similar incidence to last week (Table 1). The largest decrease in new cases was reported in the European Region (by 20%) followed by the African Region (decrease of 16%). The Americas and Europe reported 86% of all new cases globally in the past week.</i></p> <p><i>During the same period, around 96 000 deaths have been reported – a similar number reported as last week. The Americas and Eastern Mediterranean region reported an increase in new deaths by 4% and 3% respectively, whereas Europe, South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions showed a decrease in new deaths compared to last week. No change in new deaths was seen for the African region.”, worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having very high numbers of cases apart from China currently (last report published 27.01.2021). IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare designated risk areas and IATA). New categories “areas of variant of concern” and “high incidence areas” have been added: Press Headlines: Debates around the low number of vaccines produced, unfair sharing of vaccines between regions or countries, decreasing infection rates due to social distancing measures, short labor in Germany increased by 20% in January.</i></p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
08.02.2021	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: <i>“In view of persistently high case numbers, the RKI currently assesses the threat to the health of the general population to be very high.”</i> WHO: <i>“Globally, 3.7 million new cases were reported last week, a 13% decline as compared to the previous week, and the third consecutive week showing a decline in cases. There were 96 000 new deaths, and a 1% decline as compared to the previous week, (Figure 1). This brings the total number of cases to over 102 million and the total number of deaths to 2.2 million from 222 countries and territories. Last week, all WHO regions, except South-East Asia reported a decline in new cases (Table 1). Although new deaths declined globally by 1%, they rose in the Western Pacific (21%), Eastern Mediterranean (9%), and the Americas (4%). Saturday 30 January 2021 marked one year since WHO declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of</i></p>

		<p><i>International Concern. At that time, there were 9826 cases in 20 countries, and 213 deaths in one country (all of which were in China).</i></p> <p><i>In the past week, the five countries reporting the highest number of new cases continue to be the United States of America (1 072 287 cases, a 15% decrease), Brazil (364 593 cases, a 1% increase), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (178 629 cases, a 31% decrease), France (141 092 cases, a 2% increase) and the Russian Federation (131 039 cases, a 13% decrease).”, worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having very high numbers of cases apart from China currently (last report published 02.02.2021). IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare designated risk areas and IATA). New categories “areas of variant of concern” and “high incidence areas” have been added: Press Headlines: Discussions and debates about progress of vaccination programs and opening up lockdowns.</i></p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
15.02.2021	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: <i>“In view of persistently high case numbers, the RKI currently assesses the threat to the health of the general population to be very high.”</i> WHO: <i>“For the fourth week in a row, the number of global new cases reported fell, with 3.1 million new cases last week, a 17% decline compared to the previous week (Figure 1). This is the lowest figure since the week of 26 October (15 weeks ago). Although there are still many countries with increasing numbers of cases, at the global level, this is encouraging. The number of new deaths reported also fell for a second week in a row, with 88 000 new deaths reported last week, a 10% decline as compared to the previous week. All WHO regions reported a decline in new cases, with five out of six regions reporting more than 10% decreases (Table 1). Europe and the Region of the Americas saw the greatest drops in absolute numbers, with together nearly 0.5 million fewer new cases reported last week (153 000 and 320 000 fewer new cases reported, respectively). New deaths also declined in all regions except the Western Pacific, where mortality rates remained similar to the previous week.”</i>, worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having very high numbers of cases apart from China currently (last report published 09.02.2021). IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly</p>

		<p>increasing infection rates globally. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas.</p> <p>German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare designated risk areas and IATA). New categories “areas of variant of concern” and “high incidence areas” have been added: Press Headlines: Discussions and debates about progress of vaccination programs and opening up lockdowns.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
22.02.2021	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: <i>“In view of persistently high case numbers, the RKI currently assesses the threat to the health of the general population to be very high.”</i> WHO: <i>“The number of global new cases reported has continued to fall, with 2.7 million new cases last week, a 16% decline over 500 000 fewer new cases compared to the previous week (Figure 1). The number of new deaths reported also fell, with 81 000 new deaths reported last week, a 10% decline as compared to the previous week. A total of five out of six WHO regions reported a double-digit percentage decline in new cases (Table 1), with only the Eastern Mediterranean Region showing a 7% rise. Europe and the Americas continue to see the greatest drops in absolute numbers of cases. Meanwhile, the number of new deaths declined in all regions.”</i>, worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having very high numbers of cases apart from China currently (last report published 16.02.2021). IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally, however a declining trend is indicated. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare designated risk areas and IATA). New categories “areas of variant of concern” and “high incidence areas” have been added: Press Headlines: Discussions and debates about progress of vaccination programs and opening up lockdowns. Schools and KITAS in Germany and UK start to open again, decline of infection rates in Germany stopped.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
01.03.2021	Updated sources above	<p>RKI: <i>“In view of persistently high case numbers, the RKI currently assesses the threat to the health of the general population to be very high.”</i> WHO: <i>“The number of global new cases reported continues to fall</i></p>

		<p>for the sixth consecutive week, with 2.4 million new cases last week, a 11% decline compared to the previous week (Figure 1). The number of new deaths also continued to fall for the past three weeks, with nearly 66 000 new deaths reported last week, a 20% decline as compared to the previous week. A total of four out of six WHO regions reported declines in new cases (Table 1), with only South-East Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean regions showing a small 2% and 7% increase, respectively. The Americas continue to see the greatest drops in absolute numbers of cases. Meanwhile, the number of new deaths declined in all regions apart from the Western Pacific (6% increase).”, worldmap showing infection cases per country show all countries where GFA is active having very high numbers of cases apart from China currently (last report published 23.02.2021). IATA: Still all countries where GFA is active with totally restrictive or partly restrictive travel restrictions. John Hopkins University: Still strongly increasing infection rates globally, however a declining trend is indicated. Majority of currently active cases in Europe, India and the Americas. German Auswärtiges Amt: Travelwarning for countries showing more than 50 per 100.000 in 7 days and for countries with restrictive or partly restrictive immigration requirements (compare designated risk areas and IATA). New categories “areas of variant of concern” and “high incidence areas” have been added: Press Headlines: Discussions and debates about progress of vaccination programs, slight increase in infection rates in Germany again, discussions about third wave coming due to new mutant virus.</p> <p>General conclusion from 16.03.20 maintained. In case of mutual agreements between Certificate Holders and GFA Auditors, on-site audits may be conducted in Germany and other European countries under strict adherence to the current hygiene and behavior rules.</p>
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Risk assessment related to replacement of on-site audits by desk audits COVID 19 (China)

	Source	Risk declaration
04.02.2020	WHO Corona Virus Report 15	Very high health risk China
04.02.2020	German Auswärtiges Amt: IN_COM_China_Reise- und Sicherheitshinweise_2020_02-04_China	Travel restrictions in Wuhei, Hubei, Wenzhou, Taizhou and Hangzhou and in the province Zhejiang, other provinces, situation changes rapidly, strong travel barriers inside China
04.02.2020	Emails and further evidence provided by local partner	Strong health risk, travel barriers inside China
04.02.2020	Conclusion	As desk audits are permitted for China in case of low risk audit situations in China (FSC_DER_2020_001 30.01.2020), GFA decided to conduct low risk surveillance audits as desk audits in case health risks or travel restrictions are in place.
11.02.2020	Updated sources above	No change of situation Conclusion maintained.
18.02.2020	Updated sources above	No change of situation Conclusion maintained.
25.02.2020	Updated sources above	No change of situation Conclusion maintained.
03.03.2020	Updated sources above	No change of situation Conclusion maintained.
10.03.2020	Updated sources above	No change of general situation, local partner reported that in some provinces the situation improves gradually, some internal travel restrictions lifted. Conclusion maintained. On-site audits to be conducted where possible.
16.03.2020	Updated sources above	No change of general situation, local partner reported that in some provinces the situation improves gradually; some internal travel restrictions lifted. Conclusion maintained. On-site audits to be conducted where possible.
23.03.2020	Updated sources above	No change of general situation, local partner reported that in some provinces the situation improves gradually, regional traveling of Chinese auditors partially possible Conclusion maintained. On-site audits to be conducted where possible.
01.04.2020	Updated sources above RKI Risikobewertung 01.04.2020, https://www.china-briefing.com/new	RKI took China from the list of risk areas, John_Hopkins and international press report low new infection rates, still travel restrictions in place for some areas, many provinces put people from overseas or people coming or returning from other provinces into 7 – 14 days quarantine. General conclusion maintained. On-site audits to be conducted where possible.
07.04.2020	Updated sources above	John_Hopkins and international press report low new infection rates for China, still travel restrictions in place for some areas. Traveling in several provinces is possible, but crossing borders between provinces leads to 7-14 days quarantine. General conclusion maintained. On-site audits to be conducted where possible.

13.04.2020	Updated sources above	John_Hopkins and international press report low new infection rates for China, still travel restrictions in place for some areas. Traveling in several provinces is possible, but crossing borders between provinces leads to 7-14 days quarantine. General conclusion maintained. On-site audits to be conducted where possible.
19.04.2020	Updated sources above	John_Hopkins and international press report low new infection rates for China, still travel restrictions in place for some areas. Traveling in several provinces is possible, but crossing borders between provinces leads to 7-14 days quarantine. General conclusion maintained. On-site audits to be conducted where possible.
27.04.2020	Updated sources above	John_Hopkins and international press report low new infection rates for China, still travel restrictions in place for some areas. Traveling in several provinces is possible, but crossing borders between provinces leads to 7-14 days quarantine. General conclusion maintained. On-site audits to be conducted where possible.
04.05.2020	Updated sources above	John_Hopkins and international press report low new infection rates for China, still travel restrictions in place for some areas. Traveling in several provinces is possible, but crossing borders between provinces leads to 7-14 days quarantine. General conclusion maintained. On-site audits to be conducted where possible.
11.05.2020	Updated sources above	John_Hopkins and international press report low new infection rates for China, still travel restrictions in place for some areas. Traveling in several provinces is possible, but crossing borders between provinces leads to 7-14 days quarantine. General conclusion maintained. On-site audits to be conducted where possible.
19.05.2020	Updated sources above	John_Hopkins and international press report low new infection rates for China, still travel restrictions in place for some areas. Traveling in several provinces is possible, but crossing borders between provinces leads to 7-14 days quarantine. General conclusion maintained. On-site audits to be conducted where possible.
25.05.2020	Updated sources above	John_Hopkins and international press report low new infection rates for China, still travel restrictions in place for some areas. Traveling in several provinces is possible, but crossing borders between some few provinces still leads to 7-14 days quarantine. General conclusion maintained. On-site audits to be conducted where possible.
02.06.2020	Updated sources above	John_Hopkins and international press report low new infection rates for China, still travel restrictions in place for some areas. Traveling in several provinces is possible, but crossing borders between some few provinces still leads to 7-14 days quarantine. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
08.06.2020	Updated sources above	John_Hopkins and international press report low new infection rates for China, still travel restrictions in place for some areas. Traveling in several

		<p>provinces is possible, but crossing borders between some few provinces still leads to 7-14 days quarantine.</p> <p>On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.</p>
15.06.2020	Updated sources above	<p>John_Hopkins and international press report low new infection rates for China, still travel restrictions in place for some areas. New small corona outbreak in Beijing on a market reported, some districts in Beijing under quarantine, traveling in several provinces is possible, but crossing borders between some few provinces still leads to 7-14 days quarantine.</p> <p>On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.</p>
23.06.2020	Updated sources above	<p>John_Hopkins and international press report low new infection rates for China, still travel restrictions in place for some areas. New small corona outbreak in Beijing on a market reported, some districts in Beijing under quarantine, traveling in several provinces is possible, but crossing borders between some few provinces still leads to 7-14 days quarantine.</p> <p>On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.</p>
30.06.2020	Updated sources above	<p>John_Hopkins and international press report low new infection rates for China, still travel restrictions in place for some areas. New small corona outbreak in Beijing on a market reported, some districts in Beijing under quarantine, traveling in several provinces is possible, but crossing borders between some few provinces still leads to 7-14 days quarantine.</p> <p>On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.</p>
07.07.2020	Updated sources above	<p>John_Hopkins and international press report low new infection rates for China, still travel restrictions in place for some areas. New small corona outbreak in Beijing on a market reported, some districts in Beijing under quarantine, traveling in several provinces is possible, but crossing borders between some few provinces still leads to 7-14 days quarantine.</p> <p>On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.</p>
10.07.2020	Updated sources above	<p>John_Hopkins and international press report low new infection rates for China, still travel restrictions in place for some areas. New small corona outbreak in Beijing on a market reported, some districts in Beijing under quarantine, traveling in several provinces is possible, but crossing borders between some few provinces still leads to 7-14 days quarantine.</p> <p>On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.</p>
21.07.2020	Updated sources above	<p>John_Hopkins and international press report low new infection rates for China, still travel restrictions in place for some areas. New small corona outbreak in Beijing on a market reported, some districts in Beijing under quarantine, traveling in several provinces is possible, but crossing borders between</p>

		some few provinces still leads to 7-14 days quarantine. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
27.07.2020	Updated sources above	John_Hopkins and international press report low new infection rates for China, still travel restrictions in place for some areas. However, highest Coronavirus outbreak (61 cases) reported since beginning of control of the outbreak, traveling in several provinces is possible, but crossing borders between some few provinces still leads to 7-14 days quarantine. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
03.08.2020	Updated sources above	John_Hopkins and international press report increasing new infection rates for China exceeding more than 100 infections per day, travel restrictions are place for some areas. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
07.08.2020	Updated sources above	John_Hopkins and international press report increasing new infection rates for China exceeding more than 100 infections per day, travel restrictions are place for some areas. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
24.08.2020	Updated sources above	John_Hopkins and international press report increasing new infection rates for China exceeding more than 100 infections per day, travel restrictions are place for some areas. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
31.08.2020	Updated sources above	Situation unchanged. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
08.09.2020	Updated sources above	Situation unchanged. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
11.09.2020	Updated sources above	Situation unchanged. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
22.09.2020	Updated sources above	Situation unchanged. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
28.09.2020	Updated sources above	Situation unchanged. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
05.10.2020	Updated sources above	Situation unchanged. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
12.10.2020	Updated sources above	Situation unchanged. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
19.10.2020	Updated sources above	Situation unchanged. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
26.10.2020	Updated sources above	Situation unchanged. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
02.11.2020	Updated sources above	Situation unchanged.

		On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
09.11.2020	Updated sources above	Situation unchanged. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
16.11.2020	Updated sources above	Situation unchanged. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
23.11.2020	Updated sources above	Situation unchanged. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
30.11.2020	Updated sources above	Situation unchanged. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
07.12.2020	Updated sources above	Situation unchanged. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
14.12.2020	Updated sources above	Situation unchanged. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
21.12.2020	Updated sources above	Situation unchanged. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
28.12.2020	Updated sources above	Situation unchanged. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
05.01.2021	Updated sources above	Situation unchanged. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
12.01.2021	Updated sources above	General situation unchanged, but media and local affiliate report local lockdowns in Beijing and a nearby city. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
19.01.2021	Updated sources above	General situation unchanged, but media and local affiliate report local lockdowns in Beijing and few other cities. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
27.01.2021	Updated sources above	General situation unchanged, but media and local affiliate report local lockdowns in Beijing and few other cities. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
01.02.2021	Updated sources above	General situation unchanged, but media and local affiliate report local lockdowns in Beijing and few other cities. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
08.02.2021	Updated sources above	General situation unchanged, but media and local affiliate report local lockdowns in Beijing and few other cities. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.
15.02.2021	Updated sources above	General situation unchanged, but media and local affiliate report local lockdowns in Beijing and few other cities. On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.

22.02.2021	Updated sources above	<p>General situation unchanged, but media and local affiliate report local lockdowns in Beijing and few other cities.</p> <p>On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.</p>
01.03.2021	Updated sources above	<p>General situation unchanged, but media and local affiliate report local lockdowns in Beijing and few other cities.</p> <p>On-site audits to be conducted where possible. Each Desk Audit needs individual derogation.</p>