



December 5, 2022

The American Petroleum Institute continues to address disruptions brought on by COVID. This includes making use of virtual (remote) audits when necessary. We have shifted our audits back to onsite. We find onsite audits to be more effective and efficient for our clients and our auditors. However, we are aware that some regions in the People's Republic of China are continuing to institute mandatory shutdowns and quarantines. If your facility is located in such a region, API's preference is to conduct the audit virtually (remotely) on the dates scheduled. For this reason, we have further extended the deadline to conduct remote audits.

If your facility is affected by government mandated COVID restrictions, you may be able to hold your audit remotely **if the audit occurs prior to March 31, 2023**. Please notify your auditor as soon as possible if your facility needs to switch to a virtual audit. Please also keep the following in mind if your region is unexpectedly subject to shutdowns due to COVID:

- If you are operational and the auditor and your facility has the information and communication technology necessary to effectively conduct a remote audit, then the audit can be held remotely without prior permission from API.
- If the API auditor travels to your facility for an onsite audit and is unexpectedly subject to quarantine before and/or after the audit, hotel and meal expenses for the quarantine period will be invoiced to the facility.
- If a quarantine period runs into a national holiday, the expenses for hotel and meals will also be invoiced to the facility.

In regions where the government is taking aggressive measures to prevent COVID spread, facilities with audits pending should consider shifting their audits to virtual (remote). This will prevent API auditors from being held in quarantine, as well as prevent the need to reschedule audits.

Sincerely,

Kevin Ferrick
Senior Director, API Monogram Program /APIQR

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