Transitional Arrangements and temporary Provisional SEG Certification

Available only until 15 November 2026

Background

At the meeting of the French eel sector in Paris on 24 September 2026, SEG was asked to consider making a temporary arrangement for 'provisional' certification, to enable the three main eel traders to become SEG certified early in the 2026/27 season, as part of the transition arrangements to the new Version 8 of the SEG Standard.

This proposal, with risk mitigations, has been considered and agreed by the SEG Board.

The proposal – procedures, rules and mitigation of risks

- For the 2026/27 season only, to enable transition by all to towards the new SEG Standard (V8).
- For eel traders only.
- To develop a temporary category of 'Provisionally Certified'.
- To be offered in October 2026, for application by 31 October 2026.
- To be valid until latest 31 January 2027.
- They must apply for and have signed a contract for certification with a CAB by 15 November 2026 for audit by end December 2026.
- **Note that by this point, they will have completed a Self-Assessment and the CAB will have reviewed that Self-Assessment, so at that point, both parties will have a reasonably well informed view on whether they would achieve certification, and therefore whether 'Provisional Certification' is appropriate.**
- The 'Provisional Certification' to apply from the date that the contract is signed.
- The CAB to provide a certificate that clearly states that it is 'Provisional and Transitional' only.
- There will be some terms and conditions around that, to include that clients can only claim 'Provisional' certification (not full) and must clearly state that in their correspondence with clients (e.g. tendering for contracts).
- The intention that the CAB will do the assessment in November or December, with a decision by end of January.
- The usual certification decision is then applied, which may be 'Certified', 'Conditionally Certified' or 'Non-Compliant'.
    - If certified - all good. Now fully certified.
    - If conditional – have 3 months to make the necessary improvements – remain certified until that time – then certified if the improvements are made
    - If non-compliant, they lose the Provisional Certification, they are issued with a Corrective Action Report, and only certified when the necessary improvements have been made.
- Returns to 'normal' for the 2027/28 season – from 1 February 2027.
- The applicant will need to make a risk management plan in case they do not pass the audit and certification is not granted, and eel has been sold as provisionally certified by the company. Batches would have to be marked 'Provisionally Certified'. If the company passes certification – those batches can be re-labelled as Certified. If they don't pass – the label of Provisional would have to be changed to Uncertified. **There would therefore be a risk for clients buying Provisionally Certified eel.**