

ISSF Conservation Measure 9.2: FAQs

Does CM 9.2 mean that companies “check the box” on social responsibility once an audit is completed?

No. [CM 9.2](#) explicitly requires [Participating Companies](#) not only to conduct third-party labor [audits](#) but also to maintain the audits’ ongoing validity. This reflects ISSF’s expectation that addressing social and labor risks is a continuous responsibility. CM 9.2, together with [CM 9.1](#), establishes a framework for ongoing engagement, transparency, and improvement — not a one-time or static requirement.

By requiring companies to maintain the ongoing validity of audits under the selected program, CM 9.2 establishes a common expectation that social and labor risks must be continually assessed and addressed over time, not simply documented once. This approach reinforces that CM 9.2, like CM 9.1, is intended to support continued industry engagement and improvement, rather than provide a one-time “pass” on social responsibility.

What does it mean to “maintain the ongoing validity of those audits” under CM 9.2?

CM 9.2 requires Participating Companies not only to complete third-party labor audits at applicable land-based tuna production facilities but also to maintain those audits in accordance with the requirements of the recognized audit program used.

Different third-party audit schemes have different rules regarding audit frequency, follow-up audits, corrective action plans, and remediation timelines. By requiring companies to maintain the audit’s ongoing validity, CM 9.2 makes clear that companies must adhere to the full set of requirements of the chosen audit program, including any required repeat audits or remediation actions, rather than treating the audit as a one-time exercise.

Why is ISSF only addressing land-based facilities and not vessels?

ISSF’s approach to social and labor responsibility spans both vessel operations and land-based activities. CM 9.1 requires ISSF Participating Companies to maintain and publicly disclose a policy on social and labor standards that applies across their operations, including fishing vessels.

CM 9.2 is intentionally scoped to land-based tuna production facilities, where credible, globally recognized third-party labor audit programs already exist. ISSF Conservation Measures are designed to be specific, auditable, and implementable, and this measure strengthens accountability through independent verification where robust audit tools are currently available.

Together, CM 9.1 and CM 9.2 establish a complementary framework — combining policy expectations across company operations, including vessels, with clear, auditable verification requirements at company-owned or controlled land-based facilities.

Why rely on social audits when their limitations are well documented?

ISSF recognizes that no single tool addresses all social-responsibility risks. CM 9.2 does not claim that audits alone are sufficient. It establishes a verifiable baseline expectation using recognized audit frameworks — strengthening transparency and accountability while complementing other due-diligence approaches used by companies, regulators, and buyers.

Why allow multiple audit schemes instead of requiring one standard?

CM 9.2 aligns with established, internationally recognized audit programs, including those recognized by the Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative (SSCI). This approach acknowledges these existing standards promoting credibility and consistency while allowing for regional and operational realities.

Why does the measure only apply to company-owned or controlled facilities?

CM 9.2 applies where Participating Companies have direct ownership or control, ensuring accountability where companies have clear authority to require audits and maintain their validity.

Why is ISSF announcing CM 9.2 now? Is it related to compliance reporting delays?

CM 9.2 was adopted in November 2025 as a new, forward-looking Conservation Measure. It does not relate to or affect compliance assessments for prior audit periods and could not appear in any previous or imminent compliance report. ISSF is announcing it now to ensure transparency and to provide early clarity regarding future expectations.

Does CM 9.2 indicate problems with existing social-responsibility requirements?

No. CM 9.2 builds on ISSF’s existing CM 9.1 - Public Policy on Social and Labor Standards by strengthening implementation and verification. ISSF Conservation Measures are periodically reviewed and refined to reflect evolving best practices and implementation experience.

Is ISSF moving into labor governance or certification?

No. ISSF does not set labor standards, conduct audits, or certify facilities. CM 9.2 integrates existing global audit frameworks into ISSF’s established conservation-measure compliance system.

Why is the compliance deadline not sooner than 2027?

The timeline reflects the scale and diversity of global land-based operations, ownership structures, and existing ISSF audit cycles. It is designed to support credible, verifiable implementation, and applies both to existing facilities and future acquisitions.

Why not wait to announce CM 9.2 alongside the next compliance report?

ISSF announces Conservation Measures when they are adopted to support predictability and effective implementation. CM 9.2 has a multi-year implementation timeline, and early communication allows companies to plan accordingly.

Does CM 9.2 indicate a problem with current compliance?

CM 9.2 reflects ISSF's routine process of reviewing and refining Conservation Measures over time to strengthen clarity and verification as best practices evolve.

Does CM 9.2 apply to fishing vessels?

No. CM 9.2 applies only to land-based tuna production facilities owned or controlled by ISSF Participating Companies.