

**Why is Global Seafood Alliance (GSA) conducting unannounced audits?** This is a requirement set forth by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), so we are conducting unannounced audits to remain in compliance with their benchmarking requirements.

**What facilities must have unannounced audits?** This is only applicable to facilities who are getting certified to the Seafood Processing Standard (SPS) audit (processors and reprocessors). This does not apply to farms, hatcheries, and feed mills.

**Does an unannounced audit replace a normal annual audit?** Yes, an unannounced audit counts as an annual SPS audit.

**How often do I need an unannounced audit?** Unannounced audits are required to occur once every three years.

**During the application process, how do I ensure I receive an unannounced audit?**

At this time, there is an 'Unannounced Audit' field where an applicant selects 'Yes' to participate in an unannounced audit (located in the 'Audit Details' section, under the primary and secondary contact information).

**How do you choose the time the auditor comes into the facility?** The certification body (CB) will contact the facility prior to the audit and provide a 60-day window during which the auditor will show up. After receiving the notice from the CB, the facility has 10 days to inform the CB if they have a request for a blackout period during which they would not be able to be audited.

**How long is the blackout period?** The blackout period is 10 business (working) days. An unannounced audit will not occur on weekends. These do not need to be consecutive days.

**Can the facility choose their certification body (CB)?** GSA will do its best to accommodate preferences for CBs, however we cannot guarantee that the preferred CB will be selected to perform the audit.

**If I'm getting an Enhanced Social Accountability audit, would that be part of the unannounced audit?** Yes, this would be a part of the unannounced audit.

**Is there any additional cost for an unannounced audit?** No, there is no additional cost for unannounced audits (with the exception of the additional cost for Enhanced Social Accountability audits).

**What if I am grouping multiple audits together (farm/hatchery/feed mill with plant audit)?**

You can group multiple audits together when the unannounced audit is planned. However, the additional audits will also be unannounced.

**Will my certificate show I had an unannounced audit?** Yes, on the certificate there will be a box checked off indicating that there was an unannounced audit.