



REGENERATIVE VITICULTURE ASSOCIATION		
PROCEDURE FOR SUSPENSION AND WITHDRAWAL OF CERTIFICATE		
Version: 1	Updated: 26/07/2022	



**PROCEDURE FOR SUSPENSION AND
WITHDRAWAL OF THE CERTIFICATE AND/OR
SEAL OF REGENERATIVE VITICULTURE
ALLIANCE CERTIFICATION**

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1. OBJECTIVE

This procedure establishes the conditions to proceed to temporarily suspend or definitively withdraw the certificate and/or seal of the Regenerative Viticulture Association (RVA), as well as the procedures and deadlines for filing the corresponding appeals by the interested parties.

2. SUSPENSION AND WITHDRAWAL OF CERTIFICATION

Non-compliance by the associate with the obligations derived from the regenerative viticulture standard will give rise to the following penalty measures depending on their seriousness:

2.1 Temporary suspension of the Certificate / Seal


Causes:

Suspension shall be agreed for any of the following causes:

- Non-compliance with critical requirements / KO of the standard.
- Serious or repeated non-compliance with points of the standard that affect the results of the certified activity or call into question that the evaluation activity is adequately executed over time.
- Manipulation, falsification or concealment of information provided during certification maintenance activities (for example, records that serve as a basis for demonstrating compliance with the requirements of the standard, etc.).
- Failure to resolve nonconformities pending from previous audits within the established timeframe.

Consequences of suspension:

- The certificate and/or seal will not be valid during the suspension.
- The associate may not advertise with references to the certification and the seal during the time the suspension is in place.

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- The RVA shall inform all those who request it that the certificate and/or seal are suspended (consider the possibility of announcing this in a section of the WEBSITE).


Notification of the suspension:

The decision to temporarily suspend a certificate and/or seal shall be notified to the associate by means of a notice, which includes:

- A description of the situation, argumentation and reference to objective evidence that has motivated the suspension.
- Start date of the suspension: generally from the date the notification is received, indicating that the certificate is not valid during the suspension period.
- The right to appeal this decision; the period granted for appeal shall be 30 working days from receipt of the notification.
- The conditions and due date of the corrective actions requested to revoke the suspension, and the consequences if the actions are not satisfactorily completed.
- The system by which the certifier will follow up and verify that the conditions have been met and the necessary corrective actions have been implemented (Extraordinary Audit, via the App, etc.).

Lifting of temporary suspension

- Once the reasons for the suspension have been resolved, the associate shall request verification and lifting of the suspension to the RVA Board of Directors within a maximum period of 3 months.
- In the event that the suspension of the certificate and/or seal is due to non-compliance of KO in follow-up audits, the associate shall request the lifting

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of the suspension within a maximum period of one year from the date of suspension.

- The certifier body shall verify, either by means of an extraordinary audit or by verifying the actions recorded in the APP, that the conditions are met and that the requested corrective actions are in place.

Depending on this evaluation the RVA board may:

- Report a positive result, revoke the suspension and declare the certificate and seal as valid.
- Report that the result is negative due to the non-resolution of the issues that gave rise to the suspension. This situation will result in the permanent withdrawal of the certificate and seal.
- In both cases, the associate will receive a letter confirming the result.


2.2 Withdrawal of Certificate/Seal

Withdrawal will result in the cancellation of the certificate and the use of the seal by the affected associates.

This withdrawal shall be agreed upon by the RVA Board of Directors in the event of repeated very serious or serious non-compliance or failure to resolve the causes that gave rise to the suspension.

Withdrawal may also be agreed upon if the actions of the associates might jeopardize the credibility, reputation or prestige of the RVA.

Consequences of withdrawal

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- The associate may not make use of the seal under any circumstance, nor rely on the fact of having been previously certified to carry out activities included in the Regenerative Viticulture certification.

Notification of withdrawal:

The RVA Board of Directors shall formally communicate the decision to withdraw the certificate and/or seal to the associate, including the following requirements:

- Cease using the seal and any other reference to the regenerative viticulture certification
- Effective date of withdrawal, usually from the date the notice is received.

2.3 Non-issuance of the certificate/Seal

In those cases in which, in a first transition audit, the critical criteria or KO defined in the standard are not met, the regenerative viticulture certificate will not be issued; and the associate may request a new audit after one year.

3. APPEALS

Those affected may file appeals against decisions not to grant, suspend or withdraw certification before the RVA Board of Directors.

Appeals shall be filed within a maximum period of 30 working days from the entry into force of the appealed decision.

The appeal is registered by means of a form (Annex I) and the board will select an independent body that has not been involved in the process of managing the appeal, which will be responsible for assessing the documentation provided by both parties. The result of this assessment will be communicated to the RVA


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Board of Directors, which will notify the interested party of the resolution of the appeal.

ANNEX I

Case no:

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE REGENERATIVE VITICULTURE ASSOCIATION

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Mr. _____, of legal age, resident in a street belonging to the locality of _____, holder of N.I.F _____ as prescribed, **STATES:**

1.- That in relation to the suspension of the certificate granted by the Regenerative Viticulture Association

2.- That by means of the present document I have come to appear in the above-mentioned case, by expressing in my defense the pertinent

REPRESENTATIONS

One.-

Two.-

Three.-

By virtue of the above,

I REQUEST.- Considering that the present document (and, if applicable, the documents accompanying the claim) has been presented in the case at hand, the pertinent representations be deemed to have been filed, in due time and form, and, by virtue thereof, the case be reviewed by an independent body in order to resolve these proceedings.

In Sant Martí Sarroca, on _ __ 2022