Virtual Audit Policy

- **Excellence Through Stewardship and Plant Breeding Innovation Management Virtual Audit Policy**
  - The following slides contain the official ETS/PBI Virtual Audit Policy and can help a member understand when a virtual audit may be conducted.
  - As always, please direct any questions to GSG staff.

When are Virtual ETS/PBI Audits Permitted?

- **Policy 1:** As always, the health and safety of employees at our member organizations and of our auditor partners is of utmost concern to our organization. Therefore, when health and safety is at issue, all audits may be conducted virtually.

  – Under Principle 1, virtual audits may be conducted for every module and applicable operations of the ETS/PBI Program.

	Stewardship
	Maintaining Plant Product Integrity
	- Laboratory -
	- Containment Facility -
	- Confined Field Trials -
	- Plant and Seed Production -
	- Commercial Plant and Seed Distribution -
	Product Launch
	Product Discontinuation
	Incident Response Management
	Insect Resistance Management

Permitted	Partial	Not Permitted

When are Virtual ETS/PBI Audits Permitted?

- **Policy 2:** If health and safety are not at issue, a virtual audit may be conducted when:
  - I. A member has successfully completed a Global Stewardship Audit **before**
  - II. and the current audit is:
    - **a.** of modules primarily concerned with headquarter or office operations (General Stewardship, Incident Response Management).
    - **b.** of modules that may include partial headquarter or office operations and thus may be completed virtually with respect to the headquarter or office operations portion. (Product Launch, Product Discontinuation, Insect Resistance Management).
  - – Audits that fall under Maintaining Plant Product Integrity and are therefore associated with physical operations may not be conducted virtually unless GSG gives permission.

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	Product Discontinuation
	Incident Response Management
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Plant Breeding
INNOVATION
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

excellence through
STEWARDSHIP

When are Virtual ETS/PBI Audits Permitted?

Examples of valid use of Policy 1

a) An epidemic in the audit location or location where auditor is based.

b) Acts of God, such as severe acts of nature or weather events including floods, fires, earthquakes, hurricanes, or explosions in audit location.

c) A war in the location of the audit.

d) When there are concerns regarding the personal safety of staff.

Examples of valid use of Policy 2

a) Conducting an audit of the stewardship module virtually where evidence can be transmitted electronically.

b) The audit of legal/contract documentation via computer for part of the IRM Module.

*These are merely examples for high level guidance only. Delaying an audit might provide a solution. Please contact GSG for explanations on specific qualifying events.