

# Transition Guidance for Version 2.1 of the MarinTrust Chain of Custody Standard

## About this document

The MarinTrust Chain of Custody Standard Version 2.1, issued **February 2026** following the EA accreditation evaluation process, will be effective from **1st May 2026** and will replace V2.0 issued in August 2020.

Further background information on the [accreditation process](#) and resulting version change are outlined on the [MarinTrust website](#).

This document is intended to help current certificate holders, new applicants, Certification Bodies (CBs), and other interested stakeholders and parties, understand the review and transition period from Version 2.0 to Version 2.1 of the MarinTrust Chain of Custody Standard, Version 2.1.

## When will these changes come into effect?

Changes introduced in the revised Chain of Custody Standard, Version 2.1 are minor, (as detailed in the **Overview of Changes**), therefore a short review period of **one-month** will apply from **1st April 2026**. This period allows currently certified facilities and new applicants to **review and understand the revisions** before certification activities against the revised Version 2.1 begin.

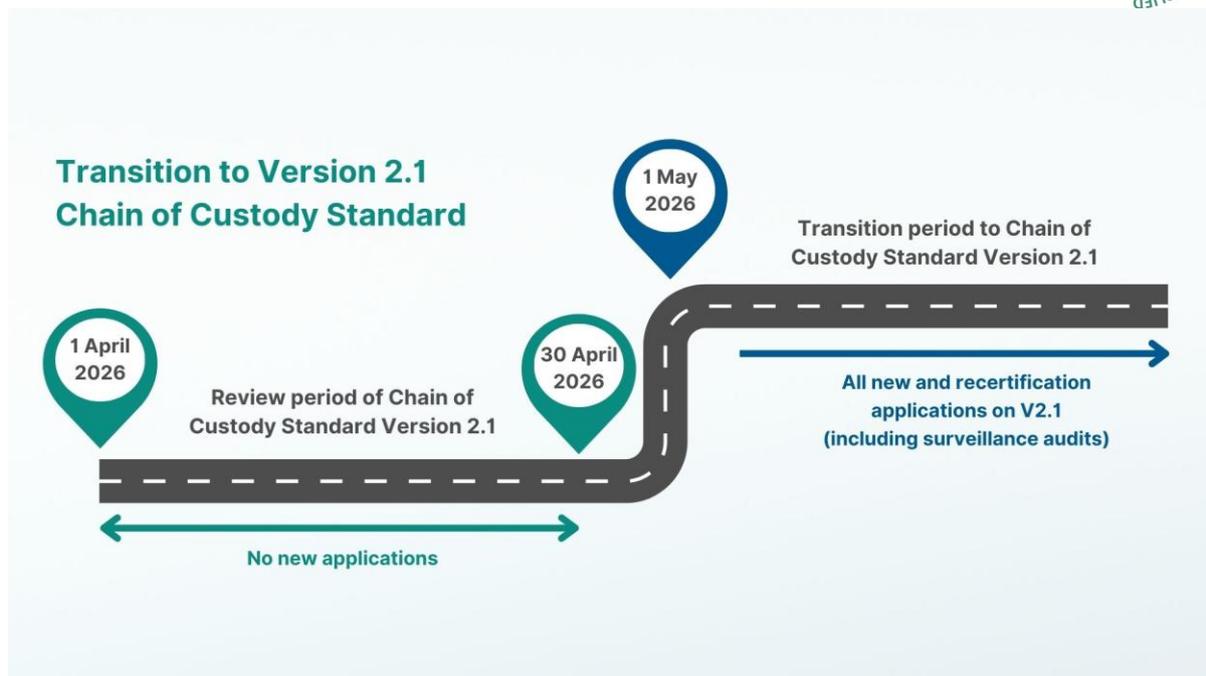
No certification activities will be conducted against Version 2.1 during this period.

## Transition plan

### Transition period - from 1st May 2026

Certification activities against the revised Chain of Custody Standard V2.1 will begin from **1st May 2026**.

From **1st May 2026** onwards, all new applications, recertification applications and surveillance audits **must** be submitted and conducted against the revised Chain of Custody Standard, Version 2.1.



### Current certificate holders

#### Recertification:

If you are a certificate holder due for recertification, all applications submitted on or after **1<sup>st</sup> May 2026** must be against Version 2.1 of the Chain of Custody Standard.

As recertification applications must be submitted six months prior to the certificate expiry date, in line with procedures, current certificate holders will have the entire period from the review period through to their scheduled audit date to understand and implement the required changes. This provides more than sufficient time to align with the updated requirements and maintain continuity of certification.

Current certificate holders who submitted their Chain of Custody recertification application against V2.0 before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 may:

- be audited against Version 2.0 after the 1<sup>st</sup> May effective date\*, or
- opt to transition to Version 2.1 for their upcoming recertification audit (please see additional guidance below for further details).

\*Where the recertification audit is against Version 2.0, the subsequent annual surveillance audit must be conducted against the revised Version 2.1.

#### Surveillance:

If you are a current certificate holder due for a surveillance audit, all audits scheduled on or after **1<sup>st</sup> May 2026** must be conducted against Version 2.1 of the Chain of Custody Standard.

Those due surveillance audits during this period must submit a [declaration form](#) to confirm their acknowledgement that the audit will follow Version 2.1.

Certificate holders due for surveillance audits from **1<sup>st</sup> May 2026** will have the entire period from the review period through to their scheduled audit date to understand and implement the revisions, providing more than sufficient time to align with the updated requirements.

### New applicants

All new applicants who submit an application to the Chain of Custody Standard on or after **1<sup>st</sup> May 2026** shall be required to undergo audits against the revised Version 2.1.

New applicants may use the review period to their scheduled initial audit to review the revisions and prepare for the audit, providing ample time to implement any necessary changes.

From **1<sup>st</sup> April 2026**, applications to Version 2.0 of the Chain of Custody Standard will **not** be permitted.

From **1<sup>st</sup> May 2026**, MarinTrust will accept new applications against the revised Version 2.1 of the Chain of Custody Standard. These applications will be shared with the applicant's chosen approved Certification Body to conduct an audit of the facility(ies) to the requirements of this revised version of the Chain of Custody Standard.

New applicants who submitted their Chain of Custody application against V2.0 before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 may:

- be audited against Version 2.0 after the 1<sup>st</sup> May effective date\*, or
- opt to transition to Version 2.1 for their upcoming initial audit (see additional guidance below).

\*Where the recertification audit is against Version 2.0, the subsequent annual surveillance audit must be conducted against the revised Version 2.1.

### Additional guidance

Chain of Custody Standard V2.1 introduces only minor changes aimed at improving clarity and practicality for applicants and certificate holders. As the revisions are designed to make the Standard easier to interpret and apply, applicants and certificate holders may benefit from adopting Version 2.1.

Therefore, new applicants and current certificate holders due recertification who have already submitted applications against V2.0 prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026, may request that their upcoming audit be conducted against V2.1.

To support this without the need to complete a new application, a [declaration form](#) may be submitted to confirm that the existing application on file should be applied to Version 2.1.

## Overview of changes

Changes made to the revised Chain of Custody Standard, Version 2.1 are very minor, resulting from the accreditation and EA harmonisation process.

The more noteworthy changes relate to:

- **Improved readability, consistency and accuracy of terminology throughout**
- **Derogations removed from clauses**
- **Data submission timeframe requirement extended**

For further detailed information, please refer to the changes summary table provided within the Chain of Custody Standard V2.1.

**Table 1** below outlines the noteworthy changes in the revised Standard that are most relevant to new applicants and certificate holders, together with their practical implications, to support understanding, effective implementation, and the achievement and maintenance of certification.

**Table 1: noteworthy changes and their implications**

Change	What this change means
Improving readability consistency and accuracy of terminology	CoC V2.1 has been revised with numerous edits to improve language, consistency, accuracy and ensure alignment with ISO terminology and clarity. These have not affected the original intent of the clauses of the Standard, merely improved the supporting information <i>i.e. relating to full conformity and additional notes</i> .
Derogations removed from clauses	Version 2.0 included derogations under clauses <b>1.3.1.1</b> and <b>2.4</b> , allowing applicants and certificate holders up to three years to achieve full compliance and supporting industry adaptation.  With the completion of this adaptation period, and following feedback from the accreditation process, these derogations have been removed. Full compliance is now required for all applicants and certificate holders to achieve and maintain certification.
Frequency of data reporting requirements	Clause 2.4 previously required data to be submitted to MarinTrust on a quarterly basis. This requirement has been revised to an annual submission, which, together with the newly implemented data request system, makes compliance simpler for applicants and certificate holders. Further information and guidance regarding the submission of data during the transition will be communicated directly with applicants and certificate holders and made available on the MarinTrust website in due course.

## Disclaimer

This transitional support document is intended as guidance only. Following this document is not a fully comprehensive way of preparing for an audit against the revised version of the MarinTrust Chain of Custody Standard 2.1. MarinTrust advises that, in addition, all new applicants and current certificate holders read the revised Standard in full and evaluate the updated requirements specific to your company. If you are unsure of any details on any of the subjects covered, please consult the relevant Standard documents or contact the MarinTrust team at [standards@marin-trust.com](mailto:standards@marin-trust.com).  
<mailto:standards@marin-trust.com>