

To all accredited and applicant CBs for the FSM scheme
Att.: Scheme managers
Your email

Our ref.: DC2014UTD117

Milan, 2014-10-13

Re: **ACCREDIA Department of Certification and Inspection – Circular N° 15/2014
Provisions for the transition of the accreditation of CBs certifying Food Safety Management Systems – FSM scheme – from the International Technical Standard ISO/TS 22003:2007 to ISO/TS 22003:2013**

On December 15, 2013 the standard ISO/TS 22003:2013, *Food safety management systems — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems* was published, applicable to CABs providing certification of Food Safety Management Systems.

The standard ISO/TS 22003:2013, replaces ISO/TS 22003:2007 which has been withdrawn but continues to be valid during the transition period.

In accordance with IAF ID 8:2014 Issue 1 of July 9, 2014 “Informative Document for the transition of Food Safety Management System Accreditation to ISO/TS 22003:2013 from ISO/TS 22003:2007” (available on the website www.iaf.nu for further details) and with IAF Resolution 2013-14, adopted by the IAF General Assembly in Seoul on October 23, 2013, the transition period will last for three years from the date of publication.

Therefore, by December 15, 2016, all accreditation certificates issued in accordance with ISO/IEC 17021 and ISO/TS 22003:2007 shall be modified in conformity with the new standard ISO/TS 22003:2013.

New applications for accreditation

From December 15, 2014, ACCREDIA will not accept any new application for accreditation regarding certification schemes for food safety management systems (see EA 3/11:2009 “Scope of Accreditation Food Safety Management Systems”, available on www.european-accreditation.org) in accordance with the standards ISO/IEC 17021 and ISO/TS 22003:2007.

From December 15, 2014, ACCREDIA will issue new accreditations only in accordance with the standards ISO/IEC 17021 and ISO/TS 22003:2013.

New applications for the extension of existing accreditations

From December 15, 2015, ACCREDIA will not accept new applications for the extension of accreditation regarding certification schemes for food safety management systems (see EA 3/11:2009 “Scope of Accreditation Food Safety Management Systems”), in accordance with the standards ISO/IEC 17021 and ISO/TS 22003:2007.

From December 15, 2015, ACCREDIA will only issue extension of accreditation in accordance with the standards ISO/IEC 17021 and ISO/TS 22003:2013.

Accredited bodies – management of the transition

All bodies already possessing accreditation in accordance with ISO/IEC 17021 and ISO/TS 22003:2007 will have to prepare a transition plan to define the necessary modifications to conform with the new standard. The plan shall include at least the following elements:

- a summary of the modifications that the CB which it intends to make (or has made) to the management system,
- the list of documents of the CAB's management system which it intends to modify (or has modified),
- the resources dedicated,
- the modifications which may impact existing certification contracts,
- staff training activities (operative staff, auditors, Decision-taking personnel, Committee for safeguarding impartiality),
- timeframe for the completion of every identified action to achieve conformity with the new standard.

The transition plan shall be made available to ACCREDIA by April 30, 2015. ACCREDIA will verify that the plan has been respected during the first due assessment at the CAB's offices for the FSM scheme, carried out after April 30, 2015.

From September 15, 2015, all assessments for the FSM scheme will be carried out in accordance with the new standard.

Unless explicitly requested, ACCREDIA will assess the conformance to the new standard during the surveillance and renewal audits, programmed as part of the due surveillance accreditation plan.

Any nonconformities raised against the new standard shall be closed effectively before accreditation in accordance with ISO/TS 22003:2013 can be granted, and therefore by December 15, 2016. Closure of any other finding raised will be verified in accordance with ACCREDIA regulation RG-01 at the time of the subsequent due assessment at the CAB's offices for the FSM scheme, which may also be performed after the granting of accreditation in accordance with ISO/IEC 17021 and ISO/TS 22003:2013.

ACCREDIA intends to avoid any increase in costs for CABs, owing to transition to the new standard, except in special cases concerning situations of persistent nonconformity with the standard, requiring supplementary (and/or special) assessment activities. The costs for any supplementary (and/or special) assessment activity will be communicated and met by the CAB, as of the normal procedures.

In cases of specific requests by the CB (e.g. request of anticipating the completion of the transition) which imply additional assessment activities not included in the surveillance accreditation plan, a quotation for the additional costs will be submitted for acceptance to the CAB.

From December 15, 2016, all accreditations issued in accordance with the standards ISO/IEC 17021 and ISO/TS 22003:2007 will be withdrawn.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any clarification.

With best regards,

Dott. Emanuele RIVA
Director of the Dept. of Certification and Inspection

