

To all accredited and applicant Certification Bodies for the scheme FSM - FSSC 22000

*Att.: Scheme managers
To Associations of conformity assessment bodies*

**Subject: Department of Certification and Inspection - Circular N° 13/2019
Dispositions regarding the transition of the accreditations of Certification Bodies (CBs) providing certification according to the certification scheme FSSC 22000**

Dear Sirs,

we remind you that in May 2019, revision 5 of the standard FSSC 22000 was published, which replaced the previous version 4.1.

In accordance with the provisions of the scheme, starting from 1 January 2020, the activities must be carried out only with reference to the new version of the standard.

After 29 June 2021, the accredited certifications issued against the previous version 4.1 will no longer be valid.

CBs already holding accreditation – management of the transition

All CBs already accredited against version 4.1 of the scheme in question shall evaluate the modifications contained in the new version 5 and implement them as part of their internal management.

When the above activities have been completed – to be performed within December 31, 2019 – in accordance with the policy established by the scheme owner "Requirements for the FSSC 22000 V5 upgrade process" version 3 of May 2019, CBs shall formalize to ACCREDIA the request for transition to the new version of the scheme, sending at least the following evidences:

- Gap analysis regarding implementation of the new version of the scheme in the CB's management system;
- Training plan and evidence of training of all personnel involved in the certification process and evidence of re-qualification of the auditors against the new version 5 of the FSSC 22000 scheme, including ISO 22000:2018;
- Performance of at least one internal audit during which implementation is verified, in the CB's management system, of the new version, and that organizations certified against the new version of the scheme have been informed and that training of all the relevant personnel of the CB has been conducted;
- Corrective action plan which identifies all the areas requiring modifications/integrations or the implementation of corrective actions to adapt to the new version. Such activities shall be completed by December 31, 2019.

ACCREDIA shall perform a document review lasting 0.5 man-days of the evidences sent, the cost of which is met by the CB. This assessment may be conducted off-site or during a visit at the CB's premises.

The outcome of the document review is communicated to the CB for the implementation of any necessary integrations/modifications/corrections to the evidences sent.

ACCREDIA reserves the right to undertake any subsequent on-site verifications, further to the document review, if this is considered necessary.

The CB is authorized to issue certificates against the version 5 of the standard with reference to accreditation only after a positive decision of the competent Sector Accreditation Committee.

The effectiveness of the modifications introduced shall be evaluated during the ordinary surveillance on-site activities conducted by ACCREDIA.

From January 1, 2020 all accreditations issued against version 4.1, in the absence of evidence of implementation of the version 5, shall be withdrawn.

New applications for accreditation

From July 1, 2019 ACCREDIA will not accept new applications for accreditation against the version 4.1 of the scheme in question.

New applications for the extension of accreditations already granted

From July 1, 2019 ACCREDIA will accept new applications for accreditation only against the version 5 of the scheme in question.

We are available for any clarifications.

Kind regards,

Mariagrazia L Lanzanova
Vice Director Department
Certification and Inspection

