

Prot. DC2019OC023eng

Milano, 05/12/2019

To all accredited and applicant Certification Bodies for the PRD scheme

Att: Scheme managers

To Associations of conformity assessment bodies

**Subject: ACCREDIA Department of Certification and Inspection - Circular N° 19/2019
Dispositions regarding the transition of the accreditations of Certification Bodies (CBs) providing certification according to the certification scheme BRC Global Standard Packaging and Packaging Materials**

Dear Sirs,

we remind you that in August 2019, revision 6 of the standard BRC Global Standard Packaging and Packaging Materials was published, which replaced the previous version 5.

The objective of the new version is to direct the focus of the audit towards the implementation of good manufacturing practices within the production areas while recognizing the diversity and breadth of the packaging industry, and the skills required to audit it.

After 1 February 2020, the new version 6 will be mandatory.

Certification activity

In accordance with the provision of the scheme owner, from 1 February 2020 only audit for the new version 6 will be acceptable.

New applications for accreditation

From the issue date of this document, ACCREDIA will not accept new applications for accreditation against version 5 of the scheme in question.

New applications for the extension of accreditations already granted

From the issue date of this document, ACCREDIA will accept new applications for accreditation only against version 6 of the scheme in question.

CBs already holding accreditation – management of the transition

All CBs already accredited against version 5 of the scheme in question shall evaluate the modifications contained in the new version 6 and implement them as part of their internal management.

When the above activities have been completed, 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;
- Indication of the documental updates carried out and the modules resulting from the modifications;
- Evidence of training of all personnel involved in the certification process and evidence of re-qualification of the auditors against the new version;

- Communication to the certified companies regarding the new aspects in the new version of the standard and of the policy defined for management of the transition.

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 version 6 of the standard with reference to accreditation only after a positive decision of the competent Sector Accreditation Committee.

The evaluation of the modifications introduced and the correct implementation shall be evaluated during the normal surveillance activities conducted by ACCREDIA.

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

We are available for any clarifications.

Kind regards,

Mariagrazia L Lanzanova
Vice Director Department
Certification and Inspection

