

Prot. DC2020SPM276

Milano, 28/10/2020

To all accredited and applicant Certification Bodies for the PRD scheme

Scheme managers

To Associations of conformity assessment bodies

**Subject: ACCREDIA Department of Certification and Inspection - Circular N° 20/2020
Dispositions regarding the transition of the accreditations of Certification Bodies (CBs) providing certification according to the certification scheme IFS FOOD**

Dear Sirs,

we remind you that on 07th October 2020, revision 7 of the standard IFS FOOD was published, which replaced the previous version 6.1.

The new version of this standard sets several objectives including: clarification of the expectations that arise from conducting IFS audits, creation of a new structure that facilitates work with the standard, requirements more prescriptive, more emphasis on the on-site evaluation and less on documentation, alignment of the checklist with the GFSI Benchmarking Requirements version 2020.1, FSMA, and EU regulations.

After 1 July 2021, the new version 7 will be mandatory.

Certification activity

In accordance with the provision of the scheme owner, from March 1, 2021 it will be possible to start offering certification activities against version 7.

From 1 July 2021 only audits for the new version 7 will be acceptable.

The audits against version 6.1, after the deadline of 1 July 2021, will be allowed only for exceptional cases identified by the scheme owner and mentioned in the document 'Newsletter for food industry - October 2020', available at the following link: https://www.ifs-certification.com/images/news/newsletter/documents/Newsletter_IFS_FOOD_V7_industry.pdf.

For these exceptional cases, the implementation of the version 7 will become mandatory within 30th June 2022.

New applications for accreditation

From 1 March 2021, ACCREDIA will accept new applications for accreditation only against version 7 of the scheme in question.

New applications for the extension of accreditations already granted

From 1 March 2021, ACCREDIA will accept new applications for the extension of the accreditation only against version 7 of the scheme in question.

CBs already holding accreditation – management of the transition

All CBs already accredited against version 6.1 of the scheme in question shall evaluate the modifications contained in the new version 7 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.
- Identification of the exceptional situations as defined by IFS, specifying times and ways of management.

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 7 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 July 1, 2021 all accreditations issued against version 6.1, in the absence of evidence of implementation, shall be withdrawn.

We are available for any clarifications.

Kind regards,

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