

INFORMATIVE CIRCULAR Ref. DC2021OC039

DATE Milan, 26-02-2021

To all accredited and applicant Certification Bodies for the FSM scheme

To Associations of conformity assessment bodies

SUBJECT **Certification and Inspection Department**

Informative circular DC N° 07/2021 - 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 November 2020, revision 5.1 of the standard FSSC 22000 was published, which replaced the previous version 5.

The main reasons for an updated version are compliance with the latest benchmarking requirements of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI - versione 2020.1) and strengthened requirements for Certification Body performance as part of continuous improvement.

After 1 April 2021, the new version 5.1 will be mandatory.

Certification activity

In accordance with the provision of the scheme owner, published with the document "Requirements V5.1 upgrade process" of December 2020, only from April 1, 2021 it will be possible to start offering certification activities against version 5.1. Up to this date then it will be possible to carry out certification activities only against version 5.

Is not required for CBs to update the FSSC 22000 Version 5 certificates of the certified organizations as the upgrade to Version 5.1 is a sub-version change and not a full version update. Version 5.1 shall be referenced in the audit report, audit plan, audit program and in the FSSC portal.

New applications for accreditation

From 1 March 2021, ACCREDIA will accept new applications for accreditation only against version 5.1 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 5.1 of the scheme in question.

CBs already holding accreditation – management of the transition

In accordance with the provision of the scheme owner, all CBs already accredited against version 5, shall send to ACCREDIA, by March 1, 2021, a self-declaration with specific reference to the information contained in § 2.2.2 of the document "Requirements V5.1 upgrade process" of December 2020:

- Inclusion of all FSSC 22000 Scheme V5.1 requirements in the CB management system with particular attention on transition process requirements;
- Information to certified organizations about FSSC 22000 Scheme V5.1;
- Training plan for all CB personnel involved in the certification process and FSSC 22000 auditors. All training shall be completed by 1 April 2021 and before conducting any audit activities to V5.1;
- Statement of management commitment confirming the CB is ready for and in compliance with FSSC 22000 Scheme V5.1 requirements based on an internal self-assessment. The CBs self-assessment to Version 5.1 shall be submitted to the AB along with the self-declaration.

ACCREDIA will evaluate the contents of the self-declaration and self-assessment and, once individual reviews have been satisfactorily completed, a confirmation will be conveyed to the respective accredited Certification Body.

In accordance with the provisions of the document "Requirements V5.1 upgrade process" of December 2020, in § 3, ACCREDIA will also be required to communicate the results of this review to the Scheme Owner.

Since the changes introduced with the new version are minor, it will not be necessary to update the accreditation certificate.

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

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

We are available for any clarifications.

Kind regards

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Vice Director Department
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