

To all accredited and applicant Certification Bodies for the PRD scheme

Scheme managers

To Associations of conformity assessment bodies

Loro sedi

**SUBJECT**                    **Certification and Inspection Department**

**Informative circular DC N° 15/2021 - Dispositions regarding the transition of the accreditations of Certification Bodies (CBs) providing certification according to the certification scheme BRC Global Standard Storage and Distribution**

Dear Sirs,

we remind you that in November 2021, version 4 of the Standard BRC Global Standard Storage and Distribution was published, which replaced the previous version 3.

The focus of the new version is including industry best practice by encouraging the development of a product safety culture; increasing emphasis on continual improvement by enhancing root cause analysis and internal audit requirements; ensuring global applicability and benchmarking to the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI); adding clarity to the requirements for open food product-handling operations; reflecting the changing role of the logistics sector, as seen in the growth of e-commerce and the diversification of operational activities (e.g. cross-docking, automation including robotics); incorporating position statements and learnings from the previous version.

After May 1, 2021, the new version 4 will be mandatory.

#### **Certification activity**

In accordance with the provision of the scheme owner, from May 1, 2021 only audit for the new version 4 will be acceptable.

All certificates issued against audits carried out prior to May 1, 2021 will be against version 3 and be valid for the period specified on the certificate.

### **New applications for accreditation**

From the issue date of this document, ACCREDIA will accept new applications for accreditation only against version 4 of the Standard in question.

### **New applications for the extension of accreditations already granted**

From the issue date of this document, ACCREDIA will accept new applications for extension of accreditation only against version 4 of the Standard in question.

### **CBs already holding accreditation – management of the transition**

All CBs already accredited against version 3 of the Standard in question shall evaluate the modifications contained in the new version 4 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 Standard, within April 12, 2021 sending at least the following evidences:

- gap analysis of the new version and implementation in its management system;
- list of the document updated, including check lists, resulting from the gap analysis;
- 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.

Following the evaluation of the submitted evidences, ACCREDIA reserves the right to undertake any subsequent on-site verifications, if this is considered necessary. The evaluation of the implementation shall be evaluated during the normal surveillance activities conducted by ACCREDIA.

The CB is authorized to issue certificates against version 4 of the Standard with reference to accreditation only after a positive decision of the competent Sector Accreditation Committee.

From May 1, 2021 all accreditations issued against version 3, in the absence of evidence of implementation, shall be withdrawn.

We are available for any clarifications.

Kind regards,

**Dott.ssa Mariagrazia Lanza**

Vice Director Department  
Certification and Inspection

