

**INFORMATIVE CIRCULAR** Ref. DC2022OC016

**DATE** Milan, 09-03-2022

To all accredited and applicant Certification Bodies for the PRD scheme

To Associations of conformity assessment bodies

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

**Informative circular DC N° 06/2022 – Dispositions regarding the transition of the accreditations of Certification Bodies (CBs) providing certification according to the certification scheme BRCGS AGENTS and BROKERS.**

Dear Sirs,

we remind you that on 1th October 2021 was published the version 3 of the standard BRC Agents and Brokers, which replaced the previous version 2.

The changes introduced with the new version are mentioned in Part I of the Standard and detailed in a guidance document to facilitate correct implementation and understanding by the sector (BRCGS Agents and Brokers Issue 3 Guide to Key Changes, October 2021).

The objectives of the new version intend to strengthen the safety, authenticity, quality and legality aspects of products marketed by food, packaging or consumer goods companies.

In particular, the new version has an interest in:

- ensuring global applicability and benchmarking to the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI);
- encouraging the development of a product safety culture;
- encouraging sites to further develop systems for product security (food defense) and product authenticity in the supply chain;
- expanding the audit options to include the use of information technology (IT);
- updating requirements associated with core product safety activities such as internal audits, root cause analysis, preventive actions and incident management.

### **Certification activities**

In accordance with the prescriptions of the owner of the Standard, the version 3 will become mandatory from 1st April 2022 and from this date will be possible to offer certification activities according to the new version.

All certificates issued following audits conducted before 1st April 2022, shall refer to version 2 of the Standard and will be valid for the normal period specified on the certificate.

### **New applications for accreditation and extension according to this Standard**

From the date of publication of this Circular, ACCREDIA will accept new accreditation and extension applications only for version 3 of the Standard.

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

All Certification Bodies already accredited against the previous version will have to evaluate the changes made with the new version 3 and implement them within their own organization.

At the end of the activities described above, the Certification Bodies shall formalize the request for transition to the new version of the scheme to ACCREDIA by sending at least the following evidence:

- Gap analysis concerning the implementation of the new version of the scheme in their management system;
- List of documents and forms updated following the changes identified;
- Training program for auditors and all personnel involved in the certification process, including the evidence on 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 of the standard and of the policy defined for management of the transition.

ACCREDIA shall perform a document review lasting 0.5 man-days of the evidences sent, the cost of which is met by the Certification Body.

The result of the document review is communicated to the Certification Body for the implementation of any necessary integrations/modifications/corrections to the evidences sent.

ACCREDIA reserves the right to undertake any further investigations, if it is considered necessary.

The Certification Body is authorized to issue certificates against version 3 of the Standard with the reference to accreditation only after a positive decision of the Sectoral Accreditation Committee.

The correct implementation of the changes introduced shall be evaluated during the ordinary surveillance activities conducted by ACCREDIA.

Finally, we inform you that from 1th April 2022 all accreditations issued against version 2, in the absence of evidence of implementation, shall be withdrawn.

We are available for any clarifications,

Best regards.

**Dott.ssa Mariagrazia Lanza**

Vice Director Department  
Certification and Inspection