![ACCREDIA - L'ENTE ITALIANO DI ACCREDITAMENTO]

TECHNICAL CIRCULAR Ref. DC2022OC056 **DATE** Milan, 29-07-2022

To all Accredited Certification Bodies

To the Associations of Conformity Assessment Bodies

<u>Loro sedi</u>

SUBJECT   **Certification and Inspection Department**

Technical Circular DC N° 28/2022 - Accreditation of Certification Bodies operating under of the EFISC-GTP certification scheme

The owner of the scheme

The European Feed and Food Ingredient Safety Certification Aisbl (EFISC-GTP Aisbl) is a non-profit organisation, based in Brussels, which manages the development of the EFISC and GTP certification schemes, now merged into a single EFISC-GTP scheme, and promotes their dissemination in the international market.

EFISC- GTP, initially under the name 'EFISC', was established in 2010 with the aim of supporting companies in producing healthy and safe raw materials for animal feed (Feed). With the incorporation of the GTP standard in June 2017, the final scope was also extended to production for human food (Food), including trade, transport, storage and distribution until sale.

In close cooperation with its members, the European sectoral organisations COCERAL, FEDIOL, Starch Europe, EBB and Euromalt, the EFISC-GTP scheme is continuously improving to ensure competitiveness with respect to emerging/new technological, scientific and legislative developments in the sectors concerned.

The **version 4 of the EFISC-GTP scheme**, published on 15 March 2019, after transitional period ended on 15 March 2022, is today the only version in force.

This version of the Standard has been positively evaluated by the Dutch Accreditation Body RVA, as a home AB, and has been included in the list of certification schemes evaluated against the EA 1/22 procedure in order to be accredited by all the ABs that have signed the EA MLA agreements.

Standard features and added value

The certification provided by the EFISC GTP Standard aims to ensure safe production of raw materials throughout the feed and food chain, making the best use of industry experience and

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expertise. Its application enables trade within the European and third country markets to be promoted in a manner that complies with strict EU and national standards to guarantee transparency and consumer confidence.

The added value of the scheme consists in providing Operators in the sector with a solid set of tools to manage the handling of ingredients for human and animal consumption in a healthy and safe manner, through the application of a European manual of good production practices, numerous sector documents (specific to the production process and geographical area) for the construction of the HACCP system and risk assessment, various sector documents for the management of the risk of particular critical issues (e.g. Aflatoxin contamination), supply qualification protocols for non-certified Operators (Gatekeeper), as well as a rapid alert procedure in the event of suspected food/feed safety risks. contamination by Aflatoxins), supply qualification protocols for non-certified parties (Gatekeeper), as well as a rapid alert procedure in the event of suspected food/feed safety risks; in this way, the system required by EFISC-GTP guarantees rapid and effective responses between the various states involved to protect animal and public health.

Accreditation standard	UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and ISO/TS 22003:2013 (FSMS) in the following categories: • D – Animal Feed Production; • F - Distribution, with • G - Provision of transport and storage services Accreditation for categories F and G must be simultaneous.

Certification standard	The certification scope is issued according to:
	 • 'European Code to good practice for the collection, transport, storage, trading and industrial manufacture of safe feed/food ingredients', version 4, dated 25 January 2019.
	 • "Rules of Certification", version 4, dated January 2019
	 • Sector-specific documents applicable to the specific type of company for risk management in the following sectors:
	   – Production of vegetable oils and protein flours
	   – Starch production
	   – Malt production
	   – Biodiesel production
	   – Collection, storage, trade and transport of ingredients
	
	 Additional documents mandated by the scheme owner, but which do not contribute to the certification scope, are:
	
	 • "Feed/food Safety Incident and Crisis Management", version 2, June 2021.
	 • Gatekeeping rules (not certified supplier management) for different sectors.
	 • Protocols for aflatoxin risk management:

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	- For the purpose D [EFISC- Code of good practice mycotoxin monitoring version 2 0.pdf (efisc-gtp.eu)](#) - For F and G purposes [EFISC-GTP aflatoxin monitoring in maize - V14_15_02_2022.pdf](#). All the above-mentioned documents are available on the scheme owner's website: [www.efisc-gtp.eu](#), as well as numerous industry information documents. The EFISC-GTP scheme recognises the following certification schemes as equivalent: AIC, GMP+, OVOCOM (FCA) and QS; they have mutual recognition in order to ensure recognition and mutual acceptance of certification systems and facilitate trade.
Scope of the System	Companies can be certified under the EFISC-GTP scheme against the following categories: - D - Feed production; - F - Distribution, with - G - Provision of transport and storage services. Please note that the certification for categories F and G must be simultaneous. All requirements must be applied unless the documented risk analysis shows that the requirement is not applicable and/or relevant, in which case the requirement may be waived.
Competence Criteria for Certification Body Personnel	The criteria for the competence and initial qualification of the Certification Body's auditors are defined in section 3.1.3 of the document "Rules of Certification", version 4. The criteria for maintaining qualifications are described in the following section 3.1.4.. No qualification criteria are defined for personnel dealing with application review, file review, certification decision, for which will have to be established by the Organisation, according to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 e ISO/TS 22003:2013 Standards (FSMS). The Certification Body must employ a new auditor with each new certification cycle.
Types of entities that may apply for certification and possible exclusions	All Organisations involved in feed production processes; all Organisations offering transport, storage and distribution services for both feed and food. Multi-site certification is not permitted for category D, while it is permitted for categories F and G.

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Verification Timing, Periodicity of Verifications	The audit time is described in paragraphs 7.1.3 and 7.1.4 of the document "Rules of Certification", version 4; the audit frequency is annual and must be conducted according to paragraph 7.1.5 of the same document.

The certification cycle lasts three years.

Combined audits with other certification schemes are possible.

It is the Certification Body's responsibility to increase the audit time if the complexity of the processes or the type of organisation makes it necessary; therefore, appropriate decision criteria must be established.

In the case of multi-site certification, the Certification Body shall have a sampling programme to select the sites to be audited, dividing them equally over the three years. The selection of sites is the Certification Body's responsibility and must take into account geographical criteria in order to reduce travel from one site to another, thus reducing costs for Operators. |
| Types of audits | Initial audit: first certification audit.

Surveillance audit: periodic audit for maintainance of certification performed to ensure that an Organisation continues to meet EFISC-GTP requirements.

Re-certification audit: audit that takes place at the end of a certification period (every 3 years) and must be planned in time to avoid expiry of the certificate.

Special audits: audit carried out to deeply analyze the situation in which the Operator is involved in a food/feed safety incident or in case of follow up.

Programme of unannounced audits, two types:

- Mandatory (M): unannounced audit that is carried out for each Operator once in the cycle, in addition to the ordinary audits.

- Random (R) (only for Operators adhering to this option): unannounced audit that is carried out annually on 5% of the Operators participating in the programme.

The Operator's participation in the unannounced audit programme (R or M) will be indicated in the EFISC-GTP public database. |
| IAF Documents | All IAF documents relating to food safety management systems apply (e.g. IAF MD 16). |

For further requirements on the management of the certification process, please refer to what is detailed in the EFISC-GTP standard documents.

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Accreditation Process

The audits required to issue certification against the EFISC-GTP Standard must be conducted by Certification Bodies already holding an FSMS accreditation according to UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and ISO/TS 22003:2013.

In the event that the Body already holds accreditations issued by other Accreditation Bodies, a case-by-case assessment shall be carried out, according to the applicable EA / IAF MLAs.

A prerequisite for a Body to be accredited is that it meets the requirements of ACCREDIA Regulation RG-01 for the accreditation of Certification and Inspection Bodies and ACCREDIA Regulation RG-01-01 for the accreditation of Management System Certification Bodies.

Once the fulfilment of the minimum requirements has been ascertained, the accreditation process will begin by conducting the verification activities as required by the above-mentioned Regulations and in accordance with the applicable standards/documents. In particular:

- Document review: duration is 1 day/man;
- Headquarters assessement: the duration is function of the number of certificates issued. In any case the minimum duration is 1 man days.
- Witness assessment for each category requested: duration appropriate to the size of the Organisation. ACCREDIA reserves the right to assess the suitability of Organisations and Audit Groups proposed for accreditation and subsequent surveillance activities on a case-by-case basis.

Accreditation will be granted according to the European Code to good practice for the collection, transport, storage, trading and industrial manufacture of safe feed/food ingredients, version 4, in the following categories:

- D - Feed production;
- F - Distribution and Marketing, with
- G - Provision of transport and storage services

Please note that accreditation for categories F and G must be simultaneous.

Maintaining Accreditation

For the maintenance of accreditation, during the entire cycle, except in special situations (e.g.: management of complaints and reports, changes in the certification scheme, changes in the organisation's structure, etc.), the ACCREDIA Regulation provisions and the IAF MD 16 document are applied:

- 1 Headquarters assessement per year,
- At least 1 witness assessment for each category in the accreditation cycle. Additional accompanying audits may be requested on the basis of risk factors identified annually by ACCREDIA.

For any clarification on this matter, please send an e-mail to the Technical Officer s.scevola@accredia.it

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The opportunity is welcome to extend cordial greetings.

Dott.ssa Mariagrazia Lanzanova
Vice Director Department
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