

**INFORMATIVE CIRCULAR** Ref. DC2022OC081

**DATE** Milan, 30-11-2022

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° 49/2022 – Dispositions regarding the transition of the accreditations of Certification Bodies (CBs) providing certification according to the certification scheme BRCGS Food Safety**

Dear Sirs,

we remind you that on August 2022 was published the version 9 of the standard BRCGS Food Safety, which replaced the previous version 8.

Published for the first time in 1998 with the aim of supporting food companies in achieving the safety, quality and legality of their food products, the new Issue 9 of BRCGS Food Safety represent an evolution from previous issues, with a continued emphasis on management commitment, food safety programme (based on hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP)), and quality management system.

The continuing objective is to direct the focus of the audit towards the implementation of good manufacturing practices, other than ensuring compatibility with the Codex General Principles of Food Hygiene, ensure the compliance to the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) benchmarking requirements, and expanding the audit options to include the use of information and communication technology (ICT).

The changes from issue 8 of the standard are summarised in part 1 of the standard and further detailed in the separate BRCGS "Global Standard Food Safety Issue 9 Guide to Key Changes" document.

### **Certification activities**

In accordance with the prescriptions of the Standard owner, version 9 will become mandatory from 1th February 2023 and from this date will be possible to offer certification activities according to the new version.

Therefore, all certificates issued as a result of audits conducted before that date, shall refer to version 8 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 9 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 9 and implement them within their own organization.

At the end of the activities described above, the Certification Bodies shall formalize to ACCREDIA, by January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the request for transition to the new version, sending at least the information required by the Annex 1 to this circular.

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 outcome 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 9 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 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 all accreditations issued against version 8, 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

## Annex 1 – Actions required to manage the transition to version 9 of BRCGS Food Safety

Return this Annex duly completed, and the related evidences, to the Accredia technical officer by 10/01/2023.

Action required	Evidence-Attachment no.	Timeframes
1. Analysis of the changes introduced by the new version of the Standard and related actions to implement those in your management system, specifying the timeframe for each identified action.		
2. List of documents (including forms) modified or updated to incorporate the changes introduced by the new version of the Standard.		
3. Training plan for all personnel involved in the management of the certification process, with an indication of the times for each function. Also provide evidence of requalification of the auditors in relation to the new version.		
4. Communication to certified companies regarding the changes introduced by the new version of the standard and the policy defined for managing the transition.		
5. Indicate the last date of re-certification of the companies against the new version and the last day in which it will be possible to find the reference to the old version on the companies' certificate of conformity.		