

INFORMATIVE CIRCULAR Ref. DC2023SPM122

DATE Milan, 17-11-2023

To all FSM accredited/accredited Certification Bodies To
the Associations of Conformity Assessment Bodies
To all Inspectors/Experts of the DC Department
Their locations

SUBJECT **Certification and Inspection Department**
Information Circular DC N° 49/2023 - Provisions on the
transition of accreditations of Certification Bodies (CABs)
certifying against the FSSC 22000 certification scheme

Dear Sirs,

This is a reminder that the new version 6 of the FSSC 22000 Standard, which will replace version 5.1, was published in April 2023.

The new version has been positively evaluated at IAF level, according to IAF MD 25 and IAF PL 03, so it is possible to proceed with accreditation activities.

The scheme owner has made a 'Requirements v.6 Upgrade Process' document available on its website to support the parties involved in managing the transition activities.

Certification activities

Please note that in June 2022, ISO 22003:2022 Part 1 - *Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems*, applicable to Food Safety Management System Certification Bodies, was published.

Since the FSSC 22000 certification scheme falls under the FSMS accreditation scope, whose accreditation standard is under revision, please note that certification activities for the FSSC 22000 standard will necessarily have to be managed considering the requirements for the transition to ISO 22003-1.

In any case, the transition to version 6 of the FSSC 22000 Standard can only be obtained following the successful transition of the CAB's accreditation against the ISO 22003-1 normative document (see ACCREDIA Circular DC2023SSC096), decided by the ACCREDIA Accreditation Sector Committee.

According to the requirements of the scheme owner, the new version of the FSSC 22000 standard can only be compulsorily used from 1 April 2024; all audits conducted before that date must be carried out against version 5.1.

Transition audits to the new version must be carried out by 31 March 2025 and must maintain the expiry date of the original certificate.

Concurrently with the reissued Standard, the scheme owner published the following annexes:

- Annex 1 - CB-Scope-Statements
- Annex 2 - CB-Audit-Report-Requirements
- Annex 3 - CB-Certificate-Template
- Annex 4 - AB-Accreditation-Certificate
- Annex 5 - CB-Requirements-for-the-use-of-ICT

Finally, please note that the scheme owner has also published an update of the 'BoS (Board of Stakeholders) Decision List' document, which contains regulatory prescriptions or clarifications related to the latest version of the scheme, which should be considered as an integral part of the Standard itself.

New applications for accreditation and extension of accreditation

From the date of publication of this circular, ACCREDIA will only accept new applications for accreditation, or the extension of accreditations already granted, against the new version 6.

Applications will only be accepted if submitted by CABs accredited (or under evaluation for accreditation) according to ISO 22003-1:2022.

Already accredited bodies - transition management

All CABs already accredited under the previous version will have to evaluate the changes made with the new version and implement them within their organisation.

At the end of the activities described above, the CABs shall formalise to ACCREDIA the request for transition to the new version of the scheme by sending at least the information required by Annex 1 to this circular.

Applications for transition to the FSSC 22000 scheme will only be accepted if are submitted at the same time as the application for transition to ISO 22003-1:2022 or once the ISO 22003-1 accreditation has been obtained.

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 deemed appropriate.

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

The proper and effective implementation of the introduced changes will be evaluated during the ordinary surveillance activities carried out by ACCREDIA.

Finally, we inform you that as of 1 April 2024, all accreditations issued against the previous version will be revoked if there is no evidence of transposition.

We remain at your disposal for any clarifications and insights.

Best regards

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Vice Director Department
Certification and Inspection

Annex 1 - Actions and documents to be sent to ACCREDIA for the management of the transition to version 6 of the FSSC 22000 Standard

Return this annex completed and, for each point on the list, send the required evidence. Transmit the documents to the Accredia technical secretariat and the FSMS technical officer.

Actions and required documents	Evidence no.
A. Identification of the novelties introduced by the new standard. Send a list/document.	
B. Definition of a transition plan , structured as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">List of changes introduced by the new version, which have an impact on the relevant activities and processes of the CB;Analysis of the impact of the changes and actions identified to ensure compliance with the new version;Timing of implementation of the identified actions. Send a transition plan.	
C. Communication to certified companies about the new version of the standard and the policy defined for transition management, within the timeframe defined by the scheme owner. Send the communication.	
D. Identification of documents to be modified (including forms) to incorporate the changes introduced by the new version of the standard. Send the list of documents to be modified, as well as the documents already modified, indicating the change introduced.	
E. Training of all personnel involved in the certification and transition process. Send a training plan specifying the planned retraining activities, the functions involved (auditors, application and practice reviewers, certification decision makers, planners), the time frame, the training material, and the outcome of the examination taken by the auditors.	

Send the list of auditors trained, and being trained, according to the new (sub)categories.	
F. Evidence of licensed by the Foundation for the new (sub)categories.	
G. Declaration regarding the way to re-evaluate certified companies to ensure a competent team, according to the new (sub)categories.	
H. Other actions identified by the CB.	