

INFORMATIVE CIRCULAR Ref. DC2023OC054

DATE Milan, 04-07-2023

To all accredited and applicant Certification Bodies for the PRD scheme
To scheme managers

To all assessors/experts of Accredia DC

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SUBJECT **Certification and Inspection Department**
Informative circular DC N° 30/2022 – Dispositions regarding the transition of the accreditations of Certification Bodies (CBs) providing certification according to the certification scheme IFS Food.

Dear Sirs,

we remind you that on April 2022 was published the version 8 of IFS Food Standard, which replaced the previous version 7.

The new version has been positively evaluated at IAF level, according to the document IAF MD 25.

Certification activities

In accordance with the prescriptions of the Standard owner, the new version can be used from 1 October 2023 and becomes mandatory from 1 January 2024 therefore, starting from this last date, all certification activities must be carried out in accordance with the new version 8.

At the same time, IFS published the new Doctrine, which maintains the same version of the new Standard. Since the Doctrine is a normative document, it is to be considered an integral part of the Standard itself.

New applications for accreditation and extension according to this Standard

Starting from the date of publication of this circular, ACCREDIA will accept new applications for accreditation and extension of the accreditations already granted only against version 8 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 and implement them within their own organization.

At the end of the activities described above, the Certification Bodies shall formalize to ACCREDIA 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 new version 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 1st January 2024 all accreditations issued against the previous version, in the absence of evidence of implementation, shall be withdrawn.

We remain at your disposal for any clarifications and insights.

Best regards.

Dott.ssa Mariagrazia Lanzanova

Vice Director Department
Certification and Inspection

Annex 1 – Actions required to manage the transition to version 8 of the IFS Food certification scheme

Return this annex, duly completed, and the requested evidence to the relevant technical officials.

Action required	Evidence Attachment no.	Timeframes
1. Detailed analysis of the changes introduced by the new version of the Standard (Gap Analysis), specifying the related implementation actions in your management system, and implementation times.		
2. List of documents (including forms) modified or updated to incorporate the changes introduced by the new version of the Standard, with an indication of the modification introduced.		
3. Training plan for all personnel involved in the management of the certification process, specifying the training 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.		