

To all accredited/accredited PRD Certification Bodies
To Associations of Conformity Assessment Bodies
To all Inspectors/Experts of the DC Department

Their locations

SUBJECT Certification and Inspection Department

Informative Circular DC No. 21/2024 - Provisions on the transition of accreditations of Certification Bodies (CBs) certifying against the IFS Broker certification scheme

Dear Sirs,

version 3.2 of the IFS Broker Standard, which will replace version 3.1, was published in February 2024.

As many IFS audits are combined audits with other IFS Standards, it was essential for IFS to align version 3.2 with the other updated IFS Standards, especially IFS Food 8 and IFS Logistics 3. The revisions want to facilitate the performance of combined IFS Audits.

A general overview of the changes introduced by version 3.2 of IFS Broker is explained in the [IFS Newsletter](#).

These changes and updates were classified by the scheme owner as minor, which is why the version of the Standard was only changed in the decimal number.

The scheme owner also points out that the IFS Broker Standard is linked to the Doctrine, which is also normative in nature.

Similar to the other IFS Standards, the new version of IFS Broker has recently been positively evaluated at IAF level.

Certification activities

The new version of the standard is applicable (compulsorily) from 1 July 2024.

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.

Already accredited bodies - transition management

All already accredited bodies will have to evaluate the changes of the new version and implement them within their organization by 1 July 2024.

Since the changes are of a minor nature, for the purposes of granting accreditation, ACCREDIA requires the sending of a self-declaration detailing the activities that the CAB has conducted, with particular reference to the analysis of the innovations introduced by the new (sub)version and their impact on the certification process, to the planning of training activities for all personnel affected by the changes within the time of entry into force of the Standard and the communication to the certified organizations.

The self-declaration must be sent to the ACCREDIA technical office (reference email: s.scevola@accredia.it) **no later than 25 June 2024**.

There is no cost for managing this transition.

The Body will be authorized to issue certificates against the new version of the Standard with reference to accreditation only following a positive resolution of the transition by the relevant Accreditation Sector Committee.

The effective implementation of the changes introduced will be assessed during the ordinary surveillance activities performed by ACCREDIA.

We send you our best greetings.

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