

INFORMATIVE CIRCULAR

Ref. DC2025SSC061

Milan, 12-05-2025

To all accredited/accredited PRD Certification Bodies

To Associations of Conformity Assessment Bodies

To all Inspectors/Experts of the DC Department

Their locations

SUBJECT: Information Circular DC No.15/2025 - Provisions on the transition of accreditations of Certification Bodies (CBs) certifying against the BRCGS Packaging Materials

Dear Sirs,

last October 2024, version 7 of the BRCGS Packaging Materials Standard was published, which will replace version 6.

The changes compared to version 6 are summarised in “Part 1-Introduction” of the standard and are detailed in the document “Global Standard Packaging Materials Issue 7 Guide to Key Changes”.

The new version has been positively assessed at IAF level, according to the IAF PL 03 document, therefore it is possible to proceed with the accreditation activities.

Certification activities

The new version of the standard is mandatory from April 28th, 2025; therefore, all certificates issued before that date must refer to version 6 of the Standard and will be valid for the period specified on the certificate.

New applications for accreditation and extension of accreditation

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

Already accredited bodies - transition management

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

At the end of the activities described above, the Bodies shall formalise to ACCREDIA the request for transition to the new version of the standard by sending all the information required **by Annex 1** to this circular.

ACCREDIA will carry out a documental review of the evidence transmitted, at the expense of the Body, lasting 0.5 man-days. The outcome of the examination will be communicated to the Body for the implementation of any integration/amendment/correction of the evidence transmitted.

ACCREDIA reserves the right to carry out any further investigations it deems appropriate.

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

The implementations effectiveness of the changes introduced will be evaluated during the ordinary surveillance activities carried out by ACCREDIA.

We remain at your disposal for any clarifications and insights and send you our best regards.

Dr Mariagrazia Lanza

Deputy Director Department
Certification and Inspection

Annex 1 - Actions and documents to be sent to ACCREDIA for the management of the transition to version 3 of the IFS Logistics certification standard

Return this annex filled and, for each point on the list, send the required evidence. Transmit the documents to Accredia's technical secretariat and to the relevant technical officer.

| Actions and required documents | Evidence no. |
|--|--------------|
| <p>A. Identification of the changes introduced by the new version, which have an impact on the relevant activities and processes of the CB.</p> <p>Send a list/document containing the required evidence.</p> | |
| <p>B. Defining a transition plan. For each new feature identified in the previous point, send the actions identified to ensure compliance with the new version and the timeframe for implementation (within the timeframe of the version's entry into force).</p> <p>Send a detailed transition plan.</p> | |
| <p>C. Communication to certified companies about the new version of the standard and the policy defined for transition management.</p> <p>Send the text of the communication and the sending evidence to the certified organizations.</p> | |
| <p>D. Identification of documents to be/already modified (including forms) to incorporate the changes introduced by the new version of the standard.</p> <p>Send the evidence of all documents to be modified/already modified, identifying the title of the document, the date and the revision number.</p> | |
| <p>E. Training of all personnel involved in the certification and transition process.</p> <p>Send the evidence of the training plan specifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">the planned re-training activities (courses, methods of delivery, evaluations of effectiveness, if any, dates of delivery, management of recoveries)the names of personnel and the specific certification function, specifying those who have completed the qualification. | |
| <p>F. Other actions identified by the CB.</p> | |