

INFORMATIVE CIRCULAR**Ref. DC2026SPM129****Milan, 12-10-2026**

To all Certification Bodies accredited and applying for accreditation for the FSM Scheme

To the Associations of Conformity Assessment Bodies

To All Auditors/Technical Experts for the FSM Scheme

They offices

SUBJECT: Informative Circular DC No. 37/2026 - Transition of the FSSC 22000 certification scheme

Dear Sirs,

Please be reminded that in May 2026 Version 7 of the FSSC 22000 scheme was published, replacing the previous Version 6.

The new version has been positively evaluated at GLOBAL A.C.I. level, therefore, accreditation activities may proceed.

The scheme owner has made available on its website the document "[Requirements v.7 Upgrade Process](#)" to support the parties involved in managing the transition activities.

The main reasons for updating the version are linked to several factors. In particular, the integration of the new ISO 22002-x:2025 series concerning prerequisite programmes is of significant importance, replacing the previous approach based on ISO/TS and PAS specifications. Furthermore, the GFSI *Benchmarking Requirements* 2024 relating to auditor competence and certification processes have been incorporated, together with editorial changes, clarifications and corrections identified through the experience gained in the application of Version 6.

Version 7 will become mandatory from 1 May 2027.

Certification activities

In accordance with the requirements established by the scheme owner, the new Version 7 of the FSSC 22000 scheme shall become mandatory only from 1 May 2027; all audits conducted before that date shall be carried out against Version 6.

Transition audits to the new version shall be completed by 30 April 2028.

Together with Version 7 of the certification scheme, the scheme owner has published the following mandatory annexes:

- Annex 1 – CB Certificate Scope Statements;
- Annex 2 – CB Audit Report Requirements;
- Annex 3 – CB Certificate Templates;
- Annex 4 – AB Accreditation Certificate Scope;
- Annex 5 – CB Requirements for the Use of ICT.

The five annexes contain mandatory scheme requirements and are necessary for the correct implementation of the scheme.

The FSSC Foundation has also published the "[Board of Stakeholders Decision List](#)" applicable to Version 7. This document contains normative requirements or clarifications relating to the latest version of the scheme and must be considered an integral part of the standard itself.

New accreditation and accreditation extension applications

From the date of publication of this circular, ACCREDIA will accept new accreditation applications, as well as applications for extension of accreditation, according to the following timeline: up to 28 February 2027 with reference to Version 6 and, from 1 March 2027, exclusively with reference to the new Version 7.

Furthermore, as indicated by the scheme owner, it should be noted that Version 7 certification audits and, consequently, accreditation or accreditation extension witness audits, may under no circumstances be carried out before 1 May 2027

Already accredited Certification Bodies – Transition management

All Certification Bodies already accredited according to the previous version shall evaluate the changes introduced by the new version and implement them within their own organization. Upon completion of the above activities, Certification Bodies shall formally submit to ACCREDIA, by **28 February 2027**, a request for transition to the new version of the scheme, providing at least the information required by the annex "Self Assessment Transition Plan" attached to this circular.

For the assessment of the transition to the FSSC 22000 scheme, ACCREDIA will perform a documentary review of the submitted evidence, at the expense of the Certification Body, with a duration of 0.5 man-day.

The outcome of the documental review will be communicated to the Certification Body for the implementation of any required additions, modifications or corrections to the submitted evidence.

ACCREDIA reserves the right to carry out any further evaluation should it deem them appropriate. The Certification Body will be authorized to issue certificates against the new version of the scheme under accreditation only following a positive transition decision by the relevant Sector Accreditation Committee.

The correct implementation of the changes introduced will be assessed during ACCREDIA's surveillance activities.

Finally, please note that from **1 May 2027**, all accreditations issued against the previous version, in the absence of evidence of implementation of the new requirements, will be withdrawn.

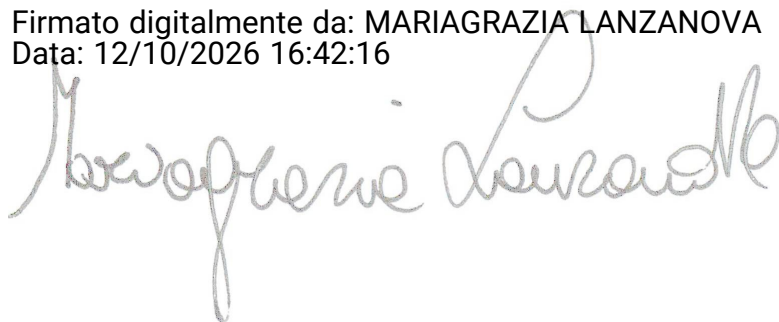
Best regards,

Mariagrazia Lanzaova

Vice Director

Department Certification and Inspection

Firmato digitalmente da: MARIAGRAZIA LANZANOVA
Data: 12/10/2026 16:42:16

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Mariagrazia Lanzaova', is positioned below the digital signature text.