



# IFS Progress Food Scoring System

## Reaching the next level

VERSION 1

ENGLISH



# Introduction

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This brochure explains the scoring system that the assessor uses to conduct an IFS Progress Food Assessment to score the requirements to the respective defined level.

**“ Continuous improvement  
is better than delayed  
perfection. ”**

Mark Twain

The IFS Progress Food Program offers companies a step-by-step entry and gradual transition into effective product safety and quality processes. One of the foundations of the development program is the unique scoring system, which gives an assessed company feedback on its performance and indicates where it can improve. It gives a clear action plan to achieve safe, legal, and compliant products and ultimately IFS Food Certification.

The IFS Progress Food Assessment leads to greater efficiency, safer products and processes, and fewer recalls. It also contributes to being valued as a trustworthy and reliable business partner that delivers safe products according to customer specifications.

# The IFS Progress Food Scoring System

To determine the overall result of the IFS Progress Food Assessment, a percentage is calculated from the total number of points achieved. The chart explains this system in more detail.

RESULT	EXPLANATION	POINTS
<b>A</b>	A indicates full compliance and perfect implementation of the requirement.	<b>20 points</b>
<b>B</b> Deviation	B means that there is almost full compliance of the requirement. A small deviation was found/ there is space for small improvements.	<b>15 points</b>
<b>C</b> Deviation	C means that part of the requirement is not implemented. This basic implementation works in daily business but there are many topics for improvement.	<b>5 points</b>
<b>D</b> Deviation	D means that the implementation of the requirement is not sufficient or not done at all.	<b>0 points</b>
<b>MAJOR</b> Non-conformity	<p>A Major non-conformity can be issued to any requirement.</p> <p><b>Reasons for Major rating are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a substantial failure to meet the requirements of the program, which includes, but is not limited to food safety and/or the legal requirements of the production and/or destination countries.</li> <li>• A process is out of control which might have an impact on food safety.</li> </ul>	<b>Major non-conformity will subtract 10 %</b> of the possible total amount; the letter of confirmation cannot be issued.
<b>N/A</b> Not applicable	N/A means that the requirement is not applicable. It can apply to any requirement. The assessor shall provide an explanation in the report.	N/A is not included in the calculation of the total score.

# The difference between deviations and non-conformities



Requirements partly or not fulfilled can be scored as a deviation or a non-conformity:

## DEVIATION

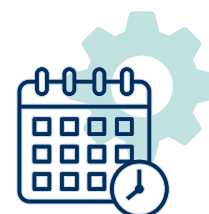
A deviation is a non-compliance with a requirement, without an impact on food safety related to products and processes. Deviations are requirements scored with a “B”, “C” or a “D”.

## NON-CONFORMITY

In the IFS Progress Food Program, defined non-conformities are Majors. A Major describes the non-fulfilment of a specified requirement and can be scored to any requirement in case of:

- non-respect of legislation,
- food safety issues,
- internal dysfunctions, and
- customer issues.

# Timescale for corrections and corrective actions



Following the assessment, the assessed company will receive the preliminary action plan, which must be completed and returned to the certification body, assessment service provider or assessor within a maximum of two (2) weeks.

## CORRECTIONS

### Implemented within three (3) months

Corrections require short-term actions. The assessed company must follow up or implement these actions within three months of the assessment.

## CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

### Implemented within twelve (12) months

Corrective actions may have different timeframes depending on the individual finding and severity, as some implementation periods could take longer depending on its complexity. This ensures that the implementation of the measures is sustainable.

Assessed companies are required to implement corrective actions within a reasonable and justified timeframe, at the latest before the renewal assessment.

**Note: The IFS Progress Food Scoring System is different from the IFS Food Certification Standard Scoring System in that:**

- Knockout (KO) requirements are not applicable.
- Scoring points differ in terms of D deviations and Major non-conformities.

# The IFS Assessment, Assessment Report and Action Plan



## IFS Progress Assessor Competence

Only assessors with general competencies checked by IFS and approved by a certification body or assessment services provider can perform the IFS Progress Food Assessment. IFS Assessors have received specialised training and are qualified for the full scope of the assessment. The certification body or assessment service provider ensures that processes are in place to monitor and maintain the competencies of all assessors to the level required by the IFS Progress Food program.



## The IFS Progress Assessment

During the IFS Progress Food Assessment, the assessor will evaluate and determine the level of compliance with each IFS Progress Food requirement based on the defined level. The assessor determines the score based on the nature and significance of the observations and evidence. The responsible certification body or assessment service provider reviews the assessor's findings.



## The IFS Progress Assessment Report

In the assessment report, the assessor gives explanations about all requirements with B, C and D scorings, as well as Major ratings. The assessor must unambiguously explain and justify deviations and non-conformities. The assessor will provide precise and sufficient information to give an objective, transparent, and understandable picture of the situation. This way, the score given for the requirement is reasonable for all parties involved.

For some fixed, pre-defined requirements, the assessor also provides further information and explanations, even in the case of an A score, known as compulsory fields. With this information, the certification body or assessment service provider can prepare a standardised report summary for each company, including details for essential evaluations. The IFS Software supports the generation of this uniform report.



## The IFS Progress Action Plan and follow-up of corrections and corrective actions

The assessor writes the findings in a provisional action plan. It includes all the requirements scored with B, C, D deviations and major non-conformities. This action is required to define appropriate corrections and corrective actions.

Depending on the severity of the finding, the company may have up to one year to execute and conclude corrective actions with proper justification. The IFS Progress Assessor must check the implementation and effectiveness of corrections and corrective actions during the next assessment.



## Your benefits

- › The scoring system supports reaching the next level and development goals.
- › It gives the assessed company and its customers a clear performance overview.
- › Reports and results are standardised, making them comparable and easy to understand for business partners.
- › The assessment report gives the company an action plan with clearly stated explanations about deviations and non-conformities. The report can support obtaining financial resources for necessary investments.
- › Follow-up on the action plan may have different timeframes depending on the severity and complexity of the issues found. It leads to short term action to solve urgent findings, but also allows for better planning of corrective actions for sustainable improvement.
- › The result of an IFS Assessment is a motivation to strive for excellence. Employees are proud to reach a high-level score or achieve a higher percentage.

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