

**NEW**

IFS Food version 8

NEWSLETTER FOR INDUSTRY | APRIL 2023

“ We have updated the IFS Food Standard to align with current trends, regulations, and expectations in the food industry, and we took feedback from our stakeholders into account in the revision process. With this input, IFS Food version 8 has become more consistent, clearly structured, and comfortable to work with.



Stephan Tromp
IFS Managing Director

The new IFS Food version 8

IFS – International Featured Standards is pleased to announce the publication of the IFS Food version 8. IFS Food is the leading standard for food safety and quality certification in Europe and is accepted by leading retail and wholesale companies worldwide. Together with experts from food suppliers, retail companies and certification bodies in the various IFS Committees, we developed a new version taking the latest developments, regulations, and our stakeholders' needs into account. We have paid particular attention to making working with the standard easier, more efficient, and more practical for auditors and companies.

The most signification changes and improvements

01

The B-score is again classified as a deviation.

03

It is possible to add EU PDO (Protected Designation of Origin) or PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) on the IFS Certificate with a disclaimer.

05

The reporting time, the number of doctrine rules, and other administrative requirements have become significantly less while still in line with the documentation requirements of GFSI benchmarking and accreditation.

07

We aligned the standard with the Codex Alimentarius and ISO 22003-2 and GFSI Benchmarking Requirements.

02

We introduce the IFS Star status to indicate that the audit was unannounced.

04

Companies must define objectives for each of the four dimensions of food safety culture.

06

The restructured checklist follows the audit process more consequently and increases the audit's efficiency. For example, food defence is now part of chapter 4.

08

The wording in the checklist is more consistent and clear to clarify the intention of requirements better. Also, the word "assessment" becomes "audit" again, in line with ISO 22003-2.



Further optimisations are:

- › Triple certification is no longer possible, and the certificate information about the status of logistics is no longer highlighted.
- › In case your company processes are simple, reducing the on-site part of the audit and audit time is possible. Please check with your CB.

IFS Food version 8



What's new?

Clarification of counting unannounced audits

Performing one of every third audit unannounced is obligatory. In version 8, we have clarified the counting of the unannounced audits. Please refer to chapter 2.4.2, Part 1, for details.

IFS Star

Unannounced audits **increase credibility in the audit process**. It demonstrates that your company implements the IFS Requirements every day. We introduce the **IFS Star status to indicate that the audit was performed unannounced**. It shows your customers your outstanding engagement. A **star will be visible in the IFS Database and on the IFS Certificate**. Also, we have created a **special logo** for this purpose.

Scoring System

The **B-score is now classified as a deviation again**. It is more apparent to all parties involved, and by defining a **correction or corrective action**, your system will continuously improve. We have updated our brochure "The IFS Scoring System - Driving Continuous Improvement", which explains it in more detail.

Food Safety Culture

In this new version, you, as a certified company, must now **provide objectives for each of the four dimensions of food safety culture**. In chapter 2 of the standard, you will find the according requirements. Our Food Safety Culture Factsheet, available on the IFS Website, gives you an overview of this topic.



Timelines

IFS Food version 8 audits are possible from **1 October 2023** and become mandatory for all certified companies as of **1 January 2024**.

In general, the **applicability of version 7 ends on 31 December 2023**. In some exceptional situations, IFS Food version 7 can apply after 1 January 2024. The general admission of these exceptions ends on 31 December 2024. Here is an overview:

- For **unannounced audits**: Version 8 applies when the audit window starts on or after 1 October 2023.
- For **multi-site audits**: You need to audit sites and head office to the same version. After 1 January 2024, version 8 applies to all audits performed at the head office.
- For **follow-up audits**: When the connected "main" audit took place according to version 7 before 1 January 2024 version 7 applies for the follow-up audit.
- For **extension audits**: When the connected "main" audit took place according to version 7 before 1 January 2024, version 7 also applies for the extension audit.





Training and information sessions

Online information sessions

IFS and certification bodies will inform about IFS Food version 8. We will organise online information sessions in different languages to give you an **overview of the main changes and how to prepare for audits to version 8**. We will inform you as soon as we have the dates and details.

Industry Training

To be well prepared for version 8, our training providers **will offer courses with our official training materials**. Please visit our website to find an official IFS Training Provider near you.

Support and supportive materials

Approved IFS Consultants

You can contact an approved IFS Consultant **for advice, guidance, or training** regarding implementing the IFS Requirements or specific topics. Find them on our website.

New IFS Software to support internal audits and reporting

IFS will provide a new software, **IFS auditXpress Neo**. It **significantly facilitates the reporting of internal audits**. The new version of the software will be free of charge. IFS auditXpress Neo will be faster, more intuitive, and more clearly arranged and will facilitate cooperation with your CB. We expect the software to **be available upon the start of the first audits to version 8**. We will also update **the IFS App** to version 8, which helps to organise, follow up and to prepare internal audit reports.

IFS Guidelines

IFS provides guidelines on the topics found frequently in audits. Among others, we offer:

- > Pest Control Guideline
- > Foreign Body Management Guideline
- > Listeria prevention

You can download them from our website. They may refer to version 7 but are also current for IFS Food version 8. We will update the references to the requirements in these documents successively.

Comparison of the standards and checklists

We are working on comparison documents of IFS Food version 7 and 8 so that you can track the changes. We will inform you when these are available.

IFS Risk Management Package

IFS offers a unique IFS Risk Management Support Package: It helps **build awareness for risks in the supply chain, supports you in analysing and monitoring those risks and gives guidance on handling them**. It consists of the IFS Trend Risk Monitor, WordCloud, monthly Trend Risk Report, the Food Fraud Mitigation Guidelines and Food Fraud Factsheets brochure. Learn more about it on our website or log in to the IFS Database.

IFS Pathway

As an IFS-certified company, you can also use the IFS Pathway. On this platform, you find valuable resources giving **practical guidance to deepen your knowledge about specific technical topics** regarding food safety and quality management. Check our website or log in to the IFS Database for more information.

New IFS Food Fact Sheet

In this new fact sheet, we summarise the main features of the IFS Food Standard. It gives managers and stakeholders a **quick overview of the standard, benefits for the company and the support IFS offers**. The document is available in several languages on our website.



Find relevant documents and stay up to date

- > On our website, you can download all documents relating to IFS Food version 8.
- > In the quarterly **IFS Food News and Notifications** newsletter, we inform about current topics relating to the standard. As a certified company, you will receive it automatically. If not, check if your CB has uploaded the correct e-mail address to our database. You can also subscribe to the newsletter via our website.
- > **Follow IFS on LinkedIn** to get the latest updates on IFS Food and new documents becoming available.



Contact

We hope you have sufficient information. In case of requests related to the standard content, please feel free to contact your regional **IFS Representative** or send an e-mail (in English) to Standardmanagement@ifs-certification.com

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