



Wholesale
Cash & Carry

IFS WHOLESALER and CASH & CARRY VERSION 3 NEWSLETTER FOR INDUSTRY

November 2024

// We are delighted to introduce version 3 of the IFS Wholesale and Cash & Carry Standard. After eight years, we decided it was time for an update. We consulted with the wholesale industry, retailers and certification bodies to develop a standard specifically tailored to the needs of wholesalers, cash & carry businesses and packing companies. We aligned it with the other IFS Standards, optimised the protocol, and introduced a new logo colour. I thank everyone who contributed to realising this new version.



Stephan Tromp
IFS Managing Director

Introducing IFS Wholesale and Cash & Carry Standard 3

IFS - International Featured Standards is pleased to introduce version 3 of the IFS Wholesale and Cash & Carry Standard 3. It is state-of-the-art regarding current legislation and norms, aligns with the other IFS Standards, and will make working with it much more flexible and efficient for everyone involved.

IFS Wholesale and Cash & Carry is our standard for assessing the safety and quality of products and processes of wholesalers, cash & carry and packing companies. It supports your company in meeting the growing transparency and traceability demands in the market and contributes to increased efficiency.

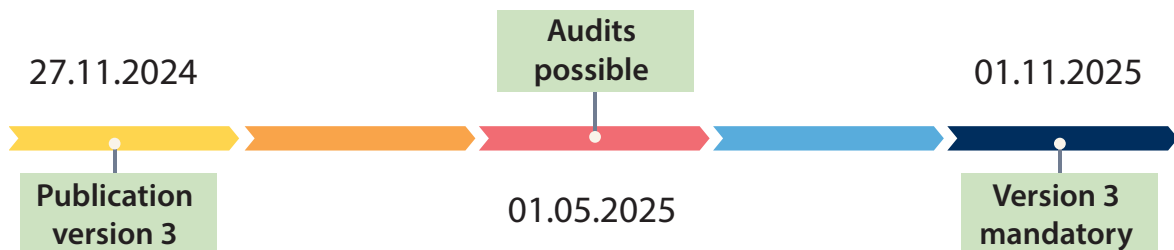
Being an important link between growers, manufacturers and the catering industry, this IFS Certificate shows that your company is a reliable business partner that handles products in a safe, responsible and professional way.

Download the standard [here](#).

IFS Wholesale and Cash & Carry version 3

Timeline

IFS Wholesale and Cash & Carry 3 audits are possible from **1 May 2025** and become mandatory for all certified companies from **1 November 2025**. We will specify further details in the doctrine.



The most significant changes in version 3

01 Fewer modules

We reduced the modules from four to two, and the same checklists apply for wholesale and cash & carry businesses.

02 More clarity

We updated the definitions of the relevant technology scopes to provide greater coherence.

03 Leaner protocol

There are fewer requirements, an optimised protocol, and an enhanced structure following the audit path.

04 Better aligned

The protocol structure, the scoring system and the terminology are aligned with the other IFS Standards, especially IFS Food and IFS Logistics.

05 Optional unannounced audits

Sites can go for an unannounced audit on a voluntary basis. A star in the logo, the certificate, and the report will indicate this.

06 Broader applicability

The optimised checklist is now also applicable to grocery delivery services.

07 New colour

Version 3 comes with a new logo colour.

IFS Wholesale and Cash & Carry version 3

Taking a closer look at specific changes

▶ New logo

Following a wish from the industry, we adapted the colour of the standard logo. With the start of audits to version 3, **the new standard logo** will appear on the IFS Certificates and Reports. The current logo still applies to version 2 certificates and reports. The new logo will be **available in the IFS Database from May 2025**. If you need it earlier, contact IFS Marketing at marketing@ifs-certification.com, indicating your reasons.

▶ The updated scoring system

The scoring system now aligns with the other IFS Standards. We have updated our brochure “**The IFS Scoring System - Driving Continuous Improvement**”, which explains it in more detail.

▶ The IFS Star status

Unannounced audits increase credibility in the audit process. It demonstrates that your company implements the IFS Requirements every day. We introduced the IFS Star status to indicate that the audit was 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 specific star logo for this purpose.

▶ The 50 % on-site rule

The auditor will spend at least 50 % of the audit time on-site. However, a reduction is possible in certain situations, as defined in the standard. Please check with your certification body.

▶ The action plan

Your certification body must send an **action plan within two weeks** after the audit. A provisional report is no longer mandatory. This more efficient and practical working method will benefit audited companies and auditors.



IFS Wholesale and Cash & Carry version 3

Training and Support

► IFS Software auditXpress Neo (AXP Neo)

The IFS Software **makes internal audit reporting more convenient and efficient**. It also facilitates cooperation with your auditor and certification body using the same software. We expect the relevant software update for IFS Wholesale and Cash & Carry 3 to become available shortly before the first audits can start.

► New IFS Wholesale and Cash & Carry Fact Sheet

The fact sheet summarises the **standard's main features**. It gives managers and stakeholders a **quick overview of the standard, its benefits for certified sites**, and the support IFS offers. The document is available in **English**.

► Recognised IFS Consultants

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

Contact

If you have any questions about the standard content, do not hesitate to get in touch with your **regional IFS Representative** or email us (in English) at **standardmanagement@ifs-certification.com**.



Get certified – Start today!

For more information, standard documents, guidelines, and other relevant documents, please visit our website: [ifs-certification.com](https://www.ifs-certification.com)



IFS Management GmbH
Am Weidendamm 1 A | DE 10117 Berlin
Phone: +49 30 726 10 53 74
E-mail: Standardmanagement@ifs-certification.com
www.ifs-certification.com

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