



# IFS BROKER

## FACT SHEET

**Standard for auditing the service compliance of trade agencies, importers and brokers in relation to product quality and safety**

As supply chain globalization grows, products continue to be sourced in new ways and from different sources. Brokers, agents, and importers are an integral element in bringing producers and retailers together. IFS Broker was developed to ensure the safety and quality of products trading, filling the gap between production and distribution. Trading partners expect brokers, agents, and importers to communicate their product requirements to manufacturers and that those specifications are understood and effectively implemented.

The IFS Broker Standard assesses the trading parties to ensure that they have implemented appropriate measures in their services, so that their suppliers operate in accordance with product safety and quality requirements. Brokers, agents, and importers must also monitor their supplier's compliance so that supplied products meet regulatory and contractual specifications. As from September 2020 companies can choose if the audit is performed on-site or remote.

# IFS Broker



## Scope

Trading activities of:

- Brokers / Middlemen
- Sales agents
- Trade agencies
- Importers

for food, household and personal care products or packaging material.

This Standard is covering supplier branded products as well as (Brokers) own branded and customer branded products.



## Coverage

IFS Broker audits are carried out by qualified auditors of independent accredited and approved certification bodies.

The standard includes the following topics:

- Senior management responsibility
- Quality and product safety management system
- Resource management
- Planning and services process
- Measurements, analyses, improvements
- Product defense



## Objectives

- Ensure comparability and transparency throughout the entire supply chain
- Establish a common standard with a uniform evaluation system
- Reduce costs and time for both suppliers and retailers
- Work with accredited certification bodies



## Benefits

IFS certification can offer a number of key benefits to companies striving for excellence in quality, product safety and customer satisfaction, and seeking a competitive advantage in their marketplace:

- Improved understanding between management and staff relating to good practices, standards and procedures
- Monitoring of compliance with food and non-food regulations
- More effective use of resources
- Reduction in the need for customer audits
- Ability to reduce total audit time by combining multiple audits
- Higher flexibility through individual implementation due to a risk based approach
- Improved business reputation as a service provider maintaining the high-quality and safety of the products
- Ability to work with customers requiring third party audits
- Use of the IFS logo and certificate to demonstrate compliance with the highest standards

# Now available: IFS Broker Remote



## Why there is a remote option

As brokers typically manage product safety and quality without taking physical possession or ownership, an audit does not necessarily require on-site evaluation. Especially travel and meeting restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic created an increased demand for remote audits. The option for performing audits online has also been recently included in the GFSI Benchmarking Requirements version 2020.1.

From September 2020, IFS will offer the option to perform IFS Broker as a remote audit. It is voluntary, and must be mutually agreed upon between the audited organisation and the certification body. As part of the decision, both parties should assess whether the auditor and the site have the access and the capability to use ICT effectively. Only broker auditors who have successfully completed a special IFS online training can perform IFS Broker remote audits. The cover page of the audit report shall clearly state that the audit was conducted remotely. Furthermore it should be indicated under "audit details" what kind of remote ICT has been used.



## What are the benefits of a remote audit?

- More flexibility for scheduling audits
- Less paperwork
- Saves time and costs, because auditors don't have to travel



## When to choose the remote audit option

- If a scheduled IFS on-site audit cannot take place due to travel/access restrictions caused by the pandemic or similar
- If the site is decentralised and runs without a centralised office (co-working spaces, shared or home office structures), or when "face to face" methods are not essential for the effectiveness of conducting the audit



## How it works

- Get in touch with your certification body
- Check if their auditors have completed the IFS online training for performing IFS Broker remote audits
- Check if your certification body has performed a risk assessment regarding ICT access, compatibility and feasibility of the audit
- Agree on either the remote or the on-site option with your certification body

Scan the QR Code to access  
all information and documents  
regarding IFS Broker



## CONTACT

**IFS Management GmbH**  
 Am Weidendamm 1 A | DE 10117 Berlin  
 Phone: +49 (0)30 726 10 53 74  
 E-mail: [info@ifs-certification.com](mailto:info@ifs-certification.com)

[www.ifs-certification.com](http://www.ifs-certification.com)

Follow IFS



Published: September 2020