



Accreditation for CBs



Certification bodies (CBs) performing IFS Audits shall comply with the following rules.

1. Accreditation Process

DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065 IFS Accreditation Procedure

Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17065 by an IAF recognised accreditation body is a prerequisite for a CB to perform IFS Audits. Before obtaining the accreditation, CBs undergoing the process of IFS accreditation may perform a maximum of ten audits with an approved IFS Auditor. In a witness assessment, the accreditation body assesses at least one of these audits. The accreditation body reviews all audits during the initial assessment. The CB must provide the application for accreditation and have a valid contract with IFS.

2. Signed IFS Framework Agreement

After applying for accreditation for IFS (according to ISO 17065), the CB must sign a contract in which it commits to meet all IFS Requirements. The contract becomes valid when the CB fulfills all requirements. Section 3 of the IFS Standard specifies these requirements.

3. Contact Persons assigned to IFS

For their profile, IFS requests the CB to provide the address, names and contact details of the persons responsible for standard and auditor management, the integrity program, training, and accounting. A complete profile is essential for further contact and communication.

4. IFS Auditors

The requirements for auditors are specified in chapter 7.2.2 and 7.2.3 of ISO/IEC 19011. For further information regarding the prerequisites and IFS Requirements for the approval of auditors please refer to section 3 of the relevant IFS Standard.



5. Internal Auditor Training - IFS Inhouse Trainers need to

- have the required audit experience according to GFSI standards or other food or product safety schemes;
- have profound food legislation knowledge;
- have participated in a “Train the Trainer” course organised by IFS;
- be fluent in writing and speaking the languages in which they perform the training.

You will find the comprehensive description in part 3 in the IFS Standard section 3. To ensure the quality and content of the training is according to our expectations, the trainer will receive current IFS Training Materials to perform the inhouse training.

6. Reviewer

The reviewer responsible for reviewing the audit reports shall be an approved IFS Auditor or an IFS Pure Reviewer and have the same professional education and work experience as requested for IFS Auditors. The reviewer, if not a trainer or an auditor, shall attend the annual two-day in-house CB training session.

The reviewer must document the technical review.

Either a nominated person or committee of the certification body shall make the final decision. The CB must ensure that the person having performed the audit is not involved in this decision.



Stay informed!

Should you have any questions, please send an email to certificationbodymanagement@ifs-certification.com.

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Published: March 2023