

NEW

IFS FOOD VERSION 7

NEWSLETTER FOR FOOD INDUSTRY | OCTOBER 2020

“ I am proud of this new version of the IFS Food Standard. We have made it more concise, efficient and simpler to work with. I thank our stakeholders, the Extended Core Group, our national working groups, International Technical Committee and the IFS Board for their valuable input and contributions.

Stephan Tromp, Managing Director of IFS



IFS – International Featured Standards is pleased to announce the publication of the new IFS Food Version 7. IFS Food is a worldwide acknowledged standard for assessing food manufacturers with a strong focus on food safety and the quality of processes and products.

The new version of this standard gives more clarity about what we expect from auditors when they perform an IFS Assessment. The requirements now have a more prescriptive nature, and the new structure makes it easier to work with the standard. We have put more emphasis on the on-site evaluation and less on documentation. The assessment checklist has been aligned with the GFSI Benchmarking Requirements version 2020.1, FSMA, and EU regulations.

IFS Food Version 7 at a glance

These are the most relevant changes:

- > Increased focus on the on-site assessment, less on documentation
- > New wording: the audit becomes an assessment, to highlight the product and process approach of IFS in keeping with ISO/IEC 17065.
- > 15% less requirements
- > Improved structure of the certification protocol tailored to the IFS stakeholders' needs
- > Better defined scoring system
- > Clearly structured assessment report with standardised sections
- > Every third IFS certification assessment will be unannounced
- > Food Safety Culture has been incorporated into the requirements
- > The new definitions on outsourcing clarify different management modalities.
- > A valid GLN (Global Location Number) becomes mandatory for suppliers in the European Economic Area (EEA) and United Kingdom.
- > Additional tools to support quality managers of certified companies, e.g. new e-learning courses, updated IFS auditXpressX™ Software and IFS Audit Manager App for internal auditing

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Essential information for certified companies to prepare for IFS Food version 7



Timelines

IFS Food version 7 assessments can be performed from 1st March 2021. The implementation will become mandatory for all certified companies as of 1st July 2021.

In some cases, exceptions have to be made. Here is an overview of exceptional situations:

- > Assessment of multi-location companies with central management where the assessment of the central managing site is performed before 1st March 2021. All efforts shall be made that the assessment of the central managing site is performed after 1st March 2021 according to IFS Food version 7. In case this is not possible, justification shall be provided to IFS by the responsible certification body.
- > Follow-up assessment when the connected “main” assessment took place before 1st July 2021 (and was performed according to V 6.1)
- > Extension assessment when the associated “main” assessment took place before 1st July 2021 (and was performed according to V 6.1)

The general admission of the aforementioned exceptional situations, which permit the use of IFS Food version 6.1 after 1st July 2021, will terminate on 30th June 2022.

If the assessment window for **unannounced IFS Assessments** starts on **1st May 2021**, then the assessment shall be made according to IFS Food version 7. As of January 2021, at least every third IFS Certification assessment shall be unannounced. It is your certification body's responsibility to make sure this rule is fulfilled.



Free online seminar about main changes in IFS Food version 7

The IFS Academy will provide a free online seminar for certified companies. Our Head of Standard Management, Chryssa Dimitriadis, will explain the main changes to the standard. The seminar will be held in English and is scheduled on 21st October, 10:00-12:00 am CET.

More information about registration and content will be available soon in a separate newsletter. For technical reasons we have to limit the number of participants but you can watch the recordings afterwards.



Industry Training

To be well prepared for version 7, IFS offers these training options:

- > Book a course at one of our regional IFS Training Centres. We have provided them with our official training materials. Please go to our website to find an official *IFS Training Centre* near you.
- > Book our IFS Food version 7 e-learning course directly at the IFS Academy. This online module will cost €150. It will be available in English from mid-October. Modules in German, French and Italian will follow later. We will keep you informed about the availability in our newsletters. You can buy this course in the *IFS webshop*.

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Accreditation and Benchmarking

IFS has published version 7 of the IFS Food Standard following positive feedback received by the German accreditation body DAkkS. The evaluation report from DAkkS will be shared with the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA).

We will apply for GFSI recognition according to the GFSI Benchmarking Requirements Version 2020.1.



Mandatory GS1 Global Location Numbers (GLN)

A new feature of the IFS Food version 7 is the GLN that will appear on the IFS Certificate and the first page of the IFS Assessment Report. The GLN is only mandatory for companies in the European Economic Area (EEA) and the United Kingdom (UK) when it leaves the EEA in January 2021. The GLN simplifies the communication between suppliers and retailers as most retailers in the aforementioned areas work with it in their merchandise management systems. The GLN also optimises the security and verifiability of the IFS Certificates.

The auditor will check the validity of the GLN during the IFS Assessment, either by querying it online in the [GEPiR database](#) or by checking the confirmation of the order or invoice that the company received from GS1. For certified companies in the EEA and UK, the auditor has to fill in the compulsory GLN field in the assessment report. Otherwise, the certification body cannot issue the IFS Certificate.

For this purpose, IFS co-operates with GS1 Germany GmbH. Companies that require this number can inform themselves via [this website](#).

As of **January 2021**, it will also be possible to **order** the GLN from this website. Please note that a company has to have a valid GLN when the first IFS Food V7 Assessment takes place. The latest possible date to order one is the date of the assessment.



New Scoring System

In IFS Food Standard version 7, we have made adjustments to the scoring system. There is a new definition of the B scoring, and we have introduced corrections.

Our new brochure "IFS Food Standard Version 7 Scoring System – Driving continuous improvement" explains it in detail. It is available in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish and can be downloaded from our [website](#).



Food Safety Culture

Food safety culture is addressed throughout the IFS Food Standard and is now explicitly included in two version 7 requirements, following the addition of it in the GFSI Benchmarking Requirements Version 2020.1. You can find more information in our "Food Safety Culture" fact sheet. It is available on our [website](#) in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish.

To learn more, IFS also offers an online module "Product and Food Safety Culture". It will provide you with guidelines and a valuable insight into the topic. This module will shortly be available in English in our webshop. The fee will be 100 €. We will inform you as soon as the course is available.

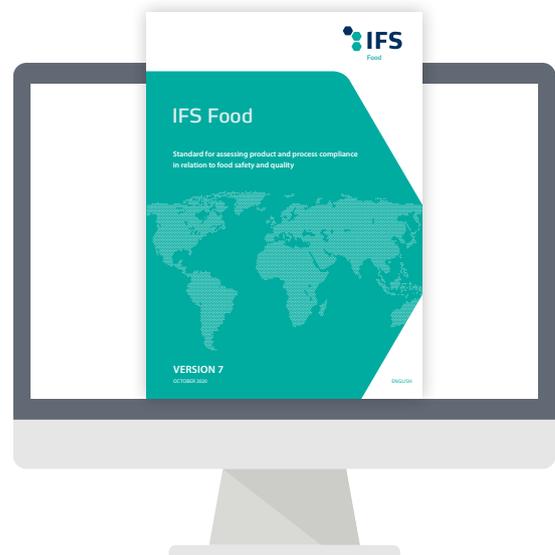
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New IFS Food version 7 Fact Sheet

In this new fact sheet, we summarise the main features of the IFS Food Standard version 7 and how certified companies can benefit from it. The document is available in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. Please follow the links below to download this document.

→ *Here you can download all documents regarding IFS Food version 7*



Tools to support internal audits and reporting



IFS will update its Audit Manager App and auditXpressX™ software. These tools significantly facilitate the execution of internal audits and the reporting of the assessment by the auditors. We expect these tools to be “Version 7 ready” in March 2021 at the latest. The new version of the software will be free of charge.

You can download the basic version of the IFS App free of charge from Google Play and the Apple App Store. More information about the IFS Tools is available on our [website](#).

We hope we have provided you with sufficient information. In case of requests related to standard content, please feel free to contact your [regional IFS representative](#) or send an e-mail (in English) to the IFS Standard Management Team:

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