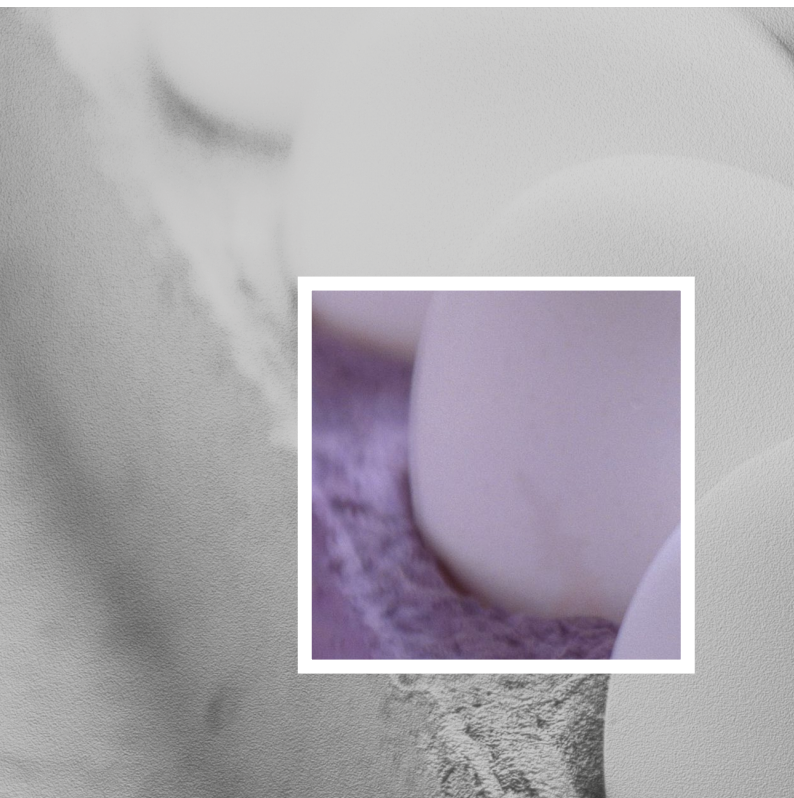


IFS Food – Standard for auditing of private label suppliers

The „International Featured Standard Food“ for the food industry



Motivation and benefits

The “International Featured Standard Food” (IFS Food) was developed by German and French retailers for auditing private label production. Since 2005 also Italian trade associations are involved in the joint project. The standard aims to improve food safety and quality of products, enhance consumer protection and confidence and increase cost efficiency in the food chain.

By now the IFS does not only address private brand (“private label”) suppliers but is also highly valued as a food specific quality assurance system, which can be used by all food producing companies.

The summarised requirements of the retail are: Is a producer capable of delivering a safe product in conformity with the specification and in compliance with legislation?

Objectives

- one common standard with one uniform assessment system
- verification of the food company of fulfilling assignments in food safety, legality and quality
- accreditation and registration of qualified certification bodies and auditors
- creating comparability and transparency throughout the supply chain
- reducing costs among the suppliers and in trade
- improving food safety and product quality
- enhancing consumer protection and confidence
- increasing cost efficiency in the food chain
- mutual recognition of the conducted audits
- high transparency throughout the supply chain

Target group

All producing companies in the food sector and all companies that need to verify that they meet the requirements trading companies place on product safety, quality and legality.

Criteria

The IFS is oriented towards the Guidance Document of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI). The goal of the GFSI is to establish international safety standards for companies delivering food products to trade and commerce. For this purpose, the GFSI has compiled key criteria, against which food safety standards are measured.

The requirements of the standard are structured as follows:

- corporate responsibility
- quality management system/HACCP
- resource management
- production processes
- measurements, analysis, improvements

IFS Food is a uniform product standard. By implementing the requirements, it is intended to ensure that IFS Food certified companies not only produce food that complies with customer as well as legal requirements but also continually improve their food safety management system.

The results will be determined according to an exact scheme. There are four grades for assessment. Grading ranges from “A = full compliance with the criterion of the standard” to “D = the criterion specified in the standard is not fulfilled”.



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Accreditation and registration

Since February 2006, Quality Austria - Trainings, Zertifizierungs und Begutachtungs GmbH has been accredited for certifications based on the IFS acc. to ISO/IEC 17065 (former EN 45011) by the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs been registered as the first Austrian certification body by the HDE (Hauptverband des Deutschen Einzelhandels – Main Association of German Retail Trade).

Other relevant standards

ISO/TS 22002-1/-4, ISO 9001, ISO 22000, BRC Standards, CAC/RCP 1-1969 (Rev. 4 -2003), IFS Standards, FSSC

Quality Austria introduces itself

Quality Austria - Trainings, Zertifizierungs und Begutachtungs GmbH is your competence partner for the Integrated Management System in the fields of Quality, Environment, Safety and Industry Standards as well as Business Excellence. The services provided by Quality Austria range from trainings in the field of international management trends and techniques via certification of management systems according to international standards, regulations, national guidelines, directives and assessments acc. to the EFQM Excellence Model to awarding the Austria Quality Seal. The Austrian Excellence Award will be presented to Austrian organizations in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs. Quality Austria is accredited by the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs and has numerous international registrations and accreditations.

IFS Food

Having more than 1.000 auditors, trainers, assessors and technical experts, Quality Austria secures successful implementation of standards and regulations within the organizations and provides sector and product specific know-how with a very high focus on practical work. Based on the competence network in the field of comprehensive sector specific, technical and methodological knowledge as well as comprehensive experience, trends will be influenced while innovations will be interpreted and tomorrow's requirements will be co-designed actively and consistently in corresponding bodies even on an international scale.

The close connection of Quality Austria as a national representative with international partner organizations as well as cooperations enable global know-how to be imparted and turn the organization into a competent partner. Quality Austria cooperates with some 50 partner and member organizations. Quality Austria is a stable factor when it comes to creating valuable synergies at the economic site of Austria.

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