

FSSC Global Markets Program

Part 1: Program Overview

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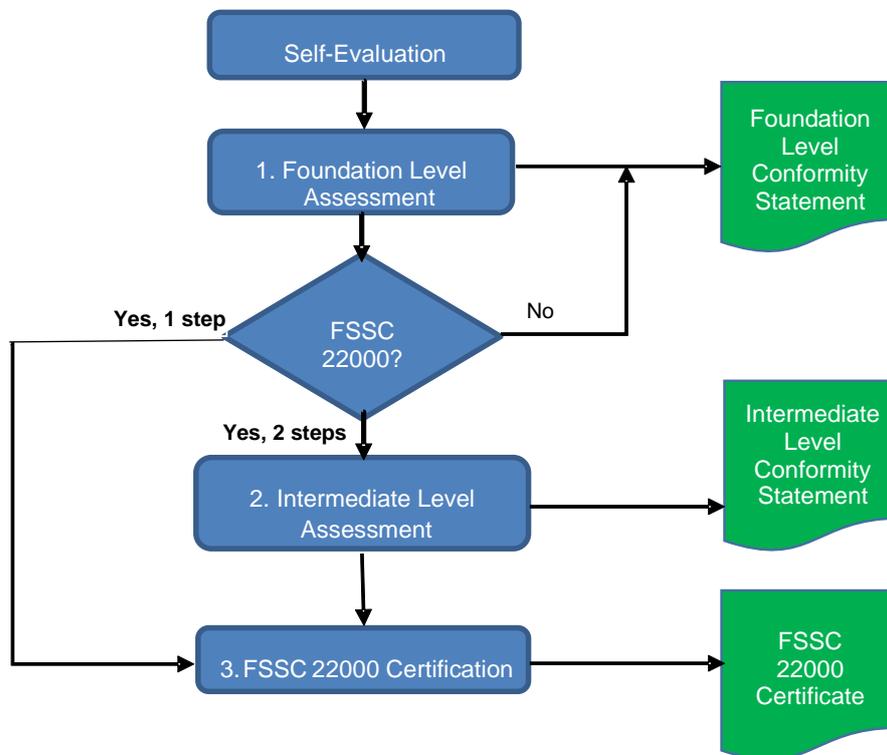
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Foundation FSSC 22000
 P.O. Box 693
 4200 AR Gorinchem, The Netherlands
 Phone +31 183 645028
 Website: www.fssc22000.com
 Email: globalmarkets@fssc22000.com

0 Introduction

The Program

1. The FSSC Global Markets Program (hereafter: the Program) fits the needs of organizations in the food supply chain and their customers to achieve a conforming food safety system based on Foundation Level and Intermediate Level food safety requirements. The basis for this Program is the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) Global Markets Program which enables organizations to achieve GFSI recognized certification.
2. The Program provides an assessment model that can be used in the food manufacturing supply chain following the food chain category description as defined in ISO/TS 22003. The Program is based on the GFSI Global Markets Program Requirements and the Codex Recommended International Code of Practice General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969, Rev. 4-2003).
3. The FSSC 22000 Global Markets Program follows a stepwise approach, however it also allows organizations to remain at the Foundation Level meeting the food safety requirements in accordance with GFSI Global Markets Program basic level supplemented by Codex HACCP. The Intermediate Level requirements are in accordance with the GFSI Global Markets Program intermediate level.
4. The aim of the Program is to ensure that it continuously meets international requirements resulting in trusted Conformity Statements being issued by licensed Conformity Assessment Bodies to assure the provision of safe products to consumers worldwide.
5. The Program's Foundation and Intermediate Level assessments are performed unaccredited although the FSSC Integrity Program does monitor assessment quality.
6. The Program outlines the requirements for Conformity Assessment Bodies to assess food safety systems of organizations in the supply chain and to guarantee its integrity. The Conformity statement indicates that the organizations' food safety system is in conformance with the requirements outlined in the Program.



Ownership

The Foundation FSSC 22000 (here after the Foundation) retains the ownership and the copyright of all Program related documents and also holds the license agreements for all involved assessment bodies.

Language

In all cases the English version of the Program is valid.

1 Background

1.1 Aim of the Program

The aim of the Program is to ensure that it continuously meets international requirements resulting in Conformity Statements that assure the provision of safe products to consumers worldwide.

1.2 Objective of the Program

The objective of the Program is to establish and maintain an accurate and reliable Register of Conforming Organizations that have demonstrated to comply with the Program requirements.

1.3 Register of Conforming Organizations

The Program outlines the requirements to comply and assess food safety systems of organizations in the supply chain and to guarantee its integrity.

The assessments are subsequently registered in the FSSC Global Markets Register of Conforming Organizations. This register is publicly accessible.

Registration indicates that the organizations' food safety system is in conformance with the Program requirements and that the organization is able to maintain conformance with these requirements.

The added value for a conforming organization lies in the oversight by the Foundation to ensure that the integrity of the entire assessment process is in line with the Program requirements.

2 Scope

The Program is intended for the assessment, assessment and registration of food safety systems for the following processes and product categories:

- 1) Production of perishable animal products (e.g. meat, poultry, eggs, dairy and fish/seafood products);
- 2) Production of perishable plant products (e.g. packaged fresh fruits and fresh juices, preserved fruits, packaged fresh vegetables, preserved vegetables);
- 3) Production of products with long shelf life at ambient temperature (e.g. canned products, biscuits, snacks, oil, drinking water, beverages, pasta, flour, sugar, salt);
- 4) Production of food and feed for pet food for dogs and cats;
- 5) Production of (bio) chemicals (i.e. food ingredients such as vitamins, additives and bio-cultures) but excluding pesticides, drug, fertilizers and cleaning agents.

3 Reference documents

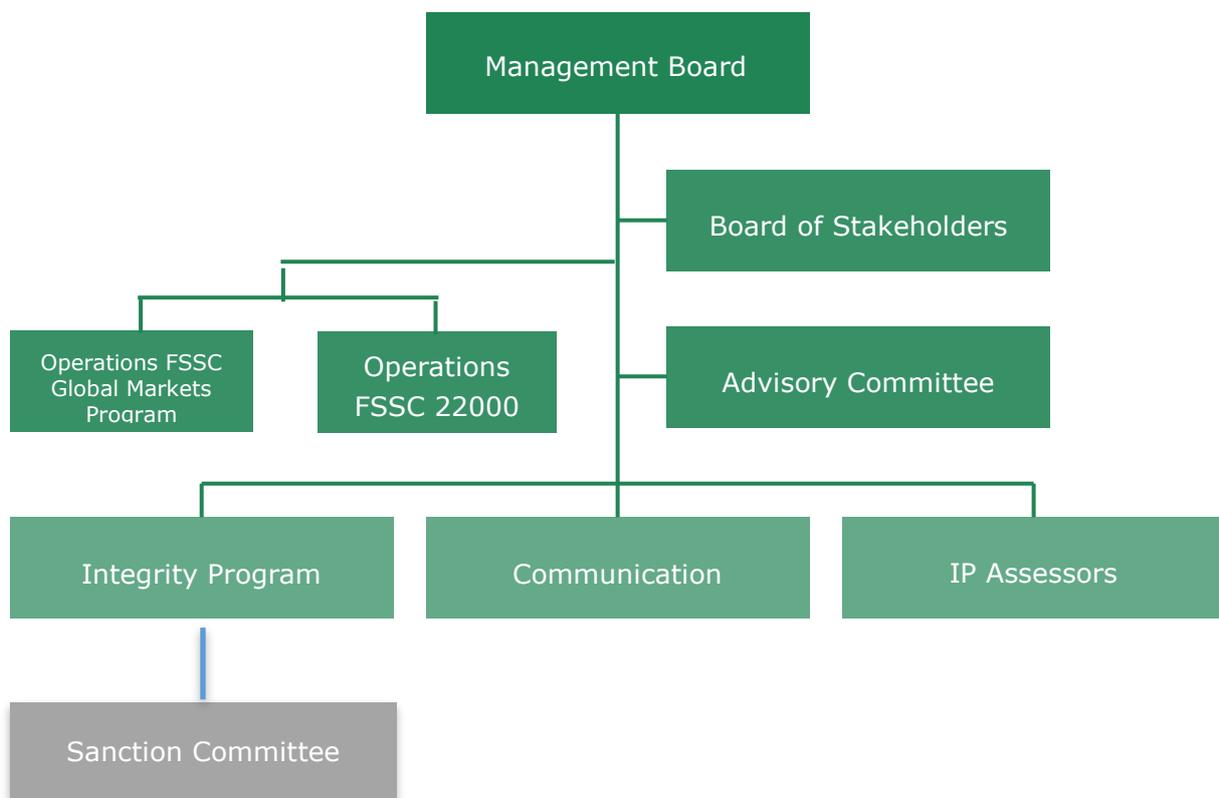
The Program is based on the following documents and their future versions:

- 1) GFSI Global Markets Program requirements
- 2) ISO 22000:2005, Food safety systems – Requirements for any organization in the food chain
- 3) ISO/TS 22002-1:2009, Prerequisite Programs for food safety – Part 1: Food manufacturing
- 4) ISO/TS 22003:2013, Food safety systems – Requirements for bodies providing assessment and assessment of food safety systems
- 5) ISO 22004:2014, Food safety systems – Guidance on the application of ISO 22000
- 6) ISO/IEC 17000:2004, Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles
- 7) ISO/IEC 17011:2004, Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies
- 8) ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing assessment and certification of management systems

4 Ownership, Governance and Integrity Program

4.1 Ownership

The Program is owned, governed and managed by the Foundation FSSC 22000, based in Gorinchem, Stephensonweg 14, 4207 HB, The Netherlands, registered with the Chamber of Commerce under the number 64112403. The operational management of the Program is organised in a separate division under the Foundation FSSC 22000. This division is managed by a Managing Director FSSC Global Markets Program. The Managing Director is appointed by, and reports to the Foundation Management Board.



The statutes of the Foundation as deposited with the Chamber of Commerce are outlined below.

4.2 Articles

Article 1: The Foundation

- 1.1 The Foundation has as its statutory objectives:
- a. Promoting the application of food safety and quality management systems;

- b. Developing, designing, managing and amending food safety assessment and inspection systems in the field of food safety and quality;
 - c. Promoting national and international recognition and general acceptance of systems it has developed for food safety and quality;
 - d. Running information campaigns and providing information on food safety and quality;
 - e. Providing support services for assessment of food safety systems in the field of food safety and quality;
 - f. Performing all other actions that are related in the broadest possible sense with the aforementioned or that could in any way be beneficial to it.
- 1.2 The Foundation endeavours to achieve these objectives by:
- a. Entering into agreements with assessment bodies;
 - b. Taking appropriate measures in the event of abuse or improper use of the conformity statements issued by accredited assessment bodies;
 - c. Taking appropriate measures in the event of abuse or improper use of the Foundation's logo;
 - d. Supporting, supervising and financing of other foundations and organizations which strive to achieve similar or partially similar objectives as those mentioned in this Article.

Article 2: The Management Board

- 2.1 The Foundation's management board, hereinafter referred to as "the Board", consists of at least three members.
- 2.2 The Board may never consist of a majority of members who represent the interests of one of the stakeholder groups involved. Stakeholder groups in this context being stakeholders or assessment bodies or Conformity statement holders or organizations which are intended to be Conformity statement holders.
- 2.3 The Board shall fill any vacancies that may arise with due observance of the aforementioned. Appointments are made by Board resolution.
- 2.4 Board members serve 5-year terms. They may be reappointed only twice. Thereof they only become eligible for appointment to the Board at least one year after their last term has expired. The Board shall use the prescribed term to draw up a retirement roster. Furthermore, the Board must ensure that end-of-term departures do not endanger its balanced operation. For that reason the Board shall decide case by case whether or not it can extend a member's term by a period not exceeding one year.
- 2.5 The Board shall elect a chairman and a treasurer from among its members. The Board shall also appoint a secretary to carry out all necessary administrative activities. The same person may hold the position of secretary and treasurer. The Board can appoint deputies for the chairman, secretary and/or treasurer from among its members. The deputies perform these duties during the officers' absence or incapacity to act. If the secretary is not a member of the Board, he/she shall have only an advisory role.

Article 3: Representation

- 3.1 The Foundation is represented by the Board or two Board members acting together.
- 3.2 The Board can grant a Board member or a third party a power of attorney to represent the Foundation within the confines of the power of attorney and the limitations from this Part of the Program and/or applicable law.

Article 4: Board meetings

- 4.1 The Board shall meet at least once each year and, furthermore, as often as the chairman or at least two Board members consider necessary.
- 4.2 Board members are entitled to have another Board member represent them in a meeting after such written authorisation is given which the chairman of the meeting deems sufficient. A Board member may only act as proxy for one other Board member.
- 4.3 If same has been mentioned in the summons, each Board member is entitled, in person or by way of written proxy, via an electronic means of communication, for instance via a conference or video call, to take part in the Board meeting, to take the floor in the meeting, and to exercise the right to vote, provided the Board member can be identified via the electronic means of communication, can take cognisance of the proceedings of the meeting directly and can participate in all deliberations.
- 4.4. The Board is authorised to set conditions for the use of electronic means of communication. If the board exercises this authority, the conditions shall be published in the summons.

Article 5: Board decision making

- 5.1 The Board can pass resolutions in and outside meetings. Unless these articles stipulate otherwise, a resolution can only be passed in a meeting at which a majority of current members are present. A decision taken outside a meeting requires a unanimous written vote of all current Board members.
If the provisions of these articles concerning the summons to the meeting have been violated, the Board can still pass resolutions in a legally valid manner provided the Board members not present at the meeting have stated in writing prior to the meeting that they do not object to the decision-making.
- 5.2 Voting will be oral, unless a Board member requests a written vote.
- 5.3 Unless these articles state otherwise, the Board shall adopt motions by a simple majority of votes cast.

- 5.4 If there is no majority on the first ballot in case of voting on the appointment of persons, a new ballot will be held. If no majority is reached after the second ballot, an interim vote shall decide which persons will remain in the running. If a ballot on persons results in a tied vote, lots will be drawn to decide who has been elected; if a ballot on other items results in a tied vote, the motion will be rejected.

Article 6: Board of Stakeholders

- 6.1 The Board appoints a Board of Stakeholders, hereinafter referred to as the "BoS", of which it determines the number of members and shall appoint or reappoint its chairman. A Board member cannot be appointed as member of the BoS, but the Foundation secretary can act as Secretary of the BoS, having an advisory role, not having any voting rights. The chairman leads the meetings of the BoS and shall be independent. The BoS shall consist of representatives of stakeholders in the field of FSSC GLOBAL MARKETS assessment, accreditation and promotion.
- 6.2 The BoS advises the Board on the design, development, changes and emendation of the Program, including interpretation of clauses, scopes, accreditations, work methods, methods and frequency with which assessment bodies are inspected, complaints procedures and standards of expertise of assessors.
- 6.3 The Board shall adopt the advice by the BoS referred to in paragraph 6.2 of this article, unless it is in conflict with any statutory provisions, or is in conflict with any requirement that the Foundation must meet in the context of accreditation, or if the Board is of the opinion that, taking into account all relevant interests of all stakeholders, the interests of the Foundation oppose the adoption of the advice. In such case the Foundation shall inform the BoS in writing, the BoS having the right to convene a meeting to discuss same.
- 6.4 With reference to Article 9, paragraph 3 of the Articles of Association of the Foundation the BoS shall from its members appoint a Sanction Committee, existing of at least 3 members and chaired by the independent chairman of the BoS. The Committee has the task to decide on behalf of the BoS on sanctions to be imposed on licensed assessment bodies in conformity with the Integrity Program & Sanction Policy as also to be established by the BoS.
- 6.5 The BoS can appoint an Advisory Committee which may include members of the BoS, outside experts, representatives of assessment bodies group organizations, industry representatives, science and public institutions representatives, to advise the BoS on decisions to be taken regarding the contents and the application of the Program. The BoS shall in any case take such advice into consideration, but is not bound to follow same.
- 6.6 The BoS will decide on Terms of Reference for both the Sanction and Advisory Committee(s).

Article 7: FSSC GLOBAL MARKETS Integrity Program

- 7.1 The FSSC GLOBAL MARKETS Integrity Program consists of the following elements:
- a. Standard contract with assessment bodies;
 - b. KPI driven desk reviews of full assessment reports, as determined by the Board;
 - c. KPI driven analysis of assessment reports, as determined by the Board;
 - d. Registration of all assessors qualified under the Program;
 - e. Office and witnessed assessments as determined by the Board;
 - f. Obligatory unannounced assessments by contracted assessment bodies, as determined by the Board;
 - g. All further Programs, procedures and measures which at any time may be required by the current version of the requirements set by the Global Food Safety Initiative Global Markets Program.
- 7.2 The Foundation shall appoint an independent expert assessing the results of the FSSC GLOBAL MARKETS Integrity Program, reporting same to the Board.
- 7.3 The Board shall maintain a sanction policy consisting of a system of written warnings, and yellow and red cards, based on major and minor findings in the Integrity Program.
- 7.4 Directly interested parties may appeal in writing against sanction decisions made by the Board.
- 7.5 The Board will make public the way in which any interested third party may file complaints against any aspects of the Program.
- 7.6 The Foundation shall maintain a public register for all conformity statements duly issued on basis of the Program, safeguarding all information on certified organizations which are to be treated as confidential.
- 7.7 The standard contract with assessment bodies as referred to here above will contain provisions for the use of the FSSC GLOBAL MARKETS logo.

Article 8: Further statutory provisions and requirements

The Foundations Statutes contain additional provisions and requirements regarding the ownership of and governance over the Foundation and the Program. These Statutes are publicly available in the Register of the Chamber of Commerce in Gorinchem, the Netherlands, under nr 64112403. Such additional provisions and requirements are part of the Program in as far as they may relate to the rights and obligations of direct and indirect stakeholders in the Program.