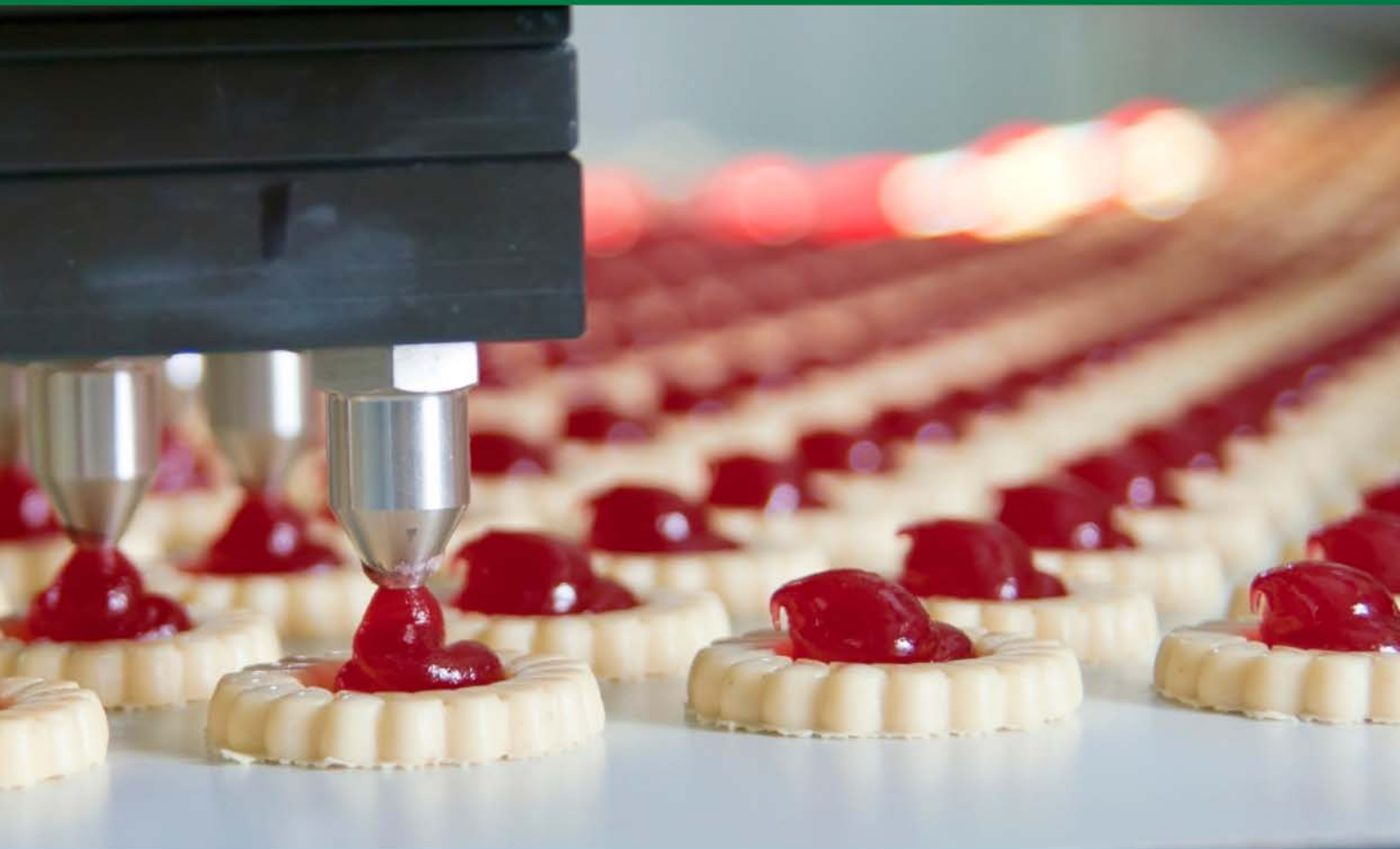




FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM CERTIFICATION 22000

Part 5: Requirements for Accreditation Bodies



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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: info@fssc22000.com

1 Purpose

This document specifies the criteria against which the Foundation will recognize and register Accreditation Bodies (ABs) on its website providing accreditation to Certification Bodies (CBs) seeking to offer FSSC 22000 certification to their clients in conformity with Scheme requirements.

1.1 Membership of the IAF

- 1) ABs providing accreditation to CBs seeking to offer FSSC 22000 certification shall:
 - a) be a current member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and inform the Foundation in case of changes to its membership status and
 - b) be a signatory to the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) for Management System certification till 2018 and Food Safety Management System (FSMS) certification from 2018 onwards.

1.2 ISO/IEC 17011

- 1) ABs shall meet the following requirements for the process of auditing the CB against ISO 17021 having the scope of FSSC 22000 or FSSC Quality:
 - a) ISO/IEC 17011 and
 - b) all relevant IAF Mandatory Documents (MD) and in particular IAF MD 16 "Application of ISO/IEC 17011 for the Accreditation of Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) Certification Bodies" and
 - c) notify the Foundation in a timely manner of any changes in its ownership, legal status or constitution.

1.3 Assessor competence

- 1) AB assessor teams shall meet the generic competence requirements for AB assessors set out in IAF MD 20 "Generic competence for AB assessors: Application of ISO/IEC 17011".
- 2) AB assessor teams shall meet the competence requirements for AB assessors set out in section 6.2.1 of IAF MD 16 "Application of ISO/IEC 17011 for the Accreditation of Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) Certification Bodies".
- 3) At least one AB assessor shall attend the annual FSSC 22000 Harmonization Conference and/or FSSC 22000 technical webinars to assure Scheme management updates.

1.4 Contact person

- 1) The AB shall appoint a contact person for the communication with the Foundation.

2 Accreditation of CBs

2.1 License agreement

The AB shall verify that the CB has signed a license agreement with the Foundation to certify for a predefined ISO 22003 Food Chain Category prior to its accreditation for a maximum of one (1) year.

2.2 Accreditation process

- 1) The AB shall issue a confirmation of application for accreditation including the detailed scope to the applicant CB.
- 2) The AB shall issue a confirmation of declining an application for accreditation including the detailed scope to the applicant CB.
- 3) The accreditation process shall cover all Scheme requirements applicable to the scope of accreditation.
- 4) CBs undergoing the process of FSSC 22000 accreditation against ISO/IEC 17021 may already carry out FSSC 22000 audits with a qualified FSSC 22000 auditor. At least one of these audits shall be witnessed and at least one complete FSSC 22000 certification procedure will be reviewed in course of the initial accreditation process.
- 5) The accreditation process shall consist of annual on-site assessments with the CB.
- 6) The AB shall inform the Foundation in case the accreditation status of the CB changes (e.g. granted, extension, suspension or withdrawal).

2.2.1 Accreditation scope

- 1) The scope of accreditation shall be precisely defined and included on the accreditation documents with reference to the:
 - a) FSSC 22000 Certification scheme for food safety management systems.
 - b) Normative documents for providing certification:
 - i) ISO 22000 requirements,
 - ii) Sector specific PRP requirements (e.g. ISO/TS 22002-1),
 - iii) Additional FSSC requirements.
 - c) Food chain clusters and categories as indicated in Annex A of ISO/TS 22003.
 - d) Locations covered under CB accreditation.

2.2.2 Witnessed audits

- 1) The witnessed audits shall meet the requirements for Witnessing Activities for the Accreditation of Management Systems Certification Bodies, set out in IAF MD 17 with the below Scheme specific requirements:
 - a) An initial assessment of a FSSC 22000 cluster shall require at least one (1) witnessed assessment of a category (as defined in ISO/TS 22003) except for the food and feed processing cluster and retail, transport and storage cluster, where the categories shall be assessed separately.
 - b) For extensions inside a cluster, a witnessed audit is not mandatory (except for the food and feed processing cluster and retail, transport and storage cluster) however witnessed audits are mandatory for extensions to categories in a new cluster.
 - c) The AB shall conduct witnessed audits covering all clusters included in the CB accreditation scope during a period of four (4) years.

2.3 Integrity Program

- 1) The Foundation provides the AB access to all relevant CB outcomes of its Integrity Program and complaints management system related to ISO/IEC 17021. The AB shall consider the content of this information which could form input for the CBs management system review. ABs are invited to attend the Integrity Program assessments undertaken by the Foundation.
- 2) Evaluation that an AB meets the requirements of this document shall be monitored by the Foundation and feedback on compliance with these requirements shall be shared directly with the AB for discussion and action when appropriate.