

FSSC 22000-QUALITY Q&A

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1. WHY WAS FSSC 22000-QUALITY DEVELOPED?

There has been strong interest from organizations using FSSC 22000 certification for an opportunity to integrate food quality management in the scope of their certification. To meet this demand, the Board of Stakeholders (BoS) decided on 24 February 2015 to add the full ISO 9001 standard to the FSSC 22000 certification scheme, offering a combined FSSC 22000 and ISO 9001 certificate. As from 1 March 2015, FSSC 22000 and ISO 9001 can be assessed as an integrated management system called FSSC 22000-Quality audited by accredited CBs licensed by FSSC 22000.

2. IS FSSC 22000-QUALITY MANDATORY?

No, it is a voluntary assessment of FSSC 22000 integrated with full ISO 9001 audit. Organizations can still continue to choose a separate ISO 9001 certification. You can do a food safety management system (FSSC 22000) audit without covering quality, but not the other way around, i.e. you cannot do a quality audit (ISO 9001) and cover safety or you cannot do a FSSC 22000-Quality Certification audit without covering food safety.

3. IS IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE SEPARATE FSSC 22000 AND ISO 9001 CERTIFICATES?

Yes, it is possible but FSSC 22000 does not encourage the issuance of a separate ISO 9001 certificate instead of a FSSC 22000-Quality certificate. The purpose of the assessment of the integrated FSSC 22000-Quality is a combined FSSC 22000-Quality certificate that names each standard assessed. For example, FSSC 22000-Quality (Category E) would list these standards completely assessed on the certificate: ISO 22000:2018, ISO/TS:22002-1:2009, FSSC Additional Requirements, ISO 9001:2015.

4. IS THE FSSC 22000-QUALITY AUDIT ALWAYS A FULL AUDIT?

Yes the FSSC 22000-Quality audit is always a full audit. All the FSSC 22000 and ISO 9001 requirements have to be audited and reported on.

5. WHAT ARE THE NORMATIVE REQUIREMENTS?

The requirements for the development, implementation and maintenance of the quality management system are laid down in the standard ISO 9001:2015 "Quality management systems - Requirements". All ISO 9001 clauses will be assessed during an FSSC 22000-Quality audit.

6. WHAT IS ISO 9001?

The ISO 9001 standard describes the requirements for a quality management system implemented by organizations to assure the quality of its services and/or products. The ISO 9001 standard is based on a number of quality management principles including customer satisfaction, top management commitment, the process approach and continuous improvement. Using ISO 9001 helps an organization ensure that customers get consistent, good quality products and services, which in turn provides business benefits. ISO 9001 includes similar requirements as ISO 22000, but it is not focused on food safety.

7. WHAT WERE THE RELEVANT CHANGES IN ISO 9001:2015 ?

The main revisions in 9001:2015 were:

- The High Level Structure (HLS). All the new ISO standards will comply with the HLS which is the new standard layout used by ISO.
- Introduction of risk management (Section 6.1) and focus on product integrity. This further aligns ISO 9001 with FSSC 22000 and facilitates the combination (integration) of the two standards in FSSC 22000-Quality.

8. WHAT IS THE REQUIRED AUDIT DURATION FOR FSSC 22000-QUALITY?

According to the FSSC 22000 Scheme requirements Part IV – Annex II, the audit time for the ISO 9001 part of the audit shall be calculated using IAF MD 5. The audit duration for the integrated FSSC 22000 and ISO 9001 audit shall be based on IAF MD 11, section 2.1.5.1.

9. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AUDITOR QUALIFICATION?

The FSSC 22000-Quality audit is a fully integrated audit. All the audit team members have to be qualified for FSSC 22000 and ISO 9001 i.e. fully qualified to conduct the integrated audit.

In addition to the auditor qualification requirements shown in FSSC Scheme Document Part IV – Annex V, the auditor also has to be qualified for ISO 9001.

10. IS THERE AN AUDIT REPORT TEMPLATE AVAILABLE?

The FSSC 22000-Quality audit report is available in the FSSC 22000 Portal for use by the CBs.

11. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A CB TO BECOME LICENSED?

The CB shall have a valid ISO 9001 accreditation. CBs shall apply for a license with FSSC 22000 for the FSSC 22000 Quality-Module. The existing license has to be extended for FSSC 22000-Quality.

12. IS FSSC 22000-QUALITY MANAGED BY FSSC 22000?

- The FSSC 22000 Integrity program provides oversight of both FSSC 22000 and ISO 9001 to give confidence in the CB assessment and integration of the 2 management system standards.
- The integrated management system of FSSC 22000 with ISO 9001 is in line with ISO's current revision of management system standards.
- Only licensed CBs by FSSC 22000 can certify FSSC 22000-Quality.

13. WILL FSSC 22000-QUALITY BE BENCHMARKED BY THE GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE (GFSI)?

Food quality certification falls outside of the GFSI benchmarking process and recognition. Nonetheless, FSSC 22000 will apply all its existing and future GFSI and ISO based requirements to the certification process for good governance and integrity ensuring confidence in the FSSC 22000-Quality option. This means, as a start, that CBs, offering FSSC 22000-Quality, shall be licensed by FSSC 22000, accredited for ISO 9001 and auditors shall meet all relevant competence requirements.