

International Accreditation Forum, Inc.



IAF Informative Document

**IAF Informative Document
for the Transition of Food Safety
Management System Accreditation
to ISO/TS 22003:201X
from ISO/TS 22003:2007**

Issue 1

(IAF ID X:201X)

The International Accreditation Forum, Inc. (IAF) details criteria for the accreditation of bodies that provide conformity assessment services, and such accreditation facilitates trade and reduces demands for multiple conformity assessment activities.

Accreditation reduces risk for business and its customers by assuring that accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) are competent to carry out the work they undertake within their scope of accreditation. Accreditation Bodies (ABs) that are members of IAF and the CABs they accredit are required to comply with appropriate international standards and the applicable IAF application documents for the consistent application of those standards.

ABs that are signatories to the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) are evaluated regularly by an appointed team of peers to provide confidence in the operation of their accreditation programs. The structure and scope of the IAF MLA is detailed in IAF PR 4 - Structure of IAF MLA and Endorsed Normative Documents.

The IAF MLA is structured in five levels: Level 1 specifies mandatory criteria that apply to all ABs, ISO/IEC 17011. The combination of a Level 2 activity(ies) and the corresponding Level 3 normative document(s) is called the main scope of the MLA, and the combination of Level 4 (if applicable) and Level 5 relevant normative documents is called a sub-scope of the MLA.

- The main scope of the MLA includes activities e.g. product certification and associated mandatory documents e.g. ISO/IEC Guide 65. The attestations made by CABs at the main scope level are considered to be equally reliable.
- The sub-scope of the MLA includes conformity assessment requirements e.g. ISO 9001 and scheme specific requirements, where applicable, e.g. ISO TS 22003. The attestations made by CABs at the sub scope level are considered to be equivalent.

The IAF MLA delivers the confidence needed for market acceptance of conformity assessment outcomes. An attestation issued, within the scope of the IAF MLA, by a body that is accredited by an IAF MLA signatory AB can be recognized worldwide, thereby facilitating international trade.

Issue No 1

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Issue Date: 9 January 2013

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Application Date: Immediate

INTRODUCTION TO IAF INFORMATIVE DOCUMENTS

This IAF Informative Document reflects the consensus of IAF members on this subject and is intended to support the consistent application of requirements. However, being a document for information purposes only, IAF Accreditation Body Members, and the Conformity Assessment Bodies they accredit, are not under any obligation to use or comply with anything in this document.

**INFORMATIVE DOCUMENT FOR THE TRANSITION OF FOOD SAFETY MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM ACCREDITATION
TO ISO/TS 22003:201X FROM ISO/TS 22003:2007**

1. Publication

ISO/TS 22003:201X was published on XX XX 201X. It incorporates revised and new requirements for third-party certification auditing of Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) and the competence of personnel involved in the certification process.

Resolution 2013-XX was passed by the IAF General Assembly in Seoul 23 October 2013 endorsing a 3 year transition period to ISO/TS 22003:201X.

2. Accreditation Bodies

Accreditation Bodies will need time to prepare for the transition to ISO/TS 22003:201X. In particular, Accreditation Bodies should ensure they have defined, and that their assessors have achieved the necessary competence before undertaking assessments to ISO/TS 22003:201X.

3. Certification Bodies

Accreditation Bodies should make it clear to Certification Bodies that apply for accreditation following the publication of ISO/TS 22003:201X if they are to comply with this version immediately or to the 2007 version. Accreditation Bodies should define a time limit after which application to ISO/TS 22003:2007 cannot be received and must be transferred to ISO/TS 22003:201X application. They should advise a date beyond which they cannot issue accreditation to ISO/TS 22003:2007.

3.1 Certification Bodies with prior Accreditation

Certification Bodies accredited at the time of publication will be in conformance with ISO/TS 22003:2007. Transition to ISO/TS 22003:201X may require translations, changes to procedures, training and other arrangements which will take time. In particular, time will be needed for Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) to establish processes and systems for them to be able to demonstrate the competence of its certification personnel.

3.2 Preparation time

Certification Bodies should analyse and understand the requirements of ISO/TS 22003:201X and commence identification of new requirements in the standard without delay. Certification Bodies are advised to make a transition plan to determine both the required changes to their management system and the time frame required

to execute them in order to conform to the standard. Certification Bodies are further advised to agree their transition plan with their Accreditation Body.

3.3 Transition and Implementation

Wherever possible and where there are no significant obstacles, a Certification Body should implement those parts of ISO/TS 22003:201X that it can without delay. Assessment by an Accreditation Body should cover a Certification Body's plans for effectively managing its transition. The examination of these plans should enable the Accreditation Body to identify those points of the standard which have been interpreted differently or implemented insufficiently by Certification Bodies, and which may eventually lead to the need for additional IAF advice. The examination of these transition plans should also enable the Accreditation Body and Certification Body to agree upon an end date for the transition process, which should not go beyond XX XX 201X (3 years from publication).

Certain changes resulting from ISO/TS 22003:201X will be easier to complete than others.

More complex, time consuming and potentially costly changes could include setting up training regimes and the implementation of systems to demonstrate competence. In recognition of the need to limit the disruption to a Certification Body's clients, certain changes may be more appropriately carried out during the normal business cycle at the time of contract renewal or certificate re-issue.

4. Visits by Accreditation Bodies

Additional visits by Accreditation Bodies to assess solely against ISO/TS 22003:201X are not normally required. The implementation should be verified during normal scheduled surveillance activities. However, additional assessments may be necessary for a Certification Body requesting accreditation within an accelerated time frame.

5. Nonconformities

Accreditation Bodies should make it clear to Certification Bodies that where an assessment is conducted against ISO/TS 22003:201X, any nonconformities identified should be dealt with according to the Accreditation Body's normal processes and must be cleared before the end of transition before accreditation to ISO/TS 22003:201X can be granted.

Where full implementation of specific clauses identified by the CAB and agreed in advance with the AB has not been completed by the end of transition, such changes should be raised as observations and should not adversely affect accreditation and

should not preclude the issue of an accreditation certificate to ISO/TS 22003:201X provided that an implementation plan has been agreed and is on schedule. An example might include the completion of training and evaluation of all salespersons to meet new requirements in the normative Annex C in ISO/TS 22003:201X.

6. End of transition and Accreditation Documents Issue

On XX XX 201X, three years after publication of the new standard, all accredited Certification Bodies are expected to be in full compliance with ISO/TS 22003:201X and have had new accreditation documents issued.

7. New Schemes

It is expected ISO/TS 22003:201X will be applied immediately to applications by Certification Bodies and by Accreditation Bodies for accreditation to food safety management system certification schemes.

End of IAF Informative Document for the Transition of Food Safety Management System Accreditation to ISO/TS 22003:201X from ISO/TS 22003:2007.

Further Information:

For further Information on this document or other IAF documents, contact any member of IAF or the IAF Secretariat.

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