IFS Broker: The Standard for Brokerage and Import Companies

Complex, global supply chains must be run efficiently and safely. The certification according to the International Featured Standards (IFS) Broker supports the continuous safety of food, body care and household products between manufacturing companies and trading companies. As a broker or when importing goods, the IFS Broker ensures that your delivered goods comply with current regulations.

Version 3.1 of IFS Broker to be released
From October 1, 2021, IFS Broker, version 3.1, will become mandatory. There is no transition period in which both the previous and version 3.1 can be certified.

The most important changes in IFS Broker 3.1 are the adjustment of evaluation regarding deviations and the management of non-conformities. In line with changes to IFS Food version 7, these were implemented in IFS Broker as well. B-evaluations no longer count as deviations, but instead become points of attention. Corrections must be implemented within 28 days after the audit.

We are offering free webinars on the changes made to the standards, so that you can get the necessary information and ask questions.

Please have a look at our event calendar, so you don't miss anything.

Please contact us, if you have any questions:
foodcert@tuev-nord.de

TÜV NORD CERT

In the following, we have summarized the changes made to the standards and doctrines of IFS Broker 3.1 and IFS Logistics 2.3

0.0.1 **DB 3.1–0.0/1 V1** **New**	**New: clarification for companies in case of initial audits after a new version** All requirements of the standard in version 3.1 must be implemented at the time of the initial audit after version 3.1 and must be checked and evaluated by the auditor. This applies to both announced and unannounced audits.
1.1.1 **New**	**Which version is to be used at which time?** In the case of multi-site companies, all sites will be audited according to the version that was used when auditing the headquarters. That means, if the headquarters was audited before October 1, 2021, according to version 3, all other sites will also be audited according to this version. In case of a follow-up audit or an expansion audit, and if the main audit took place before October 1, 2021, the follow-up audit will be conducted according to version 3. These regulations are valid until September 30, 2022. Unannounced audits are subject to version 3.1, if the time window begins on October 1, 2021, or later. The time window for unannounced audits extends from -16 weeks to +2 weeks. However, the registration must be made 20 weeks ahead of time.
1.2.2.1 **New**	**Extraordinary Information – see section 2.2, IFS Broker 3.1** As soon as a company briefs the certification body regarding extraordinary information, such information must be documented in a form provided by IFS. It must contain a description, a cause, as well as the associated measures (in English language). This form must be submitted to IFS as quickly as possible. This rule takes effect with the release date of this document.
1.3.2 **Updated**	**Remote Audit Protocol** Apart from the requirements of IFS Broker 3.1, there are additional requirements in case of remote audits. These are described in the "IFS Broker version 3.1 Audit Protocol for Remote Auditing". Auditors must fulfil the requirements described therein (chapter 2.1.3).
1.4.2.2 **New**	**Clarification regarding the description of the scope of the audit of IFS Broker** Trademarks must not be named in the scope of application, since these do not provide a detailed description of the product category. Trademarks may only be named in the company profile of the report.
2.4.6.1 **New**	**Clarification regarding loose Products** The traceability and labelling of products must ensure that all relevant information regarding product safety and quality can be specifically assigned to the product, also in case of loose products and consumption units without end consumer label.

2. Annex 1.2 **New**	**New Definition regarding Public Offers**
	In IFS audits, no claims must be used within the scope of application of the IFS certificates. This includes: - Composition: organic, natural, free from..., origin, reduced... - Identity standards: meat products, special labs, etc. - Origin: "Made in...", PDO/ PGI, etc. - Sustainability labels: fair trade, halal, kosher, etc. - Statements regarding functionalities of foods Product-related claims can only be declared by the person legally responsible for the product, if: - there is evidence proving their truthfulness, honesty, fairness and legal conformity. - their use was authorised by the competent agency, if applicable. - clear and understandable information is declared for the benefit of the users (customers, users and/or end consumers, if applicable) on special properties and/or effects regarding the intended use of the product.
4.1.5.2 **Updated**	**Administration of the COID-Number in special situations**
	– Companies with multiple legal units at one site and the same area of application - One audit - Different COID - Duplication of the certificate and the report – Change of the legal entity (at the same address and with unchanged area of application/unchanged processes, and the same staff - New COID-number - New initial audit - The certifying body decides whether the old reports are uploaded under the new COID. – New address, but unchanged company name, staff and service – New owner/new management, company name, staff, but unchanged service – New company name, new owner, and unchanged service, etc. - No change of COID-number - Certifying body decides whether an additional special audit is required (based on a risk evaluation) These regulations take effect with the publication of the doctrine.

4.1.5.3 **New**	**Clarification of Information on the Certificate regarding the Headquarters**
	Information regarding the headquarters, including the address, must be specified on the IFS-certificate, if: ■ the headquarters manages particular processes centrally for other sites and is part of the IFS multi-location rule ■ the headquarters does not impose centralized rules, but has a contract with the certifying body.
5.1.1.1 **New**	**Option 2 unannounced Audits**
	Option 2 is no longer available. Unannounced audits already registered but not conducted under option 2, will automatically convert into initial audits. In case of initial audits (including seasonal tasks), the validity period of the certificate is calculated from the last day of the actual audit within the selected time frame. In case of re-certification audits, the time window is calculated as follows: [-16 weeks/ + two (2) weeks after the audit is due]. An unannounced audit registration is deactivated in the IFS database, if nothing has been uploaded within three (3) months after the last day of the audit time window. In case of a missing calendar entry, the registration is deactivated directly after the last possible audit day. The regulation takes effect on the publication date of this doctrine.
5.1.2.1 **New**	**Time Window for unannounced Audits**
	Unannounced audits are subject to the following time window: -16 weeks/ + 2 weeks from the reference date of the audit (= last day of the first audit)
5.1.4.1.1 **Deleted**	Cancelled
5.4.2 **Updated**	A non-contested audit may be followed by an unannounced audit, if the customer of the site desires or demands it.

Kontakt
Philipp Nahrmann

TÜV NORD CERT
Sales Certification Food, Feed and Near Food
Böttcherstraße 11
33609 Bielefeld

T   0521 786-327
F   0521 786-157

foodcert@tuev-nord.de
tuev-nord-cert.de