

# IFS Technical Newsletter

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## Doctrine updates

IFS updated some doctrine requirement . The new version of the Doctrine is available on the IFS website and you can download it directly: [www.ifs-certification.com/images/standards/ifs\\_food6/documents/IFS\\_Food\\_Doctrine\\_July\\_2017.pdf](http://www.ifs-certification.com/images/standards/ifs_food6/documents/IFS_Food_Doctrine_July_2017.pdf) . So far the document is only available in English, but further languages will follow.

The following numbers were modified:

**1.3.4.5 Processing of sparkling wine.**

**1.4.4.1 Origin certification and other certification under specific regulations**

**1.5.2.1 Are there any IFS rules for the use of translators during an IFS Food audit?**

**1.5.2.4 Use of a technical expert within an audit team in specific emerging markets**

A short summary of the modifications is given on the first pages (Content Status July 2017) of the IFS Food Doctrine.

## Important notice unannounced audits

Recently the IFS became aware of some questions and errors in the handling of the unannounced audit program. With this newsletter we would like to inform our stakeholders to raise awareness and to help avoiding these issues for the future:

Please be aware that the unannounced sign (light bulb) in the IFS Portal is only visible for a company if all the following conditions are fulfilled:

1. The supplier was registered correctly for the unannounced audit. This means: in time and with the correct information (seasonal, if applicable).

**Please note:** A registration can only be done by the responsible certification body. Since May 2017 the IFS offers two options for registrations:

**Option 1:** Is the regular registration to the unannounced audit, with a timeframe of – 16 weeks; + 2 weeks (18 weeks in total) from the recent audit due date. By choosing this option the certification validity does not change.

**Option 2 (new):** Was developed to give companies the possibility to postpone or move forward their audit time frame (18 weeks in total) in order to align it with other schemes and/or due to holidays or non-production periods.

Based on the new time frame the validity of the next certificate will change. Therefore certification bodies and suppliers should discuss possible certification gaps before the registration.

2. The audit was conducted unannounced.
3. The audit was uploaded as unannounced.

If any of these conditions is not fulfilled, the sign for the unannounced audit (light bulb) will not be visible in the database. Also the certificate can't state that the audit was unannounced. Nevertheless, it can be written in the audit report (company profile), that the audit was conducted unannounced and this can also be communicated to the relevant customers.

All suppliers are being notified 2 weeks before the registration deadline. We would like to encourage you to log into your IFS Portal and check if your registration is correct and the information (e.g. black-out dates) accurate. Please contact your certification body in case of questions and errors before the deadline expires.

For further information about the registration options please see also our video and webinar:

> <https://ifs-certification.adobeconnect.com/p5kc062e0ke/>

### New documentation

IFS published during the first semester 2017 the following technical documentation. The documents mentioned below can be downloaded from the IFS website:

- > IFS Wholesale/ Cash&Carry Erratum
- > IFS Wholesale / Cash& Carry FAQs (English)
- > IFS Wholesale / Cash& Carry Standard (Spanish)
- > IFS Global Markets Food Program (French, Italy, Portuguese, Spanish)
- > IFS Global Markets Food Guideline (English, German)
- > IFS Global Markets Logistics Program (Italian, French, German, Polish)
- > IFS HPC Standard (French)
- > IFS Global Markets-Food program v.2 (English, French, German, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish)
- > IFS Doctrine
- > TTT-update 2017 (English) for Certification bodies
- > IFS Food defense Guideline updated following the changes in IFS Food 6 April 2014 (English and Italian)
- > IFS Foreign body management guideline (English, French, German, Spanish) > IFS Shop

### Visibility of companies for authorities

The Dutch food authority NVWA recognized the IFS Food standard. Companies certified against the IFS Food will benefit from an improved ranking in the risk analysis as opposed to non-certified companies or those which are certified against a scheme not accepted by the NVWA.

It is the first time that a state authority considers private standards in their evaluation.

With the aim to enable authorities worldwide to get access to IFS certification information, all authorities have the opportunity to register for the IFS Database since January 2017. Interested authorities can register on the IFS website and will get access after a short check by IFS Management. Once an authority is logged in it get an overview about IFS certified companies and if activated more detailed information.

Hereby IFS certified companies should have an additional benefit from IFS certification in form of an improved ranking in authorities' risk analysis.

Further recognition by European authorities are in progress.

Please note: Certified companies can actively chose to be visible for authorities and in a second step select if they want to share their certification information with specific authorities.

### Webinars

Throughout the year 2017 the IFS already held several webinar sessions on various topics, such as the new auditor approval procedure or foreign body management. The positive feedback and appreciation of our free events is encouraging us to further engage with you in our webinars. For the rest of 2017, a series of webinars on upcoming tools and features, as well as short sessions about requirement related content are planned. Furthermore, together with the launch of IFS Food 7, in 2018 the IFS will utilize webinars as a tool to communicate important changes of the new version to all interested IFS users.

### IFS and FSMA

Since June 2017, IFS users have the chance to integrate the notice of their successful implementation of the FDA FSMA requirements into the IFS Database and the audit report. What is to do? Interested companies have to contact their certification bodies and ask them if they are able to check the FSMA requirements in addition to the IFS audit. By writing the audit report the certification body can include this information in the designated box. All entitled database user get the possibility to access this information.

In addition IFS published a brochure to show companies the differences between IFS certification and FSMA and what they have to do in addition to fulfill FSMA requirements. The document is available on the IFS website. <https://www.ifs-certification.com/index.php/en/ifs/general-documents>