



Image: TÜV Rheinland ©

Questions and answers about IFS food safety certification

Our experts answer important questions about IFS food safety certification. Would you like to learn more? Then **get in touch** with our experts.

1. WHO CAN BE CERTIFIED ACCORDING TO IFS STANDARDS?

This certification is for food manufacturers, brokers, logistics companies, wholesalers and retailers.




2. HOW DO I BENEFIT FROM IFS CERTIFICATION?

This certification represents independent third-party proof of compliance with the most stringent standards. It secures your company's reputation as a manufacturer of products that are safe and of high quality. And you improve customer satisfaction while gaining a competitive edge.

3. WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF AUDITS?

You benefit from improved communications between management and employees as regards practices, standards and procedures. Your costs are reduced through a more effective use of resources, and because there is less need for customer inspections. They open up business relationships with customers who insist on independent audits.

4. WHERE SHOULD I APPLY THESE STANDARDS?

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 - Processing and production of foods
 - Packaging unpackaged foods
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 - Storage, distribution and transport of foods and non-food products
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 - Brokers for food, HPC products, packaging
 - Agents and importers

5. CAN I COMBINE AUDITS FOR DIFFERENT IFS STANDARDS?

Companies that offer logistics services as well as retail services can combine the IFS Logistics audit with the IFS Broker audit.

6. WHERE DOES IFS FOOD APPLY?

The IFS Food standard was developed in close collaboration with certification bodies, retailers, the food industry and the food service industry and is a recognized standard of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI). The standard applies to food-processing companies and to businesses where there is a risk of contamination during initial packaging. It is important for manufacturers of store brands as they need to meet numerous requirements to comply with customer specifications.

7. WHAT AREA IS COVERED BY THE IFS LOGISTICS STANDARD?

IFS Logistics can be applied to all logistics activities and to the loading, unloading and transport of foods and non-food products. The standard can be applied to all types of transport: trucks, trains, ships, planes and any other method of transport (under controlled temperature conditions or at room temperature).

8. WHERE DOES IFS BROKER APPLY?

Brokers, agents and importers are a vital link between producers and retailers. This standard was developed as a link between manufacturer and retailer to guarantee the quality and safety of products. All the involved parties are inspected in order to guarantee the product safety and quality requirements. Suppliers are monitored in order to ensure that the supplied products meet legal and contract-specific requirements.

9. WHAT IS AN UNANNOUNCED AUDIT?

In October 1, 2016, it became possible to register for an unannounced audit. Such audits are voluntary and replace the annual announced audit. They can also be chosen as the first audit. We have answered all the important questions here.

10. ARE THE IFS STANDARDS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED?

Yes, IFS is recognized by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) and is considered the most important standard for food safety and quality next to the British Retail Consortium (BRC).

OUR EXPERTS WILL ANSWER ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS. CONTACT US IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

[ONLINE CONTACT](#)