

# Update IFS Food V7



The International Featured Standard (IFS) Food is a Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) recognized standard for auditing food manufacturers. The new iteration, IFS Food V7, was released on October 6, 2020 and will be applied beginning on April 1, 2021. Starting on July 1, 2021, its application is mandatory; V6.1 will no longer be used for auditing. The standard establishes uniform safety and quality standards for food manufacturers and packers, creating transparency and a framework for comparison.

## The IFS Food V7 implementation timeline

The IFS has provided information online about the new version and how it differs from V6.1 so that companies processing or packaging food can become familiar with the changes during the transition phase. Assessments according to IFS Food V7 will begin on March 1, 2021. IFS Food V6.1 can be applied until June 30, 2021 and will be replaced completely by V7 beginning on July 1, 2021.

## New scoring system aimed at food manufacturer efficiency

IFS Food V7 introduces some key modifications to earlier versions, including alterations to the scoring system. These changes are intended to make assessment results easier to read and understand. For example, the new system integrates “Points of Attention” (rated B) that are not classified as deviations anymore. In addition, B-rated points of attention will not require corrective action. The intention is to save stakeholders time and effort on less acute matters so that resources can be allocated to address major deviations.

### Assessments get an upgrade in IFS Food V7

The overall number of requirements for the assessment has been reduced by 15% in IFS Food V7. There are, however, 12 new requirements. Among them are:

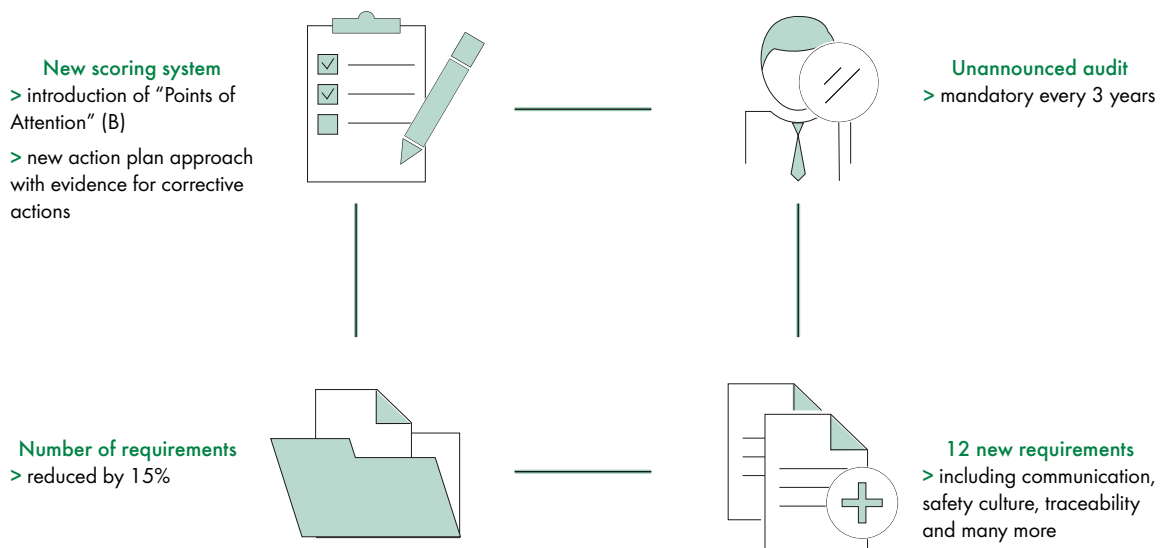
- Improved communication throughout the supply chain
- Implementation of a food safety culture
- More detailed focus on sub-contracted processes
- Additional requirements for doors and closing systems and for preventing the introduction of foreign bodies into foodstuffs
- Integration of root cause analyses into corrective action plans
- Strengthened requirements related to packaging materials, pest control, traceability (including product recycling) and food fraud

Certification according to the new standard continues to be required annually, but V7 mandates an unannounced audit every 3 years. In other words, every third audit will take place without prior notice.

### Seamless IFS Food V7 certification with DEKRA expertise

Our experts have extensive experience as IFS Food auditors, working internationally to help ensure food safety and quality as well as efficient processes and resource management for our partners. We have seen the transformative effects of IFS Food certification as companies reduce quality costs, boost efficiency and increase sales through improved customer satisfaction and trust. In addition, certification is an entry point into continental Europe's retail brand market. Let us guide you through the certification process toward streamlined operations and high-quality standards.

## Changes with the introduction of IFS Food V7



Our experts are happy to answer your questions about the new IFS Food V7. Get in touch today!

DEKRA Audits

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