

REQUIREMENTS V7 UPGRADE PROCESS

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VERSION	1.0
REVISION HISTORY	First issue

1. INTRODUCTION

This document provides the requirements for the upgrade process from FSSC 22000 V6 to FSSC 22000 V7 for Certification Bodies, Accreditation Bodies and Certified Organizations.

2. FSSC 22000 VERSION 7

2.1 GENERAL

The Foundation FSSC published the new Scheme, FSSC 22000 V7 in May 2026 with the following requirements for application:

- 1) Audits against the FSSC 22000 Scheme V6 are only allowed to be delivered up to 30 April 2027.
- 2) Upgrade audits against FSSC 22000 Scheme V7 shall be conducted from 1 May 2027 until 30 April 2028.

2.2 REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION BODIES (CB)

2.2.1 GENERAL

- 1) The CB shall include in its management system the requirements of FSSC 22000 V7 including these transition process requirements.
- 2) The CB shall inform their certified organizations within 3 months from the date of publication of the new Scheme documents and upgrade requirements for V7.
- 3) The CB shall train its personnel involved in the certification process (refer to Part 4, 3.1 (3) for details on related personnel) on the new FSSC 22000 Scheme V7 requirements.
- 4) Mandatory training(s) provided by the Foundation shall be undertaken and successfully completed by auditors and relevant certification personnel, as specified by the Foundation.
- 5) All existing V6 qualified auditors shall meet the following requirements and the CB shall have evidence to demonstrate compliance with the following Scheme requirements:
 - a. Training and successful completion of an exam on all V7 Scheme requirements in accordance with the requirements of the Scheme, Part 4, 3.5.1 (3)(f).
 - b. Training and successful completion of an exam on ISO 22002-100:2025 and the sector specific parts relevant to the (sub)categories the auditor are approved for e.g., ISO 22002-1:2025, in accordance with the requirements of the Scheme, Part 4, 3.5.1 (3)(h).
 - c. Auditor training records shall be uploaded to the Auditor register under the annual training section of the maintenance of competence tab before conducting any audits to V7.
- 6) Auditors shall be requalified by the CB for the relevant sub(sub)categories defined under Part 1, Table 1.1, in accordance with the criteria defined under Part 4, Section 3.5.3 (4). The auditor register on the Assurance Platform shall be updated by the 1st of May 2027, and be aligned with the requalification against the relevant sub(sub)categories, including uploading of the sub(sub)category requalification record to the subcategory tabs. For new auditors the

CB shall follow the requirements described in the FSSC 22000 V7 Scheme for initial auditor qualification, included under Part 4, Section 3.5.

2.2.2 AUDITS AND CERTIFICATES

2.2.2.1 AUDITS

- 1) Initial certification audits: both the Stage 1 and Stage 2 audit shall be conducted to Version 7 when the audit takes place from 1 May 2027 onwards OR conduct the Stage 1 to Version 6 (when conducted before 1 May 2027) and Stage 2 to Version 7 when conducted on or after 1 May 2027.
- 2) An upgrade audit is a full audit against the new FSSC 22000 V7 requirements and may be conducted announced, or unannounced if required to meet the 3-yearly unannounced audit requirements.
- 3) Audits against the FSSC 22000 Scheme requirements V6 are only allowed at the latest 30 April 2027.
- 4) For upgrade audits utilizing the ICT Audit Approach method, both the remote component and the onsite component shall be completed against V7 commencing from 1 May 2027 onwards. It is not possible to conduct part of the audit to a different Scheme version.

2.2.2.2 AUDIT DURATION CALCULATION

- 1) The audit duration calculation in the Scheme has been updated.
- 2) The audit duration calculations for all certified organizations shall be reviewed in line with the new audit duration calculation. The CB shall either issue a new contract to V7, or a V7 addendum to the existing V6 contract shall be issued, taking into account the audit duration as per V7. CBs shall also ensure that the V7 contract/addendum addresses all the requirements of Part 3, Section 4.4.
- 3) The audit duration requirements as per the Scheme V7, Part 3, Section 4.3, 5.2 and 5.3 (as applicable) shall be applied for all V7 audits from 1 May 2027. For example, if the organization is undergoing an Upgrade audit during a Surveillance audit, the CB shall calculate the Surveillance audit duration as per the new V7 Scheme requirements. No additional increase in audit duration for the upgrade audit is specified by the Foundation, however, the CB can define an increase where deemed necessary.

2.2.2.3 CERTIFICATES

- 1) CBs are required to update the FSSC 22000 certificate of the certified organization following the successful completion of the Version 7 upgrade audit process. The Scheme Version 7 shall be referenced on the certificate, in the audit report, audit plan, audit program, and in the FSSC Assurance Platform.
- 2) In the case of an Upgrade surveillance audit, the expiry date from the V6 certificate shall be maintained.
- 3) All upgrade audit packs and V7 certificates are required to be uploaded on the FSSC Assurance Platform within 2 months of the last day of the V7 upgrade audit. Therefore, the CB shall have completed the V7 upgrade in the Assurance Platform no later than 30 June 2028.
- 4) All remaining V6 certificates will automatically be set to withdrawn in the Assurance Platform after 30 June 2028, and will then no longer be visible on the FSSC 22000 public register of certified organizations on the FSSC website.

2.2.3 LICENSING

No changes to (sub)category licensing apply for Version 7. Sub(sub)categories only relate to auditor competency, not to licensing or accreditation. No new CB applications will be accepted to V6 of the Scheme once V7 has been published. New CBs will only be able to apply for an FSSC 22000 license to V7 from 1 October 2026 onwards.

2.2.4 ACCREDITATION PROCESS

The CB is required to extend its current ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and ISO 22003-1:2022 accreditation scope to include FSSC 22000 V7 before 1 May 2027 and provide the new certificate of accreditation as per the requirements in Annex 4 to the Foundation within this timeline. Sub(sub)categories do not apply to licensing or the accreditation scope – it only applies to auditor competency.

The issuance of non-accredited FSSC 22000 Scheme V7 certificates by a CB holding an existing accreditation to FSSC 22000 is not allowed by the Foundation.

The CB shall submit the following to their AB in order for the AB to undertake a document review:

- The CBs GAP analysis that shall as a minimum cover the Scheme changes in V7;
- The CBs transition or implementation plan;
- Relevant documentation for the changes, including evidence of implementation and
- Any other relevant information deemed necessary by their AB.

A CB office assessment by the AB is not mandatory for obtaining accreditation to FSSC 22000 V7, however, conducting an office assessment is at the discretion of the AB, based on the outcome of the ABs document review. An AB witness audit against V7 is not required by The Foundation.

In principle, the CB shall follow the requirements outlined in this paper, and in case this conflicts with AB requirements, the most stringent requirements shall apply. The CB shall seek approval from the Foundation to resolve any unclear issues.

New CBs requiring accreditation

In the case where a new CB undertakes the initial FSSC 22000 accreditation process, the accreditation shall be against V7 of the FSSC 22000 Scheme. The witness audit shall be conducted at a V7 audit and is therefore only possible as of 1 May 2027.

2.3 REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCREDITATION BODIES (AB)

For FSSC 22000 Scheme version 7, the AB shall assess the CBs following the below:

- 1) Conduct a document review of the CBs management system, where the following parameters shall be evaluated:
 - a. Inclusion of all FSSC 22000 Scheme V7 requirements in the CB management system with particular attention to:
 - i. FSSC 22000 Scheme V7 and transition process requirements;
 - ii. Information communicated to certified organizations about FSSC 22000 V7;
 - iii. Training of all CB personnel, as detailed under 2.2.1 above;
 - iv. Re-qualification of auditors for sub(sub)categories, as detailed under 2.2.1 above.

- 2) The AB shall assess the following during the document review: the CBs GAP analysis (at least covering the Scheme changes), transition/implementation plan, relevant documentation for the changes including evidence of implementation, and any other relevant information deemed necessary by the AB.

If the document review conducted by the AB is successful, and the AB is able to review the required changes and implementation by the CB as a result of the document review, then a CB office assessment is not required. If the AB is not able to conduct a successful document review, then an office assessment is required.

An AB witness audit against V7 is not required for CBs with existing accreditation to FSSC 22000 V6.

Based on a successful document review and/or office assessment, ABs shall issue a new CB accreditation certificate for Scheme Version 7, in accordance with the minimum content as referenced in Annex 4.

During the next scheduled CB surveillance assessment, the AB shall verify the implementation of the FSSC 22000 Scheme V7 requirements in the CB management system as part of the regular assessment process.

New CBs requiring accreditation

In the case where a new CB undertakes the initial FSSC 22000 accreditation process, the accreditation shall be against V7 of the FSSC 22000 Scheme. The witness audit shall be conducted at a V7 audit and is therefore only possible as of 1 May 2027.