Dear IFS users,

We are very happy to inform you that the 6.1 version of the IFS Food Standard is now available in English. Further languages will follow soon. Please follow this link to download the Standard:

IFS Food 6.1

General information
IFS Food is a Standard for auditing retailer and wholesaler branded food product suppliers and also other food product manufacturers and only concerns food processing companies or companies that pack loose food products. IFS Food can only be used when a product is “processed” or when there is a risk for product contamination during the primary packing.

Companies using the Standard benefit from many advantages of the IFS right from the start, e.g.:
• Visibility and facilitation of market access
• Acceptance along the whole supply chain
• Continuous improvement via the differentiated IFS scoring system
• Supplier management in the IFS Database
• Multilingual implementation tools through guidelines, app, training, webinars and e-learning
• Measurable improvement of processes and thus prevention and decrease of costs

New Version
IFS took the decision to publish a modified version of IFS Food 6 (IFS Food 6.1 November 2017) which will include some additional requirements. This modified version will come into force from 1st July 2018. With this version the IFS will apply for the GFSI benchmarking to guarantee that IFS Food remains a GFSI benchmarked standard.

We kindly ask you for your understanding that consequently the publishing of IFS Food Version 7 will be postponed until the end of 2018.

Most relevant changes from 6 to 6.1 are:
• Requirements regarding Food Fraud have been added
• A requirement about allergen management has been modified
• Description of Integrity Program procedures was adapted to the rules valid since 01st May 2017
• References to the current Doctrine were included
• Mandatory inclusion of QR-codes on the IFS certificate to trace it’s authenticity

These changes were implemented by:
• Modification of existing requirements and glossary definitions
• Inclusion of three new requirements and related definitions in the glossary
• New compulsory field for the audit report

What does it mean for the industry?
The new version comes into force on 1st July 2018, there will be NO transition period!

Please note
Companies which are audited unannounced and have an audit period starting on or after 1st July 2018 will be audited against IFS Food 6.1. Those whose unannounced audit period starts before the 1st July 2018 have to be audited against IFS Food 6 April 2014!

In order to be well prepared for the new version the IFS Academy will provide a free webinar about the main changes. These webinar sessions will take place on the 5th and on the 6th of December and recordings will be available for later use. To access the webinar participants need to register on our eLearning platform on:

Training information regarding Food Fraud and further related topics will be available on the IFS website soon.

What does the new version mean for Certification Bodies?
Please note that all existing auditors shall become familiar with the Standard’s changes via the certification body to be allowed to continue with auditing. In February 2018 IFS will provide a Train the Trainer Refresh as the base for the CB in-house training. This training should be done either face to face training or via webinar.

An upload of the audit report into the IFS Database is possible with the IFS software auditXpress. The updated software for IFS Food 6.1 will be available from June 2018 so auditors will have the opportunity to get used to the new software version.

Your IFS Team

www.ifs-certification.com

The prerequisite for Food Fraud mitigation is to improve the transparency within the food supply chain. The inclusion of Food Fraud requirements into IFS Food version 6.1 represents a first step. IFS will encourage a pragmatic and progressive approach of food fraud risk management and help our stakeholders by providing different tools.