IFS PACsecure

NEW

IFS PACsecure version 3

NEWSLETTER FOR INDUSTRY | FEBRUARY 2024

> " Continuing our steadfast dedication to deliver standards of utmost value, we are pleased to introduce version 3 of the IFS PACsecure Standard. Our collaboration with industry experts, who rigorously review and enhance the information, ensures we are meeting the needs of our stakeholders. IFS PACsecure version 3 is aligned with the ever-changing market and is more user-friendly.

Stephan Tromp
IFS Managing Director

The new IFS PACsecure version 3

IFS is pleased to announce the publication of the IFS PACsecure version 3.
IFS PACsecure is our standard for packaging materials that was developed by the industry for the industry. Accordingly, it has a unique market and practical approach. Together with international experts representing the various links along the packaging supply chain, such as the IFS Technical Committee, IFS Working Groups and PAC Global, we developed a new version considering the latest developments, regulations, and our stakeholders' needs. We paid particular attention to making working with the standard easier, more efficient, and more practical for auditors and companies.

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The most significant changes and improvements

The **total number of audit requirements were slightly reduced** due to optimisation in the checklist, and we included four new requirements.

The **restructured checklist follows the audit process more consequently.** It increases the audit's efficiency. For example, product defence is now part of chapter 4.

The **standard logo** becomes a new, modern design with the start of version 3.

B

The **B-score is again** classified as **a deviation.** By defining a correction or corrective action, your system will continuously improve.

Companies must define objectives for each of the four dimensions of **product safety culture**.

We clarified the unannounced audit rules and **introduced the IFS Star status to indicate an unannounced audit**.

We aligned the standard with the **Codex Alimentarius**, ISO 22003-2 and GFSI Benchmarking Requirements.

The **checklist is more consistent, clearer** and better clarifies the intention of the requirements. The word "assessment" becomes "audit" again, in line with ISO 22003-2.

AUDIT

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Timelines

IFS PACsecure version 3 audits are possible from **1 July 2024** and become mandatory as of **1 October 2024.**

In general, the **applicability of version 2 ends on 30 September 2024**. However, version 2 can apply after 1 October 2024 in some exceptional situations. The general admission of these exceptions ends on 30 September 2025. Here is an overview:

> For **unannounced audits**: Version 3 applies when the audit window starts on or after 1 July 2024.

> For **multi-location audits**: Sites and head office are always audited to the same standard version. After 1 October 2024, version 3 applies to all audits performed at the head office.

> For **follow-up audits**: When the connected main audit took place according to version 2 before 1 October 2024, version 2 also applies for the follow-up audit.

> For **extension audits**: When the connected main audit took place according to version 2 before 1 October 2024, version 2 also applies for the extension audit.

What you should know

Unannounced Audits

Performing one of every third audit unannounced is obligatory. In version 3, we have clarified the counting of the unannounced audits. Please refer to chapter 2.4.2, Part 1, for details.

New IFS PACsecure logo

With the start of audits to version 3, the **new standard logo** will appear on the IFS Certificates and Reports. The current logo still applies to version 2 certificates and reports. The new logo will be **available in the IFS Database** from July 2024.

IFS Star Status

Unannounced audits **increase credibility in the audit process**. It demonstrates that your company implements the IFS Requirements every day. We introduce the **IFS Star status to indicate that the audit was unannounced**. It shows your customers your outstanding engagement. **A star will be visible in the IFS Database and on the IFS Certificate**. We have created **a special logo for this purpose**.

Scoring System

The **B-score is now classified as a deviation again**. It is more apparent to all parties involved, and by defining **a correction or corrective action**, your system will continuously improve. We updated our brochure, "The IFS Scoring System – Driving Continuous Improvement", which explains it more thoroughly.

Audit duration rules

The rules to increase or decrease audit duration were reviewed and updated but maintained in the doctrine. **In the case of the 50% on-site rule, a reduction is possible in certain situations** which will be described in the upcoming version 3 doctrine.

Action Plan

Your certification body must send **an action plan within two weeks after the audit**. It is no longer mandatory that the CB sends a provisional report. Both audited companies and auditors will benefit from this more efficient and practical working method.

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Training and support

Industry Training

To be well prepared for IFS PACsecure version 3, **our training providers will offer courses with our official training materials**. Please visit our website to find an *IFS Training Provider* near you.
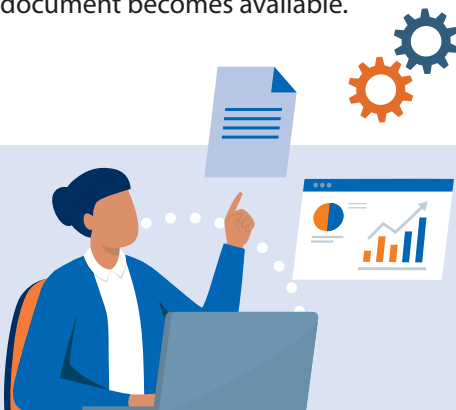
Recognised IFS Consultants

You can contact a recognised IFS Consultant for advice, guidance, and training regarding implementing the IFS Requirements or specific topics. Find them on our *website*.

New IFS Software for internal audits and reporting

The new **IFS auditXpress Neo (AXP Neo) software makes reporting of internal audits more convenient and efficient**. You will notice that it is fast, intuitive, and clearly arranged. It also facilitates cooperation with your auditor and CB, who use the same software. We expect the software to be available upon the start of the first audits to version 3.

Checklist Comparison

A comparison document of IFS PACsecure versions 2 and 3 is in the pipeline. It will help you track the changes requirement by requirement. We will inform you when the document becomes available.

IFS Pathway

As an IFS certified company, you can access the IFS Pathway. It is a valuable resource giving practical guidance to deepen your knowledge about specific technical topics regarding the IFS Standards. Go to the *login form* for access and find more details in the *fact sheet*.

Find relevant documents and stay up to date

> Download the **IFS PACsecure version 3 Standard** *here* (in English). We will translate the standard into our main languages and inform you when these are available.

> **Watch this short** *video* explaining the primary changes in version 3.

> Download the updated **IFS Scoring System brochure** in *English*, *German*, *French*, *Italian* or *Spanish*.

> **Further relevant documents** are available on the *IFS PACsecure webpage*.

> In the **IFS PACsecure News and Notifications**, we inform about current topics relating to the standard. As a certified company, you will receive the newsletter automatically. If not, check if your CB has uploaded the correct e-mail address to our database. You can also subscribe to the newsletter via our *website*.

> **Follow IFS on** *LinkedIn* to get the latest updates on our standards and new documents becoming available.

CONTACT

We hope you have sufficient information. In case of requests related to the standard content, please feel free to contact your regional *IFS Representative* or send an e-mail (in English) to *Standardmanagement@ifs-certification.com*