IAF MD 16:2014 - Application of ISO/IEC 17011 for the Accreditation of Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) Certification Bodies

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Introduction

- This MD will enable AB to harmonize the application of ISO/IEC 17011 for the accreditation of bodies providing audit and certification of Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS).

- Criteria on the application of ISO/IEC 17011 for the accreditation of bodies providing certification of organization's food safety management systems.

- This document follows the structure of ISO/IEC 17011.

- Intended to provide direction for the consistent assessment of the scope of competence of an FSMS CB by AB's.

- Identifies the activities that an AB will undertake to assess the competence of a CAB in each of the food chain categories.

Requirements

Personnel involved in the accreditation process :

- ISO/IEC 17011 Clause 6.2.1 requires an AB to identify the competencies required for each accreditation activity.

- The table specifies the knowledge and skills that an AB shall apply for specific accreditation activities in the accreditation of an FSMS Certification Body.

- X means the Accreditation Body personnel shall have a general level of knowledge and skills. X+ indicates a need for the Accreditation Body personnel to have a deeper level of knowledge and skills gained through practical experience or other approaches.

Competency (Note 1) \ Accreditation functions	Document review	On-Site Assessment	Witness assessment	Accreditation decisions (note 3)	Scheme management
Knowledge of and ability to apply assessment principles, practices and techniques		X+	X+	X	X
Knowledge of and ability to apply the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021 and ISO/TS 22003	X	X+	X+	X	X
Knowledge of CAB certification processes	X	X+	X	X	X
Knowledge of and ability to apply ISO 22000 or other FSMS certification standards	X	X+	X+	X	
Knowledge of and ability to apply the following in relation to food safety management systems: − HACCP principles − food safety management including PRPs − legal framework	X	X+	X+	X	
Knowledge of and ability to apply (in the food chain sector being assessed); − current principles of HACCP			X+		

− relevant PRPs − identification of food safety hazards − control measures − products, processes and practices − related legal requirements (note 2)					
Knowledge of CAB's Client business sector.			X		
Knowledge of cultural and social customs related to the categories and geographic areas to be assessed.		X	X		

Note 1: Where a team is conducting the assessment, the competencies required are to be held within the team as a whole and not by every individual member of the team. However where an individual is undertaking the assessment that person must have all competencies listed.

Note 2: Legal requirements identified here is an understanding of those regulations that the organisation that is the subject of the witness would be expected to comply with for either the food industry sector or country/state/province within which they operate.

Note 3: When a group reviews assessment reports and makes accreditation decisions, the knowledge required is to be held within the group as a whole and not by each individual member of the group.

Requirements

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ACCREDITATION PROCESS :

Accreditation criteria and information :
- Accreditation assessments shall be against ISO/IEC 17021 including the requirements of ISO/TS 22003.

- The accreditation documents (e.g. certificate or schedule) shall explicitly state that the accreditation is against ISO/IEC 17021 and ISO/TS 22003.

Application for accreditation :

The Scope of accreditation shall be expressed using the food chain categories detailed in Annex A Table A.1 of ISO/TS 22003.

Requirements

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Witnessing :
The food chain categories are grouped into the following clusters :
1. Farming (A+B)
2. Food and Feed Processing (C+D)
3. Catering (E)
4. Retail, Transport and Storage (F+G)
5. Auxiliary Industries (H+I+J)
6. (Bio) Chemicals (K)
- The AB shall not grant accreditation for a given food chain category without at least one witness assessment performed in the cluster.
- This criteria is also applicable to extension of scopes.
- For extensions inside a cluster, witnessing is not mandatory. Witnessing is mandatory for extensions to categories in a new cluster.

Requirements

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- The requirements are **minimum** requirements .
- The AB shall assess every individual case and decide if more witnessing is needed in specific situation based on the outcome of the office assessment, existing food safety management schemes accreditations and process risks.
- The AB shall witness at least one audit in cluster 2 (category C & D) each year and at least one audit in each of the other clusters during the accreditation cycle.
- A single witness assessment could encompass different categories if the activities of the witnessed company and of the CB justify it.
- A witness of an initial certification audit, including stage 1, should be undertaken as part of the initial accreditation.
- At least one of the witness audits per accreditation cycle should include an initial certification audit.
- Wherever feasible, throughout its accreditation cycle, the AB should ensure that witness assessments are performed in those sub-categories with the higher risks of food safety hazards.

Requirements

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- It is preferable that the AB witnesses an audit team that has not been witnessed previously in that particular food chain category.
- Witness assessments shall avoid the repeated witnessing of the same CB client company.
- AB's shall take into account previous results of witnessing to establish its witness strategy.
- The AB may take into account accreditations granted to the CB in other food safety standards or schemes for categories in the same cluster when deciding which witness assessments need to be performed.
- In these cases the Accreditation Body may use witnessing performed in one of such schemes to substitute some but not the majority, of the witness assessment activity required .
- This should be based on the certification activity of clients and distribution of the CB's auditors.
- These cases shall be fully documented and justified by the AB.

Requirements

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On-site assessment :

- Accreditation for one or more food chain categories confirms that the CB has demonstrated competence to deliver certification for FSMS (e.g. ISO 22000) in those food chain categories.
- It does not mean that the Certification Body has auditors with the competence needed in all the sub-categories that may be included in such food chain categories.
- For this reason before granting accreditation for a specific food chain category, the Accreditation Body shall assess that:
  a) The CB has competent personnel to perform the contract review and select the correct food chain category and sub-category.
  b) The CB has established technical criteria to describe the competence for personnel in each sub-category defined.
  c) The CB has competent personnel in at least one sub-category of the food chain category.
  d) The CB has established a process giving assurance that accredited certification will be offered only in sub-categories where the Certification Body has competent personnel.
  e) The CB keeps an updated list of the sub-categories in which it has competent personnel. This list shall be available to the AB on demand.
  f) The CB is able to demonstrate that it has at least one active or potential application in the food chain category for which it is seeking accreditation.

Thank you!

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