

## **Schedule for Implementation of ISO 22003-1: 2022 in Accreditation of Food Safety Management System Certification Bodies**

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) has published IAF MD 27: 2023 ‘Transition Requirements for ISO 22003-1: 2022’ endorsing a 36-month transition period for the implementation of ISO 22003-1: 2022. ISO 22003-1: 2022 was published in June 2022. In accordance with IAF MD 27: 2023, certification bodies (CBs) shall use ISO 22003-1: 2022 for all clients of Food Safety Management System (FSMS) certification no later than 31 December 2024 and implement all changes impacting their existing clients of FSMS certification no later than 30 June 2025<sup>Note 1</sup>.

For details, please refer to IAF website at

[https://iaf.nu/iaf\\_system/uploads/documents/IAF\\_MD\\_27\\_22003-1\\_Transition\\_30082023.pdf](https://iaf.nu/iaf_system/uploads/documents/IAF_MD_27_22003-1_Transition_30082023.pdf)

ISO/TS 22003: 2013 / ISO 22003-1: 2022 is intended to be used in conjunction with ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015. In this document, accreditation based on ISO/TS 22003: 2013 refers to accreditation based on ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015 in conjunction with ISO/TS 22003: 2013; accreditation based on ISO 22003-1: 2022 refers to accreditation based on ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015 in conjunction with ISO 22003-1: 2022.

### **1. CBs applying for initial accreditation for FSMS certification (applicable for application from a new CB or an existing CB without being accredited for FSMS certification).**

#### **Application for accreditation**

HKAS accepts applications for accreditation based on ISO 22003-1: 2022 starting from 16 October 2023. Application for accreditation based on ISO/TS 22003: 2013 will no longer be accepted after 15 November 2023.

#### **Initial applications based on ISO/TS 22003: 2013**

Nonconformities against the requirements of ISO/TS 22003: 2013 will be raised as ‘Nonconformities (NCs)’. Obvious nonconformities against the requirements of ISO 22003-1: 2022 will be raised as ‘Recommendations’<sup>Note 2</sup>. Accreditation to ISO/TS 22003: 2013 will be granted when the applicant CB has rectified all critical and significant NCs to the satisfaction of HKAS Executive and has committed to rectify all minor NCs prior to the next reassessment.

To ensure a smooth transition to ISO 22003-1: 2022, all CBs accredited to ISO/TS 22003: 2013 shall conduct a gap analysis and develop a transition plan to address the changes between ISO/TS 22003: 2013 and ISO 22003-1: 2022. CBs shall also ensure that relevant personnel affected by the changes are competent for ISO 22003-1: 2022 and transition process. The gap analysis document, transition plan and relevant documentation for the changes shall be submitted to HKAS Executive within one month from the date of obtaining accreditation.

If accreditation cannot be granted to an applicant CB within one year after the date of receipt of the application, HKAS Executive will suspend processing the application. The applicant CB shall implement ISO 22003-1: 2022 (and submit the required application fee as

appropriate) before HKAS Executive resumes the accreditation process and a fresh assessment to confirm conformity with all requirements to ISO 22003-1: 2022 shall be conducted.

#### Initial applications based on ISO 22003-1: 2022

All nonconformities against the requirements of ISO 22003-1: 2022 will be raised as NCs. The applicant CB shall provide a plan for resolving all NCs identified in the assessment to HKAS Executive within one month of the assessment. Accreditation to ISO 22003-1: 2022 will be granted when the applicant CB has rectified all critical and significant NCs to the satisfaction of HKAS Executive and has committed to rectify all minor NCs prior to the next reassessment.

## **2. Accredited CBs for FSMS certification**

To ensure a smooth transition to ISO 22003-1: 2022, an accredited CB for FSMS certification shall conduct a gap analysis and develop a transition plan to address the changes between ISO/TS 22003: 2013 and ISO 22003-1: 2022. The CB shall also ensure that relevant personnel affected by the changes are competent for ISO 22003-1: 2022 and transition process. The gap analysis document, transition plan and relevant documentation for the changes shall be submitted to HKAS Executive by 31 March 2024.

Taking to account the submission by each accredited CB, HKAS Executive will agree with the CB whether the transition assessment for ISO 22003-1: 2022 will be conducted concurrently with a routine reassessment or surveillance visit. The transition assessment can also be conducted as an additional assessment, which can be combined with ad-hoc assessment(s) for extension of scope of accreditation as appropriate. In accordance with IAF MD 27: 2023, the transition shall be completed no later than 31 December 2024. To ensure that there is sufficient time to rectify any identified NCs in relation to the transition to ISO 22003-1: 2022, the transition assessment should be completed by 30 September 2024.

The transition assessment will include review of gap analysis, transition plan and relevant documentation submitted by the accredited CB; and assessment visit at the office of the CB. Such transition assessment will incur additional on-site assessment time and corresponding assessment fee by the CB. Furthermore, the accredited CB are required to submit HKAS Executive an updated Management System Checklist [for FSMS certification (based on ISO 22003-1: 2022)] of HKCAS 007 together with associated documentation for review prior to the office assessment.

For assessments based on ISO/TS 22003: 2013, obvious nonconformities against the new requirements of ISO 22003-1: 2022 will be raised as 'Recommendations'<sup>Note 2</sup>.

## **3. Issue of Certificate of Accreditation referring to ISO 22003-1: 2022**

A Certificate of Accreditation referring to ISO 22003-1: 2022 will be issued free of charge to an accredited CB for FSMS certification when conformity with ISO 22003-1: 2022 has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of HKAS Executive.

Notes:

1. In accordance with IAF MD 27: 2023, for existing FSMS certified clients, as requirements for multisite sampling and audit time determination have changed in ISO 22003-1: 2022, it is acceptable that the contract between the CB and the client is revised to follow new requirements. The revision must be completed to allow CBs sufficient time to implement all changes necessary by no later than 31 December 2024. Implementation must ensure that by 30 June 2025 all clients have been audited in accordance with the revised requirements, as an example any sites that are no longer eligible for sampling have been audited.
2. Addressing the 'Recommendations' raised does not imply conformity with ISO 22003-1: 2022. Conformity of the CB to ISO 22003-1: 2022 will be assessed on-site when the CB has confirmed full implementation of ISO 22003-1: 2022.

HKAS Executive  
16 October 2023