



Version 2.1

The IFS Scoring System

Driving continuous improvement



Introduction

IFS has updated its alignments to the scoring system. This brochure explains the new policy that applies to IFS Food version 8 and HPC version 3. The system will also be adopted in the upcoming versions of the IFS Standards.

**“ We all need people
who will give us feedback.
That’s how we improve. ”**

Bill Gates

The IFS Scoring System is unique in that it gives an audited company differentiated feedback on its performance and indicates where it can improve. The main objective of IFS is to drive continuous improvement regarding safe, legal and compliant products and services at the audited businesses.

Working with IFS leads to more efficiency, safer products and processes, and less recalls. It also contributes to being valued as a trustworthy and reliable business partner delivering safe products according to customers’ specifications.

The IFS Scoring System

Based on the total number of points obtained, a percentage is calculated, which forms the result of the IFS Audit. We will gradually adopt this term in our other certification standards as well. The chart explains this system in more detail.

RESULT	EXPLANATIONS
A	A indicates full compliance and perfect implementation of the requirement.
B Deviation	B means that there is almost full compliance of the requirement.
C Deviation	C means that part of the requirement is not implemented and that improvement is needed.
D Deviation	D means that the implementation of the requirement is not sufficient or not done at all, but there is no impact on food/product safety.
MAJOR Non-conformity	An auditor can give a Major for all requirements not being defined as KO. It indicates a substantial failure usually relating to product safety or legal issues, and results in a subtraction of 15% from the total amount of points. During a follow-up audit, the company needs to show it has implemented the corrective actions. Only then it is possible to award an IFS Certificate at foundation level.
KO Scored with a D	Knockout (KO) requirements are defined in the standard and can only be scored with an A, C (deviation) or D. The scoring of a KO requirement with a D indicates a non-implementation of the requirement. It leads to a subtraction of 50 % of the total amount of points. A final score of less than 75 % results in a failure of the audit. Consequently, the IFS Certificate will not be awarded.

POINTS

20 points

15 points

5 points

-20 points

Major non-conformity will subtract 15 %
of the possible total amount,
the certificate cannot
be awarded.

KO non-conformity will subtract 50 %
of the possible
total amount, the certificate
cannot be awarded.



The difference between deviations and non-conformities

Requirements partly or not fulfilled can be scored as a deviation or a non-conformity:

DEVIATION

A deviation is a non-compliance with a requirement, without an impact on safety related to products and processes. Deviations are requirements scored with a "B", "C" or a "D", and KO requirements scored with a "B".

NON-CONFORMITY

A non-conformity describes the non-fulfilment of a specified requirement related to legislation, food/product safety, or internal dysfunctions. Non-conformities are Majors or a D scoring of a KO requirement.

TIMESCALE FOR CORRECTIONS AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

CORRECTIONS

Implementation has to be done immediately and needs to be finished before a certificate can be issued. Evidence of implementation shall be provided to the certification body within a maximum of four (4) weeks after the receipt of the provisional action plan for completion.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

May have different timeframes (depending on the individual finding and severity). This ensures that the implementation of the measures is sustainable.

Corrective actions need to be completed in a reasonable timeframe before the recertification audit.

The IFS Audit, Audit Report and Action Plan



IFS Auditor Competence

Only auditors approved by IFS can perform an IFS Audit. All IFS Auditors received specialised training and passed the IFS Exams. To have the assurance that their knowledge is always up to date, IFS Auditors receive calibration training once every two (2) years. It ensures that they have a thorough understanding of the IFS Standard requirements and our expectations when performing an audit.



The IFS Audit

During the IFS Audit, the auditor will evaluate every individual IFS Standard requirement and determine the level of compliance. Based on the nature and significance of the observations, the auditor determines the score. The responsible certification body reviews the auditor's findings.



The IFS Audit Report

In the audit report, the auditor gives explanations about all requirements with B, C and D scorings, as well as Major and KO-ratings. The auditor must explain and justify deviations and non-conformities unambiguously. He or she needs to provide precise and sufficient information to give an objective, transparent, and understandable picture of the situation. This way, the score given for the requirement is reasonable for all parties involved.

For some fixed, pre-defined requirements, the auditor must also give explanations, even in case of an A scoring. With this information, the certification body can prepare a standardised summary of the report for each company, including details for essential evaluations. The IFS Software supports the generation of this uniform report.



The IFS Action Plan and follow-up of corrections and corrective actions

The auditor writes his/her findings in a provisional action plan. It includes all the requirements not scored with A or N/A (not applicable). This plan provides clear descriptions of audit findings, on which basis the company has to define appropriate corrections and corrective actions, including responsibilities and timeframes.

The audited company must implement corrections verifiably before the certification body may issue. Depending on the severity of the finding, the company has up to one year to execute and conclude corrective actions. The auditor will verify these at the next recertification audit.



The benefits of the IFS Scoring System

- The scoring system drives continuous improvement at the audited companies and supports reaching a higher score.
- It gives both the audited company and its customers a clear and differentiated overview of the performance.
- Reports and results are standardised, making them comparable and easy to understand for business partners.
- The audit report gives the company an action plan with clearly stated explanations about deviations and non-conformities. Sometimes these are crucial arguments to obtain financial resources for necessary investments.
- Follow-up on the action plan may have different timeframes depending on the severity and complexity of the issues found. It leads to immediate action to solve the problem, but also allows for better planning of corrective actions for sustainable improvement.
- The result of an IFS Audit is a motivation in striving for excellence. Employees are proud to reach a high-level score or achieve a higher percentage compared to the previous years.

IFS Management GmbH
Am Weidendamm 1 A
DE 10117 Berlin
E-mail: info@ifs-certification.com

www.ifs-certification.com

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