

**FAQ:
GFSI Steering
Committee
Sanctions
International
Featured
Standards
(IFS)**

General impact on certificates linked to a GFSI-recognised certification programme:

The suspension decision impacts certificates linked to certification audits which take place from the first date of the GFSI suspension decision i.e. 8th December 2022 until the date when GFSI announces that recognition is reinstated.

1. I am currently certified against one or several of the IFS certification programmes recognised by GFSI. What do I need to do?

You do not need to take any action. The GFSI recognition of any current certificate that your site holds remains valid until the expiration date of the certificate.

2. I am in the process of being certified or I am in the process of renewing my certification against one or several of the IFS certification programmes recognised by GFSI. What do I need to do?

Certificates issued and linked to an audit carried out during the suspension period for IFS will not be GFSI-recognised. Please refer to your own supplier agreements and liaise with your customers to evaluate what is acceptable to them as it relates to their requirements for GFSI-recognised certification programmes. The complete list of GFSI-recognised certification programmes is available at this [link](#).

3. I have not yet begun my certification process. What should I do?

Refer to answer in Question 2.

4. I am a business who is sourcing or purchasing from an organisation that is certified by IFS, and who wishes to rely on GFSI-recognised certification programmes only. What does this mean for me?

GFSI recognition is still valid for all certificates linked to audits carried out prior to the date of the suspension decision, i.e. before 8th December 2022 and until the expiration date of the certificates issued by the CPO.

Where GFSI decides to suspend the recognition status of a given CPO, the decision is applicable to all certificates linked to a certification audit carried out during the timeframe of the suspension. This means that certificates issued for audits which take place between the date of suspension until any date of reinstatement will not have been issued against a GFSI-recognised programme.

For example, with a suspension decision effective from 8th December 2022 for IFS and in the event that IFS is reinstated as a GFSI-recognised CPO on 8th March 2023, the certificates issued for certification audits carried out between 8th December 2022 and 8th March 2023 will not have been issued against a GFSI-recognised programme.

5. I am a Certification Body; can I continue to issue certificates against IFS certification programmes?

YES, certification audits may still be offered, however those certificates will not be considered to have been issued against a GFSI-recognised programme.

Where the certification audit was completed prior to the date of the suspension decision, i.e. 8th December 2022, the corresponding certificate will be considered to have been issued against a GFSI-recognised programme.

Please monitor announcements on the GFSI website to check for updates on this matter.