



FSSC 22000 Version 7

Public Stakeholder Consultation

Where to provide feedback:

GFSIBM@theconsumergoodsforum.com

Before: 01 October 2026 at midnight CET



FSSC 22000 Version 7

GFSI Benchmark Assessment Report

Final Version: 17.04.2026

Application information

Assessment team and date

Certification programme Name(s)	FSSC 22000 v7
Certification programme owner name and address	Leonardo da Vinciplein 60, 5223 DR Den Bosch, The Netherlands
Certification programme owner name, email, contact number	Foundation FSSC ematthee@fssc.com +31 183645028
Date of previous application if applicable	
Benchmark Leader name and contact details	Emma Skouse
GFSI Senior Technical Manager name	Karla Mijatovic
Observers name	NA
Interpreter's name (if applicable)	NA
Date of this office assessment	8 July 2026
Language (e.g. English or other)	English

Scopes included in this application

GFSI Scopes		Scopes applied for
AI	Farming of Animals for Meat/ Milk/ Eggs/ Honey	
AII	Farming of Fish and Seafood	
BI	Farming of Plants (other than grains and pulses)	
BII	Farming of Grains and Pulses	
BIII	Pre-process Handling of plant products	
C0	Animal Conversion	
CI	Processing of perishable animal products	
CII	Processing of Plant Perishable Products	
CIII	Processing of Animal and Plant Perishable Products (Mixed Products)	
CIV	Processing of Ambient Stable Products	
D	Production of Feed	
E	Catering	
FI	Retail / Wholesale	
FII	Food Broker / Agent	
H	Provision of Food Safety Services	
G	Provision of Storage and Distribution Services	
I	Production of Food Packaging	
JI	Hygienic Design of Food Buildings and Processing Equipment (for building constructors and equipment manufacturers)	
JII	Hygienic Design of Food Buildings and Processing Equipment (for building and equipment users)	
K	Production of (Bio) Chemicals (Additives, Vitamins, Minerals, Bio-cultures, Flavourings, Enzymes and Processing aids)	

Executive summary and recommendation to the GFSI Steering Committee

Executive summary

Overview of the Assessment Process

FSSC applied for recognition against the GFSI Benchmarking Requirements (BMR) Version 2024 for scopes BIII, C0, CI, CII, CIII, CIV, D, G, I & K. The benchmarking process was conducted as an integrated assessment to ensure a seamless transition from v2020.1 to v2024.

The purpose of the GFSI assessment was to evaluate the FSSC programme (FSSC 22000 v7), issued by the CPO (owned by Foundation FSSC), in compliance with the GFSI Benchmarking Requirements 2024 version.

Desktop Review & Technical Verification

The benchmarking cycle commenced with a comprehensive preliminary Desktop Review of the FSSC 22000 Scheme (Version 7) and associated documentation, completed remotely by the BML (Benchmark Leader) Emma Skouse (ES) in June 2026, and was based on the review of the evidence provided by the Certification Programme Owner in the self-assessment excel files for GFSI part II and III to cover the scopes of recognition applied (BIII, C0, CI, CII, CIII, CIV, D, G, I & K), ensuring that it contained sufficient objective evidence to proceed to the onsite assessment phase.

All findings raised, concerning the request for additional information, have been communicated in writing with the CPO. The assessment identified three (3) non-conformities related to Certification Programme development and maintenance (Clause 1.12), Key Performance Indicators (Clause 3.14), and Site audit sampling (Clause 6.28). The CPO was offered a call to discuss the findings however they did not feel this was necessary, and instead submitted further supporting evidence to address the findings. The findings raised were discussed during the Office Visit on 8th July 2026 and subsequently closed out during the office visit.

Office Visit and Findings

An Office Visit (OV) was conducted on 8th July by Benchmark Leader (ES).

No critical findings or other impeding factors were raised at this step, and the office assessment followed a predefined by a specific agenda (Office Assessment Plan). The office assessment was carried out in person and achieved the main purpose to verify the implementation and

alignment of the new requirements and the Certification Programme Owner's Integrity Programme through sampled record reviews.

Validation of Corrective Actions (July 8th, 2026)

Following the Office Visit, there were no miss alignments identified, therefore the CPO will be recommended for Public consultation directly as no corrective actions are due. The GFSI Senior Technical Manager Karla Mijatovic (KM) will conduct a final technical validation of the information presented including the corrective actions closed for the desktop review and acknowledgement of no finding raised at the office visit on July 08, 2026.

Verification of Root Cause Analysis (RCA): not applicable, no findings were raised..

Validation of Evidence: not applicable, no findings were raised.

Final Approval: The Senior Technical Manager officially accepted the close-out of all findings from the Self assessments and all documented review with no findings for the office visit, confirming that the FSSC 22000 v7 is now in full conformity with BMR v2024 as of August 10, 2026.

Conclusion

The benchmarking process encountered no significant complexities that would impede recognition. The Senior Technical Manager concludes that the assessment was transparent, evidence-based, and compliant with GFSI protocols. The report is now deemed validated for the 4-week public stakeholder consultation.

Recommendation to the GFSI Steering Committee

Results of assessment and office visit

Time and location details

	Location	People present GFSI, consultant, CPO. Names and roles	Date and time
Self-assessment review	remote	Emma Skouse (BML)	5 days completed 18/06/2026
Review calls	Online conference	Not required	
Office visit	Leonardo da Vinciplein 60, 5223 DR Den Bosch, The Netherlands	Elsabe Matthee, Kelly Mulholland (remote), Neil Milvain (remote), Remco Pieters.	08/07/2026

Overview of Certification Programme

FSSC 22000 was launched in 2009 and contains a complete certification scheme for food safety management system certification based on existing ISO standards (i.e. ISO 22000 and ISO 22002-x series for sector PRPs). The certification is accredited to ISO/IEC 17021-1 and ISO 22003-1.

The aim of the Scheme is to ensure that it continuously meets international food industry requirements resulting in a certification that assists in assuring that organizations provide safe food to their customers.

FSSC have over 42000 GFSI recognised certificated sites to v6 in more than 150 countries globally and 122 licensed Certification Bodies to deliver audits. Details can be found on their website <https://www.fssc.com/public-register/>

General compliance, strengths and weaknesses

The FSSC 22000 Scheme is reviewed at least every 4 years, or sooner if changes occur in industry, normative documents, legislation, etc. by technically competent internal and external representatives, who inform the FSSC Executive Board. The Scheme is governed by an independent Board of Stakeholders, who approves all changes or updates to the Scheme, supported by a technical Advisory Committee. Representatives listed on their website <https://www.fssc.com/about/governance-structure/>

The programme has strong oversight of Certification Body activities through Certification Body office visits, comprehensive desktop reviews and discussion of Certification Body performance against specified Key Performance Indicators and witness audits of auditors. FSSC also carry out their own pre-approval of auditors prior to the CB approval.

The review of the self-assessment documents and corresponding submitted evidence was carried out by the Benchmark Leader during the office visit on 8th July 2026.

During the office visit, carried out in person, the Benchmark Leader interviewed the Certification Programme managers, reviewed documents, performance data and sampled certification records. The Integrity programme process was discussed and evaluated.

Changes made to the certification programme following the GFSI assessment

The CPO FSSC, following the GFSI assessment, has supplied the corrective action plan containing the revised requirements.

The first and final corrective action plan was received on 24th June 2026 with evidence.

The new version is not yet live for audits and therefore notification to stakeholders for amends has not been necessary. Audits against FSSC 22000 v7 will commence on 01 May 2027.

List of findings

Note; These are findings raised at the desktop review. No Findings were raised at the Office Visit.

Element reference	Non-conformity	Partly / no	Corrective action	Recommendation from Benchmark Leader	Decision from GFSI Senior Technical Manager
Part II 1.12	Whilst SOP-TEC-01 Scheme Development and Revision Management procedure, v6, February 2026 defines the process, it isn't clear when the comments from stakeholders are considered and how these are fed back into the review and development of the plan	partly	FSSC provided the following: The Scheme Development Procedure has been updated (V7.0, June 2026) - Section 6 - refer to tracked changes. Additionally for clarity, a timeline is defined for each commenting round, depending on the project plan. After each commenting round by the stakeholders, the comments are all reviewed in full by FSSC, and feedback is provided directly on the same commenting sheet and added to the shared folder with the Stakeholders, so feedback can be seen by all parties.	Amended procedure seen which now includes comments from stakeholders to be reviewed and fed back into the development of the plan. Comments log for FSSC v7 - due date for feedback 28/10/2025 - every clause has a comment against - comment (incl justification), proposed change, observation from FSSC. The timeline	Accepted. The amendment to the scheme development Program under V7, in section 6 formalises the CPO's policy in the considerations of comments from stakeholders during consultations, fully aligning with the BMR 2024 requirements. Validated by KM 10/08/2026.

				depends on changes being made. 28 pages of comments seen. BoS (Board of Stakeholders) also have access to the comments log. The Log comes from the advisory committee; once agreed, goes to BoS who then approves the changes. Anything contentious or significant is discussed with the Board so an agreement can be reached. CLOSED. ES 08/07/2026	
Part II 3.14	Key Performance Indicators for Certification Bodies don't seem to include complaints, results of desktop assessments and office visits.	partly	Results of office assessments and desk reviews are a metric which is taken into account within the risk based approach - refer to the risk based approach procedure	Complaints procedure updated, section 5 Process, point 5.5 A summary of complaint data (made	Accepted. The amendments to the Complaints procedure under

			additionally, specifically clause 5.2.2. Complaints are dealt with on a case by case basis, and CBs are informed by the IP department on each case. For the five (5) largest CBs, complaint overview is discussed twice a year already. An overview of complaint data was also presented to CBs during the annual Insights Event in June 2026. The Complaints procedure has been updated (June 2026) under section 3.2.4 and 5.5, including making a summary of the complaint data available to the respective CB on an annual basis.	against a CB) shall be made to the CB on an annual basis. Not a KPI because not all CBs receive complaints but complaints will be trended. Top 5 CBs have meetings x2/year and complaint summary reviewed with them along with top complaints trended on Insight event (last held June 2026). Desktop reviews covered in the desktop reviews, under section 5.2.2 Performance in CI-RBA-22-P1_v2 Risk Based approach procedure. Timely closure of NCs raised in DTRs is a KPI.	section 3.2.4 and 5.5 and the review of the objective evidence by the BML demonstrate alignment with the BMR 2024 requirements. Validated by KM 10/08/2026.
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				CLOSED. ES 08/07/2026.	
Part II 6.28	FSSC 22000 v7, Part 3, section 5.3, subsection 5.3.1 (c) refers to BIII pre-process handling of plant products. However, a risk-based approach for determining the eligibility of commodities and identifying crops or activities deemed as high risk being risk-assessed to determine eligibility for multi-site certification was not evident.	partly	The requirements for multisite certification as per the Scheme, Part 3, 5.3, IAF MD1 and ISO 22003-1 apply for FCC BIII as well. In relation to a risk based approach, ISO 22003-1 clause 9.1.5.3 b) risk linked to sampling is addressed by looking at processes, technologies, size, complexity, food safety hazards, etc. Also in the Scheme Part 3, 5.3.2 d) we refer to risk categories linked to sample size.	Commodities are not relevant for scope BIII because this is packing of and not growing of commodities. Activities linked to the packing of these products have been considered from a food safety process, in line with ISO 22003-1 clause 9.1.5.3 (b). CLOSED. ES 08/07/2026.	Accepted. The requirement for a risk-based approach to multi-site eligibility is adequately fulfilled through the CPO's mandated integration of ISO 22003-1 and IAF MD1 risk assessment principles for category BIII. Validated by KM 20/08/2026.



Root Cause Analysis (RCA) Summary

No RCA necessary as findings above were reflected on Self assessment and fully closed and verified at the Office visit. Assessment conducted at the Office visit on July 08, 2026 for the recognition of FSSC 22000 v7 program, had no findings identified.

RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

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