



**Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI)
and
International Featured Standards Management GmbH
Endorsed Scheme Agreement**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 International Featured Standards Management GmbH is the scheme owner of the worldwide operated IFS schemes. International Featured Standards Management GmbH (hereafter referred to as IFS) has sought and received endorsement of their schemes listed in Schedule 1 to this Agreement (hereafter referred to as “the Scheme(s)”) as a sub-scope of the Global ACI Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) in accordance with Global ACI MRA-003 and this agreement.
- 1.2 The Schemes require Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) operating in the Scheme(s) to be accredited by an Accreditation Body (AB) that is a signatory to the Global ACI MRA with a main scope of product certification and a sub-scope of the scheme(s) included in Schedule 1 to this Agreement (Global ACI MRA signatories).
- 1.3 IFS sets voluntary standards. The IFS comprise ten different food and non-food standards and programs, covering the processes along the supply chain. All standards are process standards which help users when implementing legal provisions regarding food and/or product safety, and provide uniform guidelines on food, product safety and quality issues. There are over 27,000 certificates across all standards issued each year across 92 countries around the world.
- 1.4 IFS contracts at the time of this Agreement with 80 accredited CABs worldwide under the Schemes, the supervision of which is carried out by 16 ABs that are Global ACI MRA signatories.
- 1.5 The IFS requirements for the professional competence of personnel auditors are defined in the relevant scheme documents.
- 1.6 IFS requires CABs to be accredited by signatories to the Global ACI MRA that have ISO/IEC 17065 in their MRA scope.
- 1.7 The Schemes provide the standard and framework for independent, recognised third-party certification of processes associated with the scope of the Schemes.

- 1.8 Global ACI is the world association of conformity assessment accreditation bodies in the fields of management systems, products, services, process, persons, validation and verification, testing (including medical testing/examination), calibration, provision of proficiency testing, production of reference materials, and biobanking; inspection activities, and other similar programs of conformity assessment.
- 1.9 Global ACI is responsible for the harmonisation and continuous improvement of the accreditation practices of its members with the goal to ensure sound technical competence of accredited CABs Certification Bodies (CBs), V&VBs (Validation and Verification Bodies), laboratories, and inspection bodies and to support its Global ACI MRA.
- 1.10 The Global ACI MRA is established and maintained based on the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 through regular peer evaluations and is the tool by which Global ACI contributes to the elimination of technical barriers to trade and to promoting the free circulation of certificates issued by accredited CABs.

2. Administration and Cooperation

- 2.1 Both Global ACI and IFS, by means of this formal Agreement, have decided to develop and maintain a close cooperation between the two organisations to ensure harmonisation in the accreditation practices performed by Global ACI members for the Schemes and to cooperate in the continuous improvement of the Schemes with the final goal of assuring the highest level of competence in the Schemes' accredited CABs.
- 2.2 Global ACI and IFS shall comply with the respective requirements of Global ACI MRA-003 *Policies and Procedures for the Management and Expansion of the Scope of the Global ACI Arrangement*, operating and administrating in an open, non-discriminatory, and transparent manner, avoiding conflicts of interest or limitation on the acceptance of CABs or ABs other than relevant technical considerations.
- 2.3 The Schemes will be open to all CABs that are accredited by Global ACI MRA signatories. The ABs will be signatory members of the Global ACI MRA for product.
- 2.4 IFS will only work with Global ACI MRA signatories. IFS will stop working with an AB that is no longer a signatory to the Global ACI MRA.
- 2.5 Both Global ACI and IFS shall appoint a liaison person of each organisation to act as contact persons.

3. Information Exchange

To achieve such goals both organisations have agreed upon the following:

- 3.1 IFS shall inform the Global ACI of the following:
 - a) Changes to any of the schemes listed in Schedule 1, that may impact compliance with Global ACI MRA-003.
 - b) Any revision/extension of the Scheme(s)' standards/documents.
 - c) Outcomes from any AB workshop held by IFS on one or more of the Schemes.
 - d) Feedback IFS may have regarding the Global ACI MRA signatory ABs.

- e) Change in the status as Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) recognised scheme(s).

3.2 Global ACI shall inform IFS of the following:

- a) When a Global ACI MRA signatory with a sub-scope of one or more of the Schemes has been suspended or had their Global ACI MRA signatory status withdrawn.
- b) Any general or technical questions regarding the interpretation of the Schemes' standards/documents.
- c) Changes in policy, procedure or documentation that may have an impact on the Global ACI MRA and Schemes' sub-scope.

4. Mandatory Interpretation of the Scheme Documents

- 4.1 The Schemes' documents shall be prepared using the IFS procedure for the setting and revision of Schemes' documentation. This shall include a stakeholder consultation phase comprising of comment submissions by interested parties each lasting a specified timeframe with feedback being provided to organisations that made the comment.
- 4.2 The Global ACI will be included as a stakeholder and invited during any stakeholder consultation period of the Scheme revision process.
- 4.3 The Scheme normative documents shall be available at no cost on the IFS website (www.ifs-certification.com).
- 4.4 IFS will provide new draft Scheme version document(s) with a gap analysis and proposed transition plan for implementation of the new version documents to Global ACI as soon as a technically sound new version is available in order to make sure that the new scheme version continues to comply with the requirements of Global ACI MRA-003. IFS accepts the process to be followed according to Global ACI MRA-003 for Global ACI MRA sub-scope inclusion of new versions of the Schemes.
- 4.5 The need for the development of specific Global ACI application documents for inclusion of publicly owned standards/normative documents in the Global ACI MRA shall be proposed by the Global ACI Technical Committee and the need for additional preparation of peer evaluation by the Global ACI MRA Committee as specified in Global ACI MRA-003.
- 4.6 The Schemes endorsed as Global ACI MRA sub-scopes are included in the relevant Global ACI MRA status lists. After the end of the transition period to a new scheme version the old version will not be published as a Global ACI MRA sub-scope anymore.

5. Implementation

- 5.1 The Global ACI and IFS shall each bear their own costs.
- 5.2 The Schemes will be included as a sub-scope under the main scope of product certification, ISO/IEC 17065. Those ABs currently providing accreditations to one or more of the Schemes will be able to apply for a Global ACI MRA scope extension for the relevant scheme(s) through provision of a signed self-declaration through their Regional Accreditation Group (RAG) once this Agreement is signed.

5.3 The revision of the implementation of this Agreement is in the scope of the MRA peer evaluation to the Global ACI product certification MRA signatories working in one or more of the Schemes.

6. Confidentiality

6.1 Global ACI shall hold all Confidential Information in strictest confidence and shall only use it for the purpose for which it was provided and shall not disclose or make available any Confidential Information to any third party without the prior written consent of IFS.

7. Term

7.1 This Agreement shall commence from the original Date of Signing and, unless terminated earlier according to clause 8, continues indefinitely.

8. Cancellation

8.1 This Agreement between IFS and Global ACI can be cancelled by either party in writing with a period of notice of three months.

Execution of the Agreement

Global ACI	International Featured Standards Management GmbH (IFS)
 Brahim Houla Global ACI Chair	 IFS Management GmbH Am Weidenbaum 1A 10117 Berlin Stephan Tromp IFS Managing Director

Date of Agreement: 14 April 2026

SCHEDULE 1

IFS schemes endorsed for inclusion as sub-scopes to the Global ACI MRA:

1. IFS Standard – IFS Food Version 8
 - Level 1 – IFS Food Version 8, Part 3, Section 1
 - Level 4 – IFS Food Version 8, Part 1, Part 3 Sections 2 & 3 and Part 4
 - Level 5 – IFS Food Version 8, Part 2
2. IFS Standard – IFS Logistics Version 3
 - Level 1 – IFS Logistics Version 3, Part 3, Section 1
 - Level 4 – IFS Logistics Version 3, Part 1, Part 3, Sections 2 & 3 and Part 4
 - Level 5 – IFS Logistics Version 3, Part 2
3. IFS Standard – IFS Broker Version 3.2
 - Level 1 – IFS Broker Version 3.2, Part 3, Section 1
 - Level 4 – IFS Broker Version 3.2, Part 1, Part 3, Sections 2 & 3 and Part 4
 - Level 5 – IFS Broker Version 3.2, Part 2
4. IFS Standard – IFS PACsecure Version 3
 - Level 1 – IFS PACsecure Version 3, Part 3, Section 1
 - Level 4 – IFS PACsecure Version 3, Part 1, Part 3, Sections 2 & 3 and Part 4
 - Level 5 – IFS PACsecure Version 3, Part 2
5. IFS Standard – IFS Wholesale Cash and Carry Version 3
 - Level 1 - IFS Wholesale Cash and Carry Version 3, Part 3, Section 1
 - Level 4 - IFS Wholesale Cash and Carry Version 3, Part 3, Sections 2 & 3 and Part 4
 - Level 5 - IFS Wholesale Cash and Carry Version 3, Part 2

End of List