

In the Name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate



The Arab Republic of Egypt

The Presidency of the Republic

Official Gazette

Price: EGP 4

Issue No. 39 bis	Issued on 23 Gommada al-Ākhir 1441 A.H. 17 February 2020 A.D.	Year 139 H.

Decision of the Board of Directors of the National Food Safety Authority No. 5 of the Year 2019

On

Registration of Food Safety Management Systems Certification Bodies

Board of Directors (BOD)

After reviewing the Constitution,
Law on the National Food Safety Authority (NFSA) issued by Law No. 1 of the Year 2017,
Decree of the Prime Minister No. 412 of the year 2019 on the Enactment of the Executive Regulations
Implementing the Law on the National Food Safety Authority,
Decree of the Prime Minister No. 1433 of the year 2017 on the Formation of NFSA/BOD, and
Approval of NFSA/BOD in the session held on 30 October, 2019

Decided the following:

(Preamble)

- The present Decision aims at laying down rules and procedures for the registration of food safety management systems (FSMS) certification bodies of all kinds with NFSA.
- The Decision also aims at regulating procedures and practices for the certification of food business establishments (i.e. certificates stating that food business establishments fulfil specific requirements), and at verifying whether such certification bodies are accredited by accreditation and certification bodies in accordance with nationally and internationally recognized rules and references, as well as verifying the scope of certification, the certification validity period and products subject to certification.
- Pursuant to the present Decision, lists of registered certification bodies working in the field of food safety are made by NFSA.
- The regulatory procedures provided for in the present Decision enhance the credibility and validity of the procedures followed in using such certificates, and aims at countering illegal practices in respect of certification with a view to gaining the confidence of all parties concerned, including certification bodies and food business establishments, to raising the consumer confidence in the safety of food products available in the market, and to supporting the competitiveness of Egyptian food products in order to have access to global markets.

Article (1)

Definitions

The following terms shall, in the application of the provisions of the present Decision, have the meanings set forth next to each:

"NFSA" shall mean the National Food Safety Authority.

"Competent Authority" shall mean NFSA Chairman of the Board (COB).

"Food Manufacture" shall mean all food business establishment's activities from the stage of receipt of raw materials until a food product is distributed.

"Food Business Establishment" shall mean any establishment performing any of the activities related to any stage of processing, production, manufacture, storage, preserving, packaging, wrapping, labelling, importation, exportation, transportation, delivery, offering or displaying a product for sale to the final consumer or to another establishment. The definition also includes fixed, temporary or mobile food business establishments whether profit or non-profit, public or private, permanent or temporary, as well as ruminant and poultry slaughterhouses.

"Certification of food business establishments/individuals/food products" shall mean the issuance of certificates after conducting conformity assessment based on certain scope so as to verify whether management systems, food products, processes, or personnel fulfil the specific requirements provided for in such scope, and these certificates include, but are not limited to, FSSC, ISO 22000, and BRC.

"Certification Bodies" shall mean bodies that are authorized to determine, on behalf of the international accreditation associations such as IAS and IAF, the status and the eligibility of a food business establishment or a program and whether such food business establishment or program fulfils the requirements provided for in the international accreditation standards for specific conformity assessment systems.

"Official Controls" shall mean official controls performed by NFSA with a view to verifying compliance with the Law and food safety related legislation.

"Audit" shall mean a systematic and independent examination to determine whether activities and the results related thereto conform to planned arrangements and whether such arrangements are applied effectively so as to attain the objectives.

"Inspection" shall mean the examination of any aspect of food so as to verify that such aspect complies with the legal requirements as set forth in the Law and food safety related legislation.

"Monitoring" shall mean conducting a planned sequence of observations or measurements with a view to obtaining an overview of the state of compliance with the Law and food safety related legislation.

Article (2)

Registration of FSMS Certification Bodies

FSMS certification bodies shall submit a request for registration to NFSA, shall complete the application for registration prepared for that purpose, and shall provide the required documents:

1. Name, brand name and trade name of a certification body,
2. Tax Card,
3. Commercial Register,
4. Statute, articles of incorporation and names of partners,

5. Activities conducted by certification bodies (certification of Quality Management Systems (QMS) applied by food business establishments, certification of individuals, certification of supply chains, certification of food business operators, certification of food products, etc.)
6. Statement of authorization granted to a certification body by a parent certification body,
7. International accreditation certificates granted to certification bodies by accreditation bodies or thereto granted by international certification bodies (indicating the scope of accreditation, standards, type of certificates, the date of accreditation and the renewal date), and a statement showing that an accreditation body is a signatory to the Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MLA) of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF),
8. List of the numbers and names of chief auditors, auditors, and technical auditors (whether full- or part-time),
9. Auditors' curriculum vitae (CV), qualifications and experience certificates, registration number, as well as scope of audit accredited by an international accreditation body that approves the certificates granted by certification bodies,
10. Position of each auditor,
11. Names and approved signatures of the persons authorized to sign certificates, and the official seal of the certification body, and
12. Official correspondence address and e-mail.

Article (3)

Obligations of Certification Bodies

1. Certification bodies shall provide NFSA with a list of the food business establishments to which the certification bodies provide certification services.
2. Certification bodies shall perform certification in accordance with international requirements and standards as set by accreditation bodies.
3. Certification bodies may not provide any consultancy or qualification service to the food business establishments to which certification bodies issue the certificates stating that such food business establishments fulfil specific requirements.
4. Certification bodies shall provide evidence that all auditors do not work as consultants for any Egyptian or international food industries company so that impartiality and integrity can be ensured.
5. Certification bodies shall provide evidence that all auditors (whether full- or part-time) do not work for accreditation or certification bodies nor are they members of assessment committees in those bodies.
6. Certification bodies shall appoint at least one auditor for each activity included in the scope of certification.
7. Certification bodies shall provide NFSA with a list of food business establishments to which certification bodies provide certification services, and the list updated on a monthly basis shall be sent to NFSA.

8. Certification bodies shall ensure that the food business establishments to which the certification bodies provide certification services comply with the rules governing the advertising of such certificates as a mark or quality certificate distinguishing food business establishments or food products.

Article (4)

Role of NFSA

1. NFSA shall check and review the documents submitted, and shall notify certification bodies that whether or not such documents fulfill NFSA's registration rules and requirements.
2. In case where the documents submitted by certification bodies fulfil NFSA's registration requirements, the certification bodies shall be registered and included in lists of NFSA-registered certification bodies to be published on the NFSA website.
3. In case where the documents submitted by certification bodies do not fulfil NFSA's registration requirements and where the request for registration is rejected, certification bodies are entitled to file a grievance before NFSA grievance committees.
4. NFSA shall reserve the right to periodically verify the activities conducted by NFSA-registered certification bodies with a view to assessing such bodies through conducting announced or unannounced on-site verification visits at certification bodies' premises.
5. NFSA shall notify certification bodies in case where a food business establishment does not fulfil food safety requirements, and certification bodies in turn shall notify NFSA of the procedures to be immediately taken in respect of non-complying food business establishments.
6. NFSA is entitled to revoke the registration of certification bodies and to remove such certification bodies from the lists of the NFSA-registered certification bodies published on the NFSA website, and to notify the national and international accreditation bodies in case of repeated non-conformity with the rules and requirements provided for in the present Decision and in the annexes thereto, and certification bodies may adjust the status within a specific period of time to be set, and may resubmit a request for registration after the fulfilment of NFSA's registration requirements.

Article (5)

Financial Obligations

Certification bodies shall pay a fee of L.E 20,000 (Twenty Thousand Egyptian Pounds) for the annual registration with NFSA, and shall receive a payment receipt issued by NFSA.

Article (6)

The registration of certification bodies shall be valid for one-year term, and certification bodies shall take the procedures required to renew the registration certificate at least two months prior to registration expiration date.

Article (7)

NFSA/COB has the right to issue annexes to the present Decision, or to make any amendment to the attached forms.

Article (8)

This Decision shall be published in the Supplement of the Official Gazette (Al-Waqae Al-Misriyya), and shall enter into force on the day following date of publication.

Chairman of the Board

Dr. Hussein Mansour

Attachment (1)

Scope and Type of Certificates Issued by Certification Bodies

1. International Organization for Standardization Standards:

ISO 22000:2018 Food Safety Management Systems: Requirements for any organization in the food chain.

2. British Retail Consortium (BRC) Certification Schemes:

BRC Global Standard for Food Safety.

BRC Global Standard for Storage and Distribution.

BRC Global Standard for Packaging and Packaging Materials.

BRC Global Standard for Agents and Brokers.

3. The Foundation Food Safety System Certification 22000 (FSSC 22000) certification Schemes:

Food Manufacturing.

Retail and Wholesale.

Catering.

Transport and Storage.

Food Packaging Manufacturing.

4. Food Safety Certifiers (FSC) Certification Schemes:

PrimusGFS.

Primus Standard.

Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) programs.

Harmonized Food Safety Standard.

5. GLOBALG.A.P. Certification for Producers:

GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody Standard (CoC).

GLOBALG.A.P. Harmonized Produce Safety Standard.

GLOBALG.A.P. Crops for Processing (CfP) Standard.

GLOBALG.A.P. Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) Standard.

6. International Featured Standards (IFS) certification Schemes:

IFS Global Markets HPC.

IFS Food (6.1).

IFS Global Markets Food.

IFS Global Markets Logistics.

IFS PACsecure (1.1).

IFS Broker.

7. Organic Certification Schemes

8. Halal Certification Scheme

9. ServSafe

ServSafe Food Handler Certification.

ServSafe Food Manager Certification.

Attachment (2)

Application for Registration of FSMS Certification Bodies

New: () Data Update: () Date:

Trade Name of National Certification Body (English)	
(Arabic)	
Address of National Certification Body	
Date of Establishment	
Name of Parent Certification Body	
Address of Parent Certification Body	
Legal Status of National Certification Body	☐ Independent ☐ Subsidiary to Parent Certification Body ☐ Agent/Authorized
Name of National Accreditation Body for Certification Body	
Name and Capacity of Contact Person #	
Contact Data	Landline: Fax: Mobile:
	E-mail:

It should be Director General and Quality Manager/Officer

Data on License and Commercial Register				
Tax Card No.				
License No.			Date of Expiry	
Commercial Register No.			Date of Expiry	
Detailed Description of the Activity (as stated in a license)				

I, the undersigned (Name), do hereby acknowledge that:

- all data provided in this application, as well as all the documents thereto attached are correct and valid and I am obliged to notify NFSA of any amendment made thereto within a 15- day term as of date of amendment, and
- the certification body is obliged to adhere to the current or future laws, decisions, legislation, and instructions issued for food trading and handling.

Signature

Seal of Certification Body

Attachment (3)

A list of the Type and Scope of Certificates Granted by FSMS Certification Bodies

Type and Scope of Certificates Granted	Years of Experience	Number of Certified Food Business Establishments, Supply Chains, or Bodies
ISO 22000:2018		
BRC Global Standard for Food Safety		
BRC Global Standard for Storage and Distribution		
BRC Global Standard for Packaging and Packaging Materials		
BRC Global Standard for Agents and Brokers		
FSSC 22000: Food Manufacturing		
FSSC 22000: Retail and Wholesale		
FSSC 22000: Catering		
FSSC 22000: Transport and Storage		
FSSC 22000: Food Packaging Manufacturing		
FSC-PrimusGFS		
FSC-Primus Standard		
FSC-Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) programs		
FSC-Harmonized Food Safety Standard		
GLOBALGAP Chain of Custody Standard (CoC)		
GLOBALGAP Harmonized Produce Safety Standard		
GLOBALGAP Crops for Processing (Cfp) Standard		
GLOBALGAP Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) Standard		
IFS Global Markets HPC		
IFS Food(61)		
IFS Global Markets Food		
IFS Global Markets Logistics		
IFS PACsecure(11)		
IFS Broker		
Organic Certification Schemes		

ServSafe Food Handler Certification		
ServSafe Food Manager Certification		
Halal Certification Scheme		
Others		

I, the undersigned (Name), do hereby acknowledge that:

- all data provided in this application and the documents thereto attached are correct and valid and I am obliged to notify NFSA of any amendment made thereto within a 15-day term as of date of amendment, and
- the certification body is obliged to adhere to the current or future laws, decisions, legislation and instructions issued for food trading and handling.

Signature

Seal of Certification Body

Attachment (4)

Request for Registration of FSMS Certification Bodies

Dear Messers/NFSA

Kindly take the procedures required for completing the registration of the certification body with NFSA, and I do acknowledge that all the documents and instruments submitted, as well as the data set forth in the application for registration are correct and valid, and done by me and under my responsibility. I am willing to pay the prescribed fees.

In witness whereof I have given this acknowledgment, and I declare liability in case of furnishing incorrect or invalid documents, instruments, or data.

Name of Certification Body:

Owner/COB/Director-in-charge/Authorized person:

Signature:

Seal of Certification Body:

Date: