



# BRC/IFS Certification

Two essential food standards for suppliers to retail

## BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Demand for food safety is growing. Consumers and authorities increasingly demand that the food we eat should offer high levels of quality and security. If a problem occurs, the source of error needs to be found quickly and the problem rectified. Demands are typically directed to the retail trade first, but responsibility now spreads through the entire food chain to include food producers, primary producers and transporters.



## SOLUTION

### What are BRC and IFS?

These food quality and safety standards are published by retail trade groups. Any company wishing to supply its food products to those retailers must meet the required standards. The retailers request that an independent third party approves the quality and food safety system of the supplier.

### What are the key benefits?

- Access to your markets in the UK, Germany and France
- Strengthened relationships with retail distributors
- Increased transparency
- Reinforced customer confidence
- Streamlined production
- Minimization of significant food risks
- Effective control of internal processes and minimizing risk of failure
- Signal sent about a proactive approach to food safety
- Focus kept on your essential challenges

## WHY CHOOSE BUREAU VERITAS CERTIFICATION?

**Food Expertise** ■ Bureau Veritas Certification can help every player in the food supply chain to meet the highest standards of Quality, Health & Safety and Environmental compliance.

**Recognition** ■ Bureau Veritas Certification is accredited worldwide for these food safety schemes through the international accreditation body UKAS (BRC), as well as COFRAC and DAR (IFS).

**Network** ■ We operate in more than 100 countries. This global presence means that our clients can receive the double advantage of international expertise combined with a genuine depth of local knowledge (language, culture, laws, customs, etc.) ensuring a high quality audit.

**Mark of global recognition** ■ The Bureau Veritas Certification Mark is a globally recognized symbol of your organization's ongoing commitment to excellence, sustainability and reliability.



## RELATED SERVICES

- **Integrating standards**  
ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, SA8000 and ISO 22000 are built to be compatible. Bureau Veritas Certification offers the possibility of integrated certification services (Quality, Health & Safety, Environment, Social Responsibility and Food Safety). This delivers greater audit efficiency, consistency and optimization.
- **Combining food safety principles**  
The ISO 22000 Standard can dynamically combine the HACCP principles and application steps with other prerequisite programs (PRP) to ensure hazard control using a combination of control measures.
- **Other services**  
Bureau Veritas has also earned a strong reputation in the fields of Quality, Health & Safety, Environment and Social Responsibility. Whatever your needs, we can offer a complete solution.



BUREAU VERITAS

Move Forward with Confidence

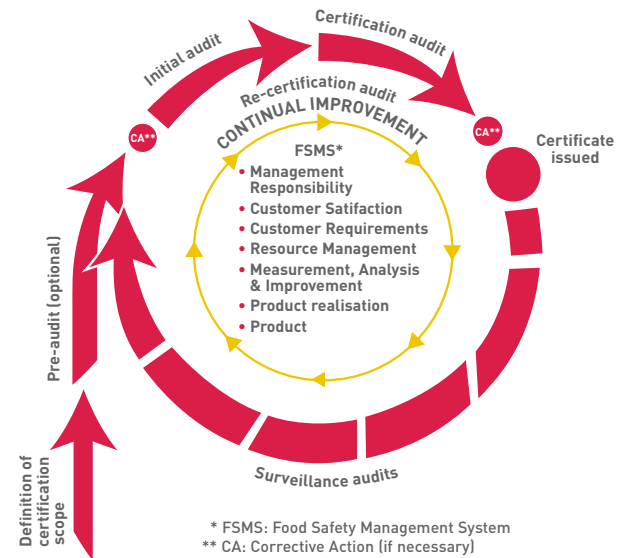
## OUR CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Key steps in our certification process are:

- Definition of certification scope;
- Pre-audit (optional); gap analysis and diagnosis of your current position against the standard;
- Initial audit to verify the implementation of the basic structure of the Management System (applying legislation and regulations);
- Certification audit (certificate issued);
- Surveillance audits to follow the continual improvement;



After each step, a straightforward and complete report is quickly delivered allowing your company to continually improve its food safety management performance.



## FAQ

### What do they cover?

- BRC (British Retail Consortium). This standard published by the union of British supermarket chains, the BRC, requires documented approval to ensure food quality and safety. Retailers include Asda, Tesco and Sainsbury's.
- IFS (International Food Standard). This food quality and safety standard is published by the union of German supermarket chains, HDE (Hauptverband des Deutschen Einzelhandels). It has been adopted by the French equivalent, the FCD (Fédération des entreprises du Commerce et de la Distribution). Retailers include Aldi, Lidl and Metro.

### What are the main differences between BRC and IFS?

Both standards are aimed at retailers' suppliers. Their goal is the same but the paths to achieve that same goal are different. The base of each audit is quite similar but the criteria and their levels differ. A scoring and ranking system exists for IFS but not for BRC. These similarities enable a third party to perform combined audits. However the required reports are so different, there is no potential time saving in reporting on both standards.

The 15 to 20% difference between BRC and IFS can be considered to come from cultural differences. For example, BRC will allow certification of a supplier with a major non-conformity, provided this supplier submits objective evidence that the non-conformity has been corrected within 28 days. On the other hand, IFS will never allow the delivery of a certificate if there is a single major non-conformity.

## CASE STUDIES

**Arla Foods**, Northern Europe's largest dairy product

### CHALLENGE

- Arla Foods demand the highest quality service from Bureau Veritas. All auditors must undergo extensive quality assessment and evaluation to meet Arla's high standards.
- Arla requests an array of standards including the environmental standard ISO 14001, and food standards Danish HACCP, German accredited IFS and BRC.

### SOLUTION

- Arla Foods and Bureau Veritas have built a strong partnership enabling each to improve.
- Bureau Veritas trains its experts to the level requested by Arla
- Bureau Veritas understands the stakes and needs of Arla and adapts to them.

### BENEFITS

- Bureau Veritas is able to satisfy Arla's need for auditing to several different standards thanks to multi-qualified auditors. A one-supplier solution.



## CONTACT

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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