

Introducing IFS Wholesale and Cash & Carry version 3



[27.11.2024](#)

We are pleased to announce the publication of version 3 of the IFS Wholesale and Cash & Carry Standard.

"After eight years, we decided it was time for an update. We consulted with the industry, retailers, and certification bodies to develop a standard tailored to the specific needs of this industry. We aligned it with the other IFS Standards, optimised the protocol, and introduced a new logo colour. I thank everyone who contributed to realising this new standard version," says IFS Managing Director Stephan Tromp.

The most significant changes in version 3 are the reduction of the modules from four to two, a leaner protocol with fewer requirements, an updated scoring system, the introduction of voluntary unannounced audits, and better-defined applicability.

Audits to version 3 can **start on 1 May 2025** and will **become mandatory on 1 November 2025**.

The wholesale industry's preferred standard

IFS Wholesale and Cash & Carry is our standard for assessing the safety and quality of products and processes of wholesalers, cash & carry businesses, and packing companies. These businesses are an essential link between growers, manufacturers, and the catering industry. The standard supports sites in meeting the growing transparency and traceability demands in the market and contributes to increased efficiency.

Major players in wholesale and cash & carry, as well as companies packing vegetables, fruits and eggs, use the standard to have their sites audited, thus raising the quality of their services to the next level. Last year, 805 sites passed the audit and received the IFS Certificate. The certificate shows that the certified site is a reliable business partner that handles products in a safe, responsible and professional way.

Offering a unique support package for certified sites

IFS offers guidance, including guidelines and various tools, to support businesses in reaching IFS Certification and further enhancing their product safety and quality management. Recognised IFS Consultants can help you implement the requirements and train your staff. Follow the link to the webpage below to learn more about the roadmap to certification and the support for IFS certified sites.

International recognition

Accreditation is new for the IFS Wholesale and Cash & Carry standard. The process **with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF)** for recognition under the sub-scopes of product certification of the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) is **in progress**. IAF MLA signatories mutually recognise accredited certification. This helps to reduce trade barriers, as accredited certificates are recognised in many markets based on a single accreditation.

More information

The standard is available in English on our website. Translations will follow, and we will inform you about them on LinkedIn and in newsletters.

For more details, download the:

- [Industry newsletter about version 3](#)
- [IFS Wholesale and Cash & Carry 3 Standard](#)
- Updated brochure [IFS Scoring System version 2.4](#)

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