

May 30, 2025

To contracted accreditation bodies
To contracted certification bodies
(Registered certification organizations)

Upgrade process to JFS-C Standard Document Ver.3.2

Japan Food Safety Management Association

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation with the activities of Japan Food Safety Management Association.

We have revised the JFS-C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.1, which is the standard document for the JFS-C Standard, to align it with the food safety-related standard documents listed below, and published JFS-C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.2 on May 30, 2025.

[Main points of the revision]

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| JFS-C Standard Document Version 3.2 | <u>Alignment with the following food safety standard:</u> • The GFSI Benchmarking Requirements version 2024 |
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We inform you of the measures accompanying this revision as follows.

Sincerely,

Note

1. Transition policy for revision

- In accordance with this notice document, accreditation bodies shall review the conformity of certification bodies to Standard Document Ver. 3.2 by document auditing the certification body's certification business-related documents in accreditation surveillance audits, re-audits, and special audits, and shall confirm the operation at any time of accreditation surveillance audits or re-audits. If a certification body has experience in certification audits, accreditation bodies shall review the certification body's implementation status as well.
- Accreditation bodies shall complete accreditation audits of the above documents by December 31, 2025. The operational confirmations shall be completed by September 30, 2026.
- If certification bodies have conducted an audit based on Certification Program Document Ver. 3.2 before the accreditation of the Certification Program Document Ver. 3.2, the certificate shall be identified.
- Certification bodies shall complete preparations for certification audits for Standard

Document Ver. 3.2 by September 30, 2025. If they are unable to complete the preparations by the deadline, they shall contact JFSM and make separate arrangements. They shall also notify certification organizations of Standard Document Ver. 3.2 and plan when they shall conduct certification audits to assess conformity.

- Certification bodies shall audit the conformity of certification organizations with Standard Document Ver. 3.2 in certification surveillance audits, recertification audits and regular cycle audits conducted after October 1, 2025, in accordance with the aforementioned plan. If they are unable to do so after the date, they shall contact JFSM and make separate arrangements.
- Regarding the above certification transition audit, in accordance with the GFSI Benchmarking Requirements version 2024 PART II 5.6, if it is an unannounced audit every three years, in principle, it shall be conducted as an unannounced audit with the consent of certification organizations.
- Certification bodies and certification organizations shall, in principle, conduct transition audits to Standard Document Ver. 3.2 by September 30, 2026. If they are unable to do so by the deadline, they shall contact JFSM and make separate arrangements.
- Regarding transition to JFS-C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.1 as notified in Upgrade process to JFS-C Certification Program Document Ver.3.2 and Standard Document Ver.3.1 (JFSM_2024_ND_301_5_en), if a contract certification organization has not completed the transition, with the approval of the certification organization, a transition audit from JFS-C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.0 and JFS-C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.0 Supplementary Requirements to JFS-C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.1 and a transition audit from JFS-C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.1 to JFS-C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.2 can be conducted simultaneously.

2. Responses to the revision

1) Response of contracted accreditation bodies

In accordance with this notice document, accreditation bodies shall review the conformity of certification bodies to Standard Document Ver. 3.2 by document auditing the certification body's certification business-related documents in accreditation surveillance audits, re-audits, and special audits, and shall confirm the operation at any time of accreditation surveillance audits or re-audits. If a certification body has experience in certification audits, accreditation bodies shall review the certification body's implementation status as well.

Contracted accreditation bodies shall complete accreditation audits of the above documents by December 31, 2025. Operational confirmations shall be completed by September 30, 2026.

Table 1: Accreditation transition schedule for certification bodies about accreditation audits

| No. | Transition response about accreditation audits | year | 2025 | | | | | | | 2026 | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|------------------|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---|
| | | month | May | J u n | J u l | A u g | S e p | Oct. | N o v | Dec. | J a n | F e b | M a r | A p r | M a y | J u n | J u l | A u g | Sep. |
| 1 | Document audits to confirm conformity with Standard Document Ver. 3.2 | May 30 Published | | | | | | | | Dec. 31st Audits complete | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Operational checks to confirm conformity with Standard Document Ver. 3.2 | | | | | | | Oct. 1st Operation confirmation started | | | | | | | | | | | Sep. 30th Operation confirmation deadline |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

2) Response of contracted certification bodies

Contracted certification bodies shall notify registered certification organizations about Standard Document Ver. 3.2, and Upgrade process based on this notification document. Contracted certification bodies shall also proceed with training for personnel involved in certification activities and revision of documents related to certification work based on the documents below, and complete preparations for the transition to accreditation by September 30, 2025. (See Table 2, No. 1.) If they are unable to complete by the deadline, they shall contact JFSM and make separate arrangements.

(1) Standard document Ver. 3.2

Contract certification bodies shall follow the implementation guidelines for transition audits of accreditation issued by the accreditation bodies and, in principle, complete transition audits of accreditation by September 30, 2026. If they are unable to complete audits by the deadline, they shall contact JFSM and make separate arrangements.

Contracted certification bodies shall notify registered certification organizations of standard document Ver. 3.2 and plan when they will audit the conformity of standard document Ver. 3.2 in certification audits, and shall audit the conformity of registered certification organizations to standard document Ver. 3.2 in certification surveillance

audits, re-audits and audits outside the normal cycle conducted after October 1, 2025, in accordance with the plan. If they are unable to conduct the audits so after the date, they shall contact JFSM and make separate arrangements.

Contract certification bodies that complete their preparations for certification audits for Standard Document Ver. 3. 2 early on can be able to begin operations in audits based Standard Document Ver. 3. 2 from that point on.

In addition, if certification bodies have not completed the transition to JFS-C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.1 as notified in Upgrade process to JFS-C Certification Program Document Ver.3.2 and Standard Document Ver.3.1 (JFSM_2024_ND_301_5_en), with the consent of the certification organizations, it can simultaneously conduct transition audits from JFS-C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.0 and JFS -C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.0 Supplementary Requirements to JFS-C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.1, and transition audits from JFS-C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.1 to JFS-C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.2.

Contracted certification bodies and registered certification organizations shall conduct all audits based on Standard Document Ver. 3.2 after October 1, 2025. If this certification transition audits are unannounced audits every three years based on the GFSI Benchmarking Requirements version 2024 PART II 5.6, in principle, the transition audit can be unannounced audits with the consent of the registered certification organizations.

No additional audit man-hours can be required to confirm newly added or strengthened requirements in certification audits for the transition from JFS-C Standard Document Ver. 3.1 to JFS-C Standard Document Ver. 3.2.

In addition, if audits are conducted using Certification Program Document Ver. 3.2 before the accreditation of Certification Program Document Ver. 3.2, the certificate shall be identified.

Table 2: Certification transition schedule for registered certification organizations about certification audits

| No. | Transition response about certification audits | year | 2025 | | | | | | | | 2026 | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|--|------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | month | May | J u n . | J u l . | A u g . | Sep. | Oct. | N o v . | D e c . | J a n . | F e b . | M a r . | A p r . | M a y . | J u n . | J u l . | A u g . | Sep. |
| 1 | Compliance with Standard Document Ver. 3.2 for certification bodies and organizations | May 30 Published Start compliance | | | | Completed on Sep. 30th (scheduled) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Transition to certification of Standard Document Ver. 3.2 | | | | | | After Oct. 1st transition audits start | | | | | | | | | | | | Sep. 30th transition audits deadline |

3) Response of registered certification organizations

Registered certification organizations shall refer to Standard Document Ver. 3.2 published on May 30, 2025 and proceed with preparations to comply with it as necessary, taking into consideration that surveillance audits, re-audits and audits outside of the normal cycle conducted from October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026 in principle can be audits including conformity assessment to standard document Ver. 3.2. If it is not possible to conduct audits including conformity assessment to Standard Document Ver. 3.2 within the above period, registered certification organizations shall contact JFSM through their contracted certification bodies and make separate arrangements. If the transition to JFS-C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.1 has not been completed, transition audits from JFS-C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.0 and JFS-C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.0 Supplementary Requirements to JFS-C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.1, and transition audits from JFS-C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.1 to JFS-C Standard Document [Requirements for Organizations] Ver. 3.2 can be conducted simultaneously.

In addition, based on the GFSI Benchmarking Requirements version 2024 PART II 5.6, if the above certification transition audits are unannounced audits every three years, in principle, registered certification organizations are required to agree with certification bodies that the audits can be unannounced audits.

End

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