

JFS-B Puls Audit and Conformity Assessment Program Provision

Ver.1.1

Japan Food Safety Management Association

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1. PROGRAM OUTLINE

1.1 Purpose

JFS-B Plus Audit and Conformity Assessment Program Provision (hereinafter referred to as the "Program provision") is a program established by the Japan Food Safety Management Association (hereinafter referred to as "JFSM") which verifies that food-related business operators are implementing food safety management systems that conform to the requirements of JFS-B Plus Standards utilizing third-party audits conducted by audit companies approved by JFSM. JFS-B Plus is a standard that adds to the JFS-B standard the requirements for organizations in capacity building programs developed by international industry associations for food-related businesses.

This program provision provides for special exceptions to the latest JFS Audit and Conformity Assessment Program Document (hereinafter referred to as "conformity assessment program document"), and any matters not provided for in these Rules shall be in accordance with the provisions of the conformity assessment program document.

1.2 Features of this Program

The main features of this program are that the auditor conducting the audit can provide guidance and advice to the organization in the audit, and consulting by the audit company. This ensures the independence of the audit and consulting services and maintains the impartiality of the audit, thereby ensuring its credibility as a third-party audit.

The program provision also aims to standardize food safety management systems throughout the food chain, promote HACCP initiatives recommended by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, further improve food safety management levels, and optimize food safety-related costs through audits and conformity assessment. The letter of conformance can be used as proof of conformity to the requirements of the JFS standard for the organization's business partners, and the auditing company issuing the letter of conformance is responsible for the adequacy and validity of the letter of conformance.

1.3 Standard Documents and Applicable Sectors

The audit standard in this program is JFS-B Plus standard. The corresponding sectors and subsectors are sector: CI~CIV/K.

2. PROGRAM OWNERSHIP REGULATIONS

In accordance with the provisions of the conformity assessment program document.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR AUDIT COMPANY

In accordance with the provisions of the conformity assessment program document.

4. AUDIT AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the provisions of the conformity assessment program document.

5. Requirements for Personnel

5.1 Competence Requirements for Auditor or Reviewer

In accordance with the provisions of the conformity assessment program document.

5.2 Requirements for Auditor Registration

(1) Initial registration

The audit company evaluates whether the person has the competence stipulated in 5.1 by the following method, and submits an application for registration of the auditor to JFSM along with documents supporting the evaluation.

If a person whose registration as an auditor/reviewer has been suspended due to the requirements in 5.4 (1) (ii) or (3) or a person whose registration as an auditor/reviewer has been withdrawn due to the requirements in 5.5 (1) registers for the first time, the completion of correction of the nonconformity that was the reason for suspension or revocation shall be confirmed and the record of such correction shall be submitted to JFSM.

- ① Confirm that the prospective auditor has completed JFS-A/B/B Plus audit training conducted by a training organization approved by JFSM or JFS-A/B audit training and the gap training designated by JFSM within the past 10 years. Or confirm that the candidate has been registered with another audit company as an auditor for the sector concerned under JFS-B Plus standards.

- ②~④ In accordance with 5.2 (1) ②~④ of the provisions of the conformity assessment program.

One person may be registered as an auditor and a reviewer at the same time. The audit company shall maintain a record of these assessments and shall submit this record to JFSM if requested by JFSM.

(2) Maintaining registration (Requirements for auditors in the JFS-A/B standard)

- ① To maintain audit competence, auditors must conduct at least one audit per year of the food manufacturing sector or the chemical manufacturing sector according to JFS standards (JFS-A/B or JFS-B plus). Auditors who have not performed at least one audit engagement per year

shall complete maintenance training.

②③ In accordance with 5.2 (2) ②③ of the provisions of the conformity assessment program

(3) Competence assessment of auditors (Requirements for auditors in the JFS-A/B standard)

The audit company shall have a mechanism for a competence auditor, as defined in 5.6, to periodically attend the auditor's audits (JFS-A/B or JFS-B plus) and evaluate the auditor's auditing skills. This mechanism shall include one assessment within three years of initial registration and at least once every five years thereafter. Include a mechanism for training or reassessment on a risk-based basis (for example, when competence is called into question during JFSM office audits, complaints, reviews in judgments, internal audit reviews, etc.).

(4) Expansion of Sector or Subsector

In accordance with the provisions of the conformity assessment program document.

5.3 Requirements for Reviewer Registration

(1) Initial registration

In accordance with the provisions of the conformity assessment program document.

(2) Maintaining registration

① To maintain competence in reviewing, reviewers must conduct at least one review per year using JFS standards (JFS-A/B or JFS-B plus) in the food manufacturing sector or the chemical product manufacturing sector. Reviewers who have not conducted at least one review per year shall complete maintenance training.

②③ In accordance with 5.3 (2) ②③ of the provisions of the conformity assessment program document.

(3) Assessment of the competence of reviewers

In accordance with the provisions of the conformity assessment program document.

5.4 Withdrawal of Auditor / Reviewer Registration

In accordance with the provisions of the conformity assessment program document.

5.5 Cancellation of Registration of Auditors and Reviewers

In accordance with the provisions of the conformity assessment program document.

5.6 Requirements for Competent Assessors

In accordance with the provisions of the conformity assessment program document.

Annex1 Determination of Audit man-hours of JFS-B Plus standard.

For initial, Surveillance, and renewal audits, at least 0.25 man-days shall be added to the audit man-days specified in Annex 1 of the Conformity Certification Program Document for the total of preparation and on-site audits.

Other requirements are in accordance with the provisions of the conformity assessment program document.

Annex 2 Audit and Conformity Assessment Flow and Procedure

In accordance with the provisions of the conformity assessment program document.

Annex 3 Standard Documents and Applicable Sectors

In accordance with the provisions of the conformity assessment program document.

Annex 4 Scope of Conforming Assessment, Experience in Work Related to Food Safety (Requirements for Auditors and Reviewers)

In accordance with the provisions of the conformity assessment program document.

Annex 5 Experience in working with food safety for auditors and reviewers

In accordance with the provisions of the conformity assessment program document.

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Supplementary provision

Revision history

Document Number	Revision Number	Revision Date	Details
PR_102_03_R00_en	R00	2024/05/29	First Edition
PR_102_03_R01_en	R01	2025/04/10	5.2 Auditor or Reviewer Registration(1)① Addition of the audit training by JFSM- approved training organization