Summary of JFS(Japan Food Safety) Standards and Certification Schemes

1. Background (Development of JFS Standards and Certification Schemes)

JFS Standards and Certification Schemes are developed by the Japan Food Safety Management Association (JFSM). JFSM is an organization established by the food industry in Japan. JFSM develops and manages the standards and certification schemes, promotes, enhances the competency of people in the food industry on food safety management.

On the development process of these standards and schemes, voluntary food business operators (FBOs), food safety experts and the Japanese government collaborated to discuss and make drafts of standards and scheme documents, and they handed over these documents to JFSM.

2. Objective

The objective of the JFS Standards is to provide continuous approach to the better food safety management of FBOs, to deliver transparency about the food safety, and by these effects, to promote trades and optimize the cost of food safety audits.

Especially, these standards are easy to understand for all food related organizations include small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs), and effective to promote food safety considering the corporate culture and the food culture.

In addition, these standards and certification schemes are harmonized with the international and reliable standards and schemes. So business partners and also countries' competent authorities can rely on these food safety managements.
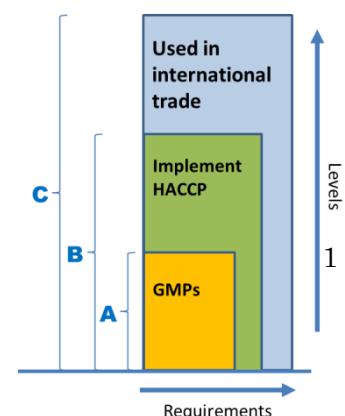
3. Feature

JFS Standards have the features as below:

(1) Easy to use and work for all FBOs

The three levels of standards facilitate FBOs to upgrade activities on food safety. Through the process of upgrading FBOs may study the concept of HACCP.

A: Useful to establish the base of food safety

B: Useful to implement HACCP

C: Useful in the international trade

(2) JFS Standards require the food safety performance, and allow the flexibility of operations with the scientific evidence.

(3) JFS Standards are harmonized to the international standards; General principles of food hygiene and HACCP system and guideline for its application of Codex.
　　JFS Standards and Schemes also include all requirements of GFSI Guidance Document v6.4 and ISO 22000.

(4) Require to establish and implement the system to properly utilize proposals for improving food safety from employees at worksites after verifying the proposals scientifically before adoption.
　　This requirement is unique from other international standards. It is effective to cultivate the motivation of employees at worksites, who actually work for food safety.

4. Scope
<JFS-E-A/B/C Standard>

・ JFS-E-A/B/C Standard is applicable to FBOs in food manufacturing sector.

・ "Food manufacturing sector" consists of the following categories in detail
　EⅠ: Processing of Animal Perishable Products
　EⅡ: Processing of Plant Perishable Products
　EⅢ: Processing of Animal and Plant Perishable Products (Mixed Products)
　EⅣ: Processing of Ambient Stable Products
　　＊The symbols that express the sector are used in the GFSI guidance document v6.4
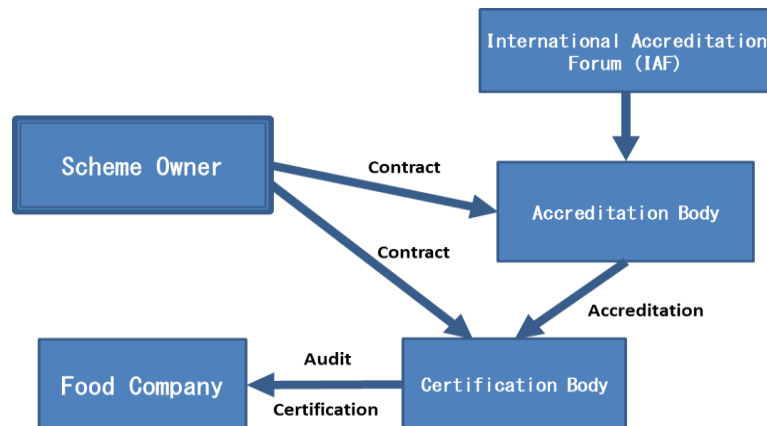
5. Composition of JFS Standards and Certification Schemes
<JFS-E-A/B/C Standard>

・ The requirements consist of the following elements:
　(1)　Food Safety Management System (FSM)
　(2)　Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)
　(3)　Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP)

＜JFS-C Certification Scheme document＞
・ The document consists of the following parts:
  1. Summary
  2. Regulations to Scheme Owner
  3. Requirements for Accreditation Body (AB)
  4. Requirements for Certification Body (CB)

・ The document includes all requirements in the certification scheme document of GFSI Guidance Document ver.6.4.

   (The internationally recognized scheme of third party certification)

＜JFS-A/B Audit and Conformity Assessment Program document＞

・ This program document provides upgrading process for mainly SMEs.

・ Feature of the program document is as below:
  a) The competent auditors conduct audits in the Audit and Conformity Assessment Program.
  b) This program encourages guide or support from auditors to auditees in the audit process.
  c) This program is harmonized with GFSI Global Market Program.

6. Effective date of JFS Standards and Certification Schemes
・ Published and valid from:

    JFS-E-C Standard   July 26th 2016
    JFS-C Certification Scheme document   July 26th 2016
    JFS-E-A Standard and JFS-E-B Standard   October 4th 2016
    JFS -A/B Audit and Conformity Assessment Program document   October 4th 2016