



## A Comparison of GFSI Benchmarked Food Safety Standards

Element	SQF	BRCGS	IFS	FSSC 22000
Stages in Certification Process	Two stages; Stage 1- Doc. Review Stage 2- Facility audit	Single stage; Document review and facility audit are conducted at the same time	Single stage; Document review and facility audit are conducted at the same time	Two stages; Stage 1- Doc. Review and verification of preparedness for stage 2 Stage 2- Facility audit
Area of Focus of Certification	Food safety; Food safety and quality	Food safety and quality system combined	Food safety and quality system combined	Food safety; Separate standard FSSC-Q to assess the quality system in addition to food safety
Audit Duration	Stage 1- 1 day Stage 2- Varies depending on the number of HACCP plans, size of facility and number of employees; typically 2.0-2.5 days.	Typically, 2.0 - 2.5 days	Typically, 2.0 - 2.5 days	Depends on the number of HACCP plans and the number of employees; Typically,  Stage 1- 1.0-2.0 days Stage 2- 1.5- 2.5 days
Unannounced Audit Requirements	Mandatory. Once every 3 certification cycles.	Voluntary	Voluntary	Mandatory. At least once during each 3-year certification cycle.
Nature of Requirements of the Standard	Prescriptive	Prescriptive	Prescriptive	Non-prescriptive; companies have the flexibility to demonstrate conformance to the requirements of the standard
Management of Audit Report	Reports uploaded on ReposiTrak database	Report uploaded on BRC Directory	Report uploaded on audtXpress database	Report uploaded to the FSSC Database Portal
Management of Nonconformity and Corrective Action	CB and auditor	CB and auditor	CB and auditor	CB and auditor
Validity of Certificate	One year; recertification every year thereafter	One year; recertification every year thereafter	One year; recertification every year thereafter	Three years; annual surveillance
Use of Standard Owner Logo	Quality shield logo for Quality Code Certification can be used on product package	Not to be used on product package	Not to be used on product package	Not to be used on product package
Integration with other Management System Standards	Difficult to integrate with ISO management system standards; possible to integrate with other product certification schemes	Difficult to integrate with ISO management system standards; possible to integrate with other product certification schemes	Possible with other ISO based management system standards	Possible with other ISO based management system standards
Standard Owner	FMI/SQFI, USA	BRCGS Global Standards, UK	IFS, Germany	FSSC Foundation, The Netherlands
Applicable Accreditation Standard	ISO 17065	ISO 17065	ISO 17065	ISO 17021