

**NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION BODIES (NABCB)**

Quality Council of India (QCI), World Trade Centre, J 200, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi – 110029

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Accreditation Criteria

for

Food Safety Management Systems Certification Bodies

BCB 115 – Jan 2026

Effective: Immediate



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0.0 Foreword:

The Government of India and the Indian Industry came together to establish the accreditation system in response to the need of the industry and the certification bodies of Quality Management Systems (QMS), Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and other Management Systems, who were largely dependent on the accreditation system of Europe and US.

A Council with representation from the Government, Industry, Certification Bodies, Non Government Organizations (NGO), etc. was formed and named as the Quality Council of India (QCI). This Council was entrusted with the task of establishing the national accreditation system in India. A National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) was established to implement the accreditation of the Certification Bodies.

The NABCB has already published Accreditation Criteria for QMS, EMS, ISMS, EnMS, OHSMS, Medical Devices QMS and Product and Personnel Certification Bodies as well as Inspection Bodies.

The initial set of criteria for FSMS accreditation approved by the Board was based on ISO/IEC 17021 and ISO/TS 22003:2007. The criteria was revised to be based on ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and ISO/TS 22003:2013 to facilitate harmonization of certification process in India and signing of mutual/multilateral agreements with other countries, regional and international forums. The accreditation criteria is further revised to make a reference to ISO 22003-1:2022 and IAF/APAC mandatory documents.

1.0 Scope

This document specifies the requirements that a third party certification body operating a Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) or related certification programme shall meet if it is to be recognized by the Board as competent and reliable in the operation of FSMS related certification.

2.0 Criteria

2.1 The Certification Bodies seeking accreditation for Food Safety Management Systems related certification shall comply with the requirements specified in ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and ISO 22003-1:2022.

2.2 The certification scheme shall be assessed for the equivalence to the FSMS requirements of ISO 22000 or any other document approved by the Board

Note: A copy of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and / or ISO 22003-1:2022 can be obtained from the Bureau of Indian Standards or from the ISO Secretariat. ISO 22000 has been adopted as IS/ISO 22000 and can be obtained from the Bureau of Indian Standards.

3.0 Guidance on the Requirements of ISO 22003-1:2022

If any clarifications on the accreditation criteria are required, the same will be issued by the Board.

4.0 Adoption of IAF/APAC documents

The Board shall adopt any IAF/APAC Mandatory Documents on ISO 17021-1:2015 and/or ISO 22003-1:2022 as part of the NABCB criteria, whenever they are brought out.

5.0 Scopes of Accreditation

The Board has adopted the scopes of accreditation based on Table A.1 of ISO 22003-1:2022. Accreditation may also be granted as per scopes if defined by the regulator or scheme owner.

6.0 Time of the Audits undertaken by the Certification Body

The Certification body shall have procedures to determine the audit man days required for audit in accordance with any specific field or a different normative document, based on the increase/decrease in the audit activity in accordance with provisions of Table B.1 of ISO 22003-1:2022 and any other scheme document approved as per NABCB policy on Standards e.g. Food Safety System Certification 22000.

7.0 Transition

If any standard adopted by the Board as criteria is revised, NABCB shall follow the IAF policy for transition supplemented by its own Transition Policy.

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Auth. by</u>	<u>Description of Amendment</u>
Dec 2015	CEO, NABCB	To align it with requirements of revised standard ISO /TS22003:2013
Feb 2019	CEO, NABCB	To include adoption of IAF/APAC Requirements and to make minor edits
Nov 2023	CEO, NABCB	The document is revised to align with the requirement of revised standard ISO 22003-1:2022
Jan 2026	CEO, NABCB	NABCB office address changed