

**New Requirement on the Use of Statement on  
Product Packaging for Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) Certified Organisations  
in Response to the Issuance of ISO 22003-1:2022**

In response to the issuance of ISO 22003-1:2022, the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) published the IAF MD 27:2023 document titled “Transition Requirements for ISO 22003-1:2022” on 30 Aug 2023, and the Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) published the document titled “Schedule for Implementation of ISO 22003-1:2022 in Accreditation of Food Safety Management System Certification Bodies” on 16 October 2023. Clause 8.4 of ISO 22003-1:2022 states that “A certification body shall not permit the use of any statement on product packaging that the client has a certified FSMS. This includes all product packaging, both primary packaging (which contains the product) and any outer or secondary packaging.”

Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA) shall use ISO 22003-1:2022 for all certified clients from 1 January 2025. Please find the Frequently Asked Questions on the following page for your reference. For the documents published by IAF and HKAS, please refer to:

- IAF MD 27:2023 “Transition Requirements for ISO 22003-1:2022”  
[https://iaf.nu/iaf\\_system/uploads/documents/IAF\\_MD\\_27\\_22003-1\\_Transition\\_30082023.pdf](https://iaf.nu/iaf_system/uploads/documents/IAF_MD_27_22003-1_Transition_30082023.pdf)
- HKAS “Schedule for Implementation of ISO 22003-1: 2022 in Accreditation of Food Safety Management System Certification Bodies”  
[https://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/Schedule\\_for\\_Implementation\\_of\\_ISO\\_22003-1\\_2022\\_FSMS.pdf](https://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/Schedule_for_Implementation_of_ISO_22003-1_2022_FSMS.pdf)

Should you have any further inquiry, please free feel to contact us.

**Frequently Asked Questions –  
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**Q. What shall I do for those product packaging using the certification statement?**

- A. A running change approach is adopted. Certified organisations can still use them until 31 December 2024. However, it is highly recommended your organisation starts the change accordingly as soon as possible.

**Q. What happens if it is found that the statement is still being used on the product packaging during audits?**

- A. On or before 31 December 2024, our auditors shall raise an opportunity for improvement or area for improvement if it is found that the statement is still being used on the product packaging and it will be followed up in the next audit. On or after 1 January 2025, our auditors shall raise a minor nonconformity if it is found that the statement is still being used on the product packaging. Your organisation then shall take timely corrections and corrective actions to rectify the situation and prevent recurrence.

**Q. What are the obligations for the organisation holding an accredited certificate?**

- A. The organisation holding an accredited certificate has some obligations to fulfill, including undergoing witnessed assessments in which assessors from accreditation bodies join the HKQAA audit team as observers in the audit. For further information, you may refer to the mandatory document IAF MD 17:2019 issued by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF): [https://iaf.nu/iaf\\_system/uploads/documents/IAF\\_MD17\\_Issue\\_2\\_18042019.pdf](https://iaf.nu/iaf_system/uploads/documents/IAF_MD17_Issue_2_18042019.pdf)