

IFS Global Markets Program

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What is IFS?

IFS Standards are uniform food, product and service standards. They ensure that IFS-certified companies produce a product or provide a service that complies with customer specifications, while continually working on process improvements. IFS aims to ensure comparability and transparency for the consumer throughout the entire supply chain, and to reduce costs for suppliers and retailers.

What is the IFS Global Markets Program?

To introduce a food safety system and to maintain this in daily business, can be a big challenge for smaller and less developed companies due to their size, missing technical expertise, missing financial means or type of activity.

The program was developed for food processing companies or those that package loose food products. To help companies on the way to a complete food safety system, IFS Global Markets offers a stepwise concept.

By implementing the program the manufacturer not only improve his internal processes, he also improve his reputation as a producer of safe and high quality products. Frequently, IFS Global facilitates markets access to - in the first step – regional Markets. Has a company decided to work with the IFS Global Markets Program, the responsible persons can download various supporting documents free of charge on the IFS Website.

The IFS Global Markets Program was developed in April 2014 to assist companies in the implementation and approval of effective food safety and quality assurance processes and to gradually develop a full product safety and quality management system. Based on the GFSI checklist the IFS Global Markets Food is a non-accredited development and evaluation program focusing with a stepwise increasing intensity on food safety and quality management system, good manufacturing practices and HACCP. Companies working with IFS Global Markets can choose between two different entry levels: basic and intermediate. Herewith the program is suitable to facilitate step by step implementation of the GFSI benchmarked IFS Food Standard.

As all IFS Standards and Programs the Global Markets program was developed in cooperation with international working groups and representatives from different steps of the supply chain. By that the IFS tries to consider all needs in the development process.

During the last four years the number of companies implementing IFS Global Markets Food requirements increased to 1030 in 11 countries end of 2017. 216 of these companies were located in Turkey.

What will we present?

In her presentation Nevin Rühle, IFS Director for Market Development, presents the program by looking at a company which is already working with the IFS Global Markets Program.

Challenges, chances and assistance from IFS will be presented. A special focus will be on

- Visibility and facilitation of market access
- Acceptance along the whole supply chain
- Continuous improvement via the differentiated IFS scoring
- Recognition by trade partners worldwide
- Visibility in the IFS Database
- Multilingual implementation tools through guidelines
- training, webinars and e-learning
- Measurable improvement of processes and thus prevention
- and decrease of costs

Furthermore Nevin Rühle presents the main IFS tools to support companies in the implementation process and their daily work.

These tools are:

- IFS Guideline as implementation help
- IFS Trainings
- IFS App
- IFS Database

What will you learn in the presentation?

The presentation shows you what a company has to consider when implementing a food safety system. Furthermore it tells which challenges quality managers are confronted with by dealing with food safety management systems, Good Manufacturing Practice and HACCP.

Keywords: IFS, Global Markets, smaller and less developed companies