



External Certification of Unilever Manufacturing Sites

I am writing to inform you that Unilever is adopting the Food Safety System Certification (FSSC) 22000 standard globally for all our Foods and Refreshment manufacturing sites. All our sites will be externally certified by DNV GL.

FSSC 22000 is the world leading, independently managed, non-profit foods certification scheme for ISO 22000 based management systems. FSSC 22000 is benchmarked by the Global Foods Safety Initiative (GFSI) for the manufacture and processing of foods and food packaging materials. FSSC 22000 is therefore equivalent in scope and content to all other GFSI benchmarked standards such as the British Retail Consortium (BRC) or International Featured Standard (IFS) standards.

Why is Unilever making this global commitment?

Unilever is committed to simplifying its business and its operations. Over the last few years, one area of increasing complexity has been the differing requirements of our customers to have specific types of external certification for foods safety and quality management. This complexity adds both cost and a bureaucracy burden to our manufacturing and supply chain organisations. Moving to a single standard across all our manufacturing and supply chain operations will offer immediate simplification benefits and improved utilisation of management resources.

Unilever has reviewed all GFSI standards that are available, and we have concluded that FSSC 22000 is the most comprehensive in terms of scope and is the best placed to drive continuous improvement in foods safety within our end to end supply chain.

All GFSI benchmarked standards are equivalent and GFSI endorses and operates to the principle "certified once accepted everywhere". Hence a single GFSI standard is sufficient to provide the same level of assurance to all our consumers and customers.

What are the benefits for customers?

The main benefit for our customers is the assurance that our sites will be wholly focused and committed to a single and comprehensive GFSI standard. This simpler approach will free up resources and will help deliver sustainable quality and service improvements into the future.

At the end of 2014 all our sites globally were FSSC 22000 certified and we will let all other external certifications that we hold (BRC and IFS) lapse. This will mean that we will only hold FSSC 22000 certification at our sites from 2015 onwards. We ask you to support and endorse this approach and accept the principle of GFSI equivalence and consent to the FSSC 22000 certification in place of previous standards.

Should you have concerns or feedback please get back to us.

Yours sincerely,

Quality Assurance Benelux