

# IFS remote audits

A split assessment approach to partial remote auditing.

In a world of fast-changing risk, we need more agile, responsive assurance solutions. International Featured Standards (IFS) introduces the split assessment as it recognises the impact that restrictive access to sites could have.

Organisations can continue to meet food safety standards and condense some of the effect that restricted access to sites can often have, with partially remote audits.

Convinced that on-site visits are still a necessary part of the auditing process, IFS has introduced the Split Assessment allowing for aspects of an audit to be conducted remotely.

IFS Split Assessment is a voluntary option and applies to recertification assessments only.

## Giving you more flexibility

Remote auditing gives you more options when an on-site audit is not possible. It enables certification where GFSI benchmarked options are not currently available and means you still receive the same excellent technical knowledge from your LRQA food auditor.

Using Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and through an on-site audit, a thorough audit can be completed, ensuring your products are safe, legal and compliant with customer specifications.

The IFS Split Assessment allows for:

- Reduced time the auditor will spend on-site
- Flexibility in speaking to necessary employees with remote interviews
- Auditor travel time is reduced
- Increases safety, as only those responsible for the production processes and related activities need to be present

## Things to consider

Carrying out part of your IFS audit remotely demonstrates your continued commitment to food safety, even when circumstances mean that some traditional audit methods are not possible.

However, there are some principles to note that will determine whether the IFS Split assessment is right for you:

- The assessed company should clarify in advance whether its customers accept certification based on the IFS Split Assessment
- All parties involved should ensure they have the appropriate ICT infrastructure in place
- The IFS Split Assessment follows the rules on the use of ICT set out in the GFSI benchmarking requirements version 2020.1
- The assessed company should ensure it has all documents readily available in digital form.

# IFS Split Assessment



## Risk assessment

If the IFS Split assessment option is chosen, the CB and the assessed company must ensure they conduct a risk assessment to determine both parties can perform all remote activities effectively.



## On-site part

An on-site evaluation should account for at least 50% of the total IFS Assessment and must be performed first, both in announced and unannounced assessments.

The on-site part can include, but is not limited to:

- Traceability testing
- Site inspection
- Observation of operating machines
- Employee observation/ interviews



## Remote part

The remote evaluations must be completed within two weeks of the on-site visit and includes:

- A cross-check of findings on-site
- Documentation checks
- Further employee interviews



## Keeping your data safe

Through a range of digital devices and secure platforms, remote auditing will not compromise your security and our technology enables us to audit your business remotely, in accordance with IFS criteria.

## Why choose LRQA?

In a world of fast-changing risk, we need more agile, responsive assurance solutions. That's why LRQA is committed to being the leading digital assurance provider.

Remote auditing of your management systems offers more flexibility and less disruption, with no compromise on outcomes.

Our global network of trusted experts connect with your site and team members remotely to deliver your audit – reducing your time, travel and impact on the environment.

LRQA experts bring with them a clear understanding of your specific challenges and requirements – then deploy deep knowledge of compliance, brand assurance and everything in between to help you meet them. Working together with farms, fisheries, food manufacturers, restaurants, hotels and global retailers, we help manage food safety and sustainability risks throughout your supply chain and build credibility with stakeholders around the globe.

We have exceptionally high standards when it comes to the competence, qualifications and experience of our auditors and they are closely monitored by us and IFS, which ensures the audit standards are stringently maintained.

Find out more about  
[LRQA's IFS services](#)

## Get in touch

Visit [www.lrqa.com/uk](http://www.lrqa.com/uk) for more information, email [enquiries.uk@lrqa.com](mailto:enquiries.uk@lrqa.com) or call **+44 121 817 4000**

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