

The IFS Split Audit

How it works



1

Risk audit

The IFS Split Audit is a voluntary option. Beforehand, the certification body and audited company must conduct a risk audit to ensure both can perform the remote activities effectively.



2

On-site evaluation

The IFS Audit is always an evaluation of processing activities and products coming from those processes to ensure they are safe, legal, and compliant with customer specifications. IFS pursues a vertical audit approach. Based on product samples, a high proportion of the requirements is checked on-site. It guarantees the resilience and trustworthiness of our certificates.

This is why in an IFS Split Audit the on-site evaluation always comes first. At least 50 % of the IFS Split Audit duration is spent with the auditor physically on-site. The on-site evaluation includes a traceability test, site inspection, observations of operating machines and employee behaviours, and interviews.



3

Remote part

Within two weeks of the on-site visit, a remote evaluation completes the audit. Here, the auditor will cross-check his findings, check all relevant documentation, and complete the interviews.

Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond, there has been increasing discussion about conducting audits or audits on a partly or exclusively remote basis. IFS is convinced that on-site audits cannot be substituted if good manufacturing practices and hygiene are central audit criteria. However, documentation can be checked remotely, which is why we have developed a split audit.

The IFS Split Audit is divided between an on-site visit and a remote evaluation. It can be performed for all IFS Standards and is only applicable for recertification audits. The exception is for IFS Broker. Here, we have developed a full remote audit protocol because good manufacturing practices and hygiene are not central audit criteria.

Benefits of the IFS Split Audit

- > Certified companies receive a thorough audit of their operation and receive feedback for continuous improvement.
- > Customers can trust that products are safe, manufactured to their specifications, and meet legal requirements.
- > Reduced auditor travel time.
- > The time the auditor physically spends at the site is shorter.
- > Interviews with other company experts, e.g. management and product development, can be done during the remote part of the audit.

What do you need to do:

- > Clarify acceptance of a split audit in advance with your customers
- > Read the IFS Split Audit Protocol
- > Contact your certification body
- > Assess if remote is technically possible
- > Prepare your documentation for the remote audit

IFS Split Audit Trail

