



FSC36 Safe Feed/Safe Food Certification Process

Obtaining a FSC36 Safe Feed/Safe Food Certification requires a commitment by a company's management team to invest in quality and food safety. The good news is, FSC36 Safe Feed/Safe Food certification program supports compliance with the requirements in the Food and Drug Administration's Food Safety Modernization Act. The following are the primary expectations for the FSC36 Safe Feed/Safe Food Certification from a facility and the certifying body that supports them:

- **Connect with a certifying body (CB).** The American Feed Industry Association works with five CBs to complete FSC36 Safe Feed/Safe Food audits. A facility should connect with a CB to define the scope of its audit and meet the facility's expectations for evaluating its quality and food safety program. The CBs are responsible for ensuring auditors are trained to conduct effective Safe Feed/Safe Food audits. AFIA works closely with the CBs to help with training needs and addresses questions by the auditors. AFIA and CBs depend upon facilities to provide feedback on the auditor and audits in order to improve the process.
- **Prepare for the audit.** Key documents are available for facilities to review and prepare for a FSC36 Safe Feed/Safe Food audit, which are found on the [Safe Feed/Safe Food website](#). This includes the [guidance document](#) with the requirements for compliance as well as FSC36 Safe Feed/Safe Food checklists for the [on-site audit](#) and [surveillance audit](#).
- **Audit costs.** An annual registration fee of \$250 is required for a FSC36 Safe Feed/Safe Food Certification, which is completed and paid on the [Safe Quality Food Institute \(SQFI\) website](#). A fee of \$1,200 is expected for an on-site audit and \$600 for a remote audit from the CB. In addition, the facility is expected to cover reasonable travel costs for an auditor. A CB may determine that more time is needed for an audit based on the scope of the audit and size of the facility, which could impact travel costs. This should be discussed with the CB and defined before the audit is conducted.
- **Multiple audits.** AFIA works with CBs that are capable of completing multiple certifications with one on-site audit. For example, if a facility maintains a certification for the International Safe Feed/Safe Food program, the CB should be able to complete an FSC36 Safe Feed/Safe Food certification during the same on-site audit. This should be discussed with the CB and defined before the on-site audit is scheduled as it may impact the auditor selection as well as the length of the audit.

- **Safe Feed/Safe Food seal.** Facilities that obtain the FSC36 Safe Feed/Safe Food certification are allowed to use the Safe Feed/Safe Food seal or logo for marketing or promotional purposes. The facility must sign a licensing agreement with AFIA to use the seal. Requirements for using the seal or logo are defined within the licensing agreement. Verification of proper use of the logo is completed during the on-site audit by the CB.



One of the most common questions from a facility is, "How long does it take to complete a FSC36 Safe Feed/Safe Food certification?" The amount of time it takes for a facility to complete the certification process varies. However, the following is a general guide to help facilities plan after they have prepared and are ready for an audit. After the facility has selected a CB and the scope of the audit has been determined, the audit can be scheduled.

Day 1 - The facility should connect with the CB and schedule an audit. Due to auditor availability and facility location, it could take as long as 100 days to schedule an auditor visit. On average, 60 days should be expected.

Day 60 - On-site audit is complete. The auditor completes the FSC36 Safe Feed/Safe Food checklist and identifies any nonconformance activities. The auditor may share a preliminary summary of the audit with the facility during the closing meeting. However, the audit report is not final until it is reviewed and approved by the CB.

Day 90 - Final audit report is issued to the facility. The review of the audit report may take up to 30 days due to questions or discrepancies with the information within the report. The CB is responsible for ensuring the facility complies with the requirements for the FSC36 Safe Feed/Safe Food certification.

Day 104 - Facility provides corrective actions for major nonconformities. A facility is allowed 14 days to provide corrective actions for major nonconformance findings. A facility should have some idea of all nonconformance findings after the audit, which should be discussed during the closing meeting with the auditor.

Day 120 - Facility provides corrective actions for minor nonconformities. A facility is allowed 30 days to provide corrective actions for minor nonconformance findings.

Day 134 - CB issues FSC36 Safe Feed/Safe Food certificate. Once corrective actions are accepted, the CB has 14 days to issue the certificate and record the status of the facility within the SQFI database. AFIA updates the listing of facilities on the Safe Feed/Safe Food website monthly.

The time it takes from seeking an audit to receiving a certificate may vary from 60 to 150 days. The above is provided to help facilities prepare for the certification process. The better prepared a facility, the quicker the certification process.

A contact listing of CBs for the Safe Feed/Safe Food program is shown below. For additional questions, contact [Paul Davis, Ph.D.](#), AFIA's director of quality, animal food safety and education, at (703) 650-0146.

Certifying Bodies for the Safe Feed/Safe Food Certification Program					
	Eurofins	NSF International	SGS	Validus	FSNS
FSC36 Safe Feed/ Safe Food	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*
FSC34 Manufacture of Animal Feeds	✓	✓	✓	✓	
FSC32 Manufacture of Pet Food	✓	✓	✓	✓	
International Safe Feed/Safe Food	✓		✓		
Contact Information	Crista Righi Operations Manager D: (515) 299-6946 P: (515) 299-6979 CristaRighi@eurofinsus.com	Elaine Vanier Animal Welfare and Animal Feed Program Lead P: (757) 707-6688 evanier@nsf.org	Amy Cheng Systems & Services Certification SGS North America Inc. P: (201) 508-3089 shun.cheng@sgs.com	Brian Bennett Director of Feed Auditing Services D: (571) 830-6603 P: (866) 320-7751 bennettb@validusservices.com	Justin Derington Manager of Audit Services P: (210) 937-9913 justin.derington@fsns.com *rendering facilities only

Food Safety Certification Programs



Contact AFIA

For technical assistance, contact [Paul Davis, Ph.D.](#), at (703) 650-0146. For administrative assistance, please contact [Kori Chung](#) at (703) 666-8862.