



SAFE FEED/SAFE FOOD UPDATE

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Safe Feed/Safe Food: Expectations for Certification

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 supports compliance with the new requirements from the U.S. 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 four CB's 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 CB's are responsible for ensuring auditors are trained to conduct effective Safe Feed/Safe Food audits. AFIA works closely with the CB's to help with training needs and addresses questions by the auditors. AFIA and CB's 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. A registration fee of \$250 is required for a FSC36 Safe Feed/Safe Food Certification, which is completed within the Safe Quality Food Institute 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 completed.
- Multiple audits. AFIA works with CB's that are capable of completing multiple certifications with one on-site audit. For example, if a facility maintains a certification for International Safe Feed/Safe Food, 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 FSC36 Safe Feed/Safe Food are allowed to use the Safe Feed/Safe Food seal or logo for marketing or promotional purposes of their certification. 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 by a facility is, "How long does it take to complete 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 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 to seek 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 CB's for the Safe Feed/Safe Food program is shown below. For additional questions, contact [Henry Turlington](#), AFIA director of quality, education and training, at (703) 650-0146.

Safe Feed/Safe Food Certifications Completed by Certifying Bodies

	Eurofins	NSF International	SGS	Validus
FSC36 Safe Feed/Safe Food	✓	✓	✓	✓
FSC34 Manufacture of Animal Feeds	✓	✓	✓	✓
FSC32 Manufacture of Pet Food	✓	✓	✓	✓
International Safe Feed/Safe Food	✓		✓	
Key Contact	Crista Righi Operations Manager Direct: (515) 299-6946 Phone: (515) 299-6979 E-mail: CristaRighi@eurofinsus.com	Elaine Vanier Animal Welfare and Animal Feed Program Lead Phone: (757) 707-6688 E-mail: evanier@nsf.org	Amy Cheng Systems & Services Certification SGS North America Inc. Phone: (201) 508-3089 E-mail: shun.cheng@sgs.com	Brian Bennett Director of Feed Auditing Services Phone: (866) 320-7751 Direct: (571) 830-6603 E-mail: bennettb@validuservices.com

Food Safety Certification Programs

Are you certified yet?



Contact AFIA

For technical assistance, contact Turlington at (703) 650-0146. For administrative assistance, please contact Shakera Daley, AFIA accounting and administrative coordinator, at (703) 558-3571.

Safe Feed/Safe Food Website

Stay Connected

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