

# CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

**Food Safety Management System Auditor  
(ISO 22000:2018)**



PO Box 11389  
Spring, TX 77391  
Telephone: +1 281-607-1710  
Email: [info@certuspro.com](mailto:info@certuspro.com)

# Food Safety Management System Auditor

## Introduction

This guide has been developed to help you achieve Certus personnel certification.

**Please read this entire guide before applying for certification.**

The Certus Food Safety Management System (ISO 22000) auditor certification program has been developed to provide international recognition for auditors who conduct food safety management system audits based on the ISO 22000:2018 food safety management system standard.

## Terms and Definitions

- **Certification of persons:** A process to ensure that a certified person fulfills the certification scheme requirements.
- **Certus personnel certification program:** A set of activities that lead to the certification of persons. Certus offers certification programs for management system auditors, such as quality management system auditors, environmental management system auditors, and occupational health and safety auditors.
- **Certification scheme:** The set of competency requirements within a determined field. For example, competency requirements related to quality management system audits or environmental management system audits, among others.
- **Competence:** The ability to apply knowledge and skills to achieve intended results.
- **Certification Grade:** A certification grade is defined by the level of competence. A grade is obtained after fulfilling the respective certification process. Certus offers four certification grades: Provisional Auditor, Auditor, Lead Auditor, and Master Auditor. A higher grade can be achieved as more competencies are attained.
- **Certificate:** A document issued by Certus to persons who have fulfilled our certification requirements.
- **Digital Badge:** An electronic mark issued by Certus to persons who have fulfilled the certification requirements. Digital badges may be shared on social media, websites, and email signatures. They are a great way to promote your Certus certification.
- **Assessment:** A process conducted by Certus to determine if a person fulfills the requirements of a particular certification scheme.
- **Applicant:** A person who has submitted an application to Certus for certification under one or more certification schemes.

## Certification Requirements

### HOW TO GET STARTED

To begin, visit our website at [www.certuspro.com](http://www.certuspro.com). Once there, you will need to create an account by clicking on the Login button in the upper right-hand corner of the screen.

Once your account is set up, click on the Available Certifications button to begin the process.

Select the scheme and grade desired. You will then be directed to pay your application fee and first year's certification fee.

Once your fees are paid, you will then have 60 days to upload any required documents and to take and pass the relevant Certus examination for your scheme and grade.

We will review your application once we have received all your documents and you have passed the exam. A certification decision is usually made within 24-48 hours of the receipt of your completed application.

All application information must be provided in English or Spanish unless otherwise agreed with Certus. Where translations of documents are provided, these must be independently verified for accuracy and a fee may apply. Should you have any questions, contact Certus at [info@certuspro.com](mailto:info@certuspro.com).

### GRADES OF CERTIFICATION

A grade is a specific level within a personnel certification program that best describes the job role for that certification program.

Available grades for the Certus Food Safety Management System Auditor certification are shown below:

- **Provisional Auditor:** This grade is for people who have completed an auditor training course but have not yet met the auditor grade requirements. You may maintain provisional auditor certification for up to two years. After which, you must transition to a higher grade to maintain your certification. This is a good way to begin your auditing career as it gives you formal recognition of your training and knowledge.
- **Auditor:** For those who audit solo or as a member of an audit team.
- **Lead Auditor:** For those who lead audits and audit teams.
- **Master Auditor:** For experienced auditors with at least ten years of lead auditor experience. This grade is for senior audit professionals with an extensive history of conducting audits, but who may no longer lead teams or audit regularly. Master auditors may move into training, consulting, or management roles.

## REQUIREMENTS BY GRADE

	Training	Exam	Professional Experience	Audit Experience
Provisional Auditor	✓	✓		
Auditor	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lead Auditor	✓	✓	✓	✓
Master Auditor	✓	✓	✓	✓

## EXPLANATION OF REQUIREMENTS

- **Training:** All applicants for all grades are required to submit evidence of the successful completion of a management system-based auditor or lead auditor training course (e.g., ISO 22000 lead auditor course). The course must be a minimum of 16 hours for auditors and 32 hours for lead auditors. Certus does not provide training.
- **Exam:** All applicants for all grades are required to successfully pass the Certus Food Safety Management System Auditor/Lead Auditor exam prior to certification. This will be administered online as part of your certification process.
- **Professional Experience:** The following professional experience is required:
  - *Provisional Auditor:* None
  - *Auditor:* At least two years' work experience, with at least one year of work experience in food safety management.
  - *Lead Auditor:* At least five years' work experience, with at least two years of work experience in food safety management.
  - *Master Auditor:* At least ten years' work experience, with at least ten years' audit experience at a lead auditor grade.

\*Work experience in food safety management may have been gained through one or a combination of the following: food safety management system implementation or maintenance or having worked in a food safety management role either as part of the organization or as a consultant.

- **Audit Experience:** All applicants for all grades except provisional auditor are required to demonstrate the following audit experience:
  - *Provisional Auditor:* None
  - *Auditor:* You must have successfully completed a minimum of three food safety management system audits, amounting to a minimum of six days in total.
  - *Lead Auditor:* You must have successfully completed a minimum of three full food safety management system audits as leader of an audit team, amounting to a minimum of nine days in total.
  - *Master Auditor:* A minimum of ten years as a lead auditor.

*Audits must have been completed within ten years of the date of application.*

Applicants must submit all required documents and successfully complete the knowledge exam within 60 days of submitting their application. Applications that are not completed within 60 days will be withdrawn. No refund of the application fee will be made. Applicants will have to re-apply and pay the respective application fee.

The validity of the evidence provided by the applicant may be verified during the certification process

### CODE OF CONDUCT

All applicants for certification and recertification must agree to and adhere to the Certus Code of Conduct. Failure to adhere to the code of conduct may result in the revocation of your certification.

### LENGTH OF CERTIFICATION

Certus certification is valid for one year from the date your certification is approved. You will be notified 90 days in advance of your certification expiration date.

### CERTIFICATES AND DIGITAL BADGES

Once your certification is approved you will be issued an electronic certificate and a digital badge that you may share in your email signature, social media platforms, and other areas. These credentials are issued by our partner Accredible. You will receive an email from Accredible containing a link to access your certificate and digital badge.

### UPGRADING/DOWNGRADING YOUR CERTIFICATION

You may upgrade your personnel certification to a higher grade at any time during your certification through our online portal. To upgrade, you must provide evidence that is consistent with the desired grade. There is no upgrade fee; however, you will be required to pay the difference in certification fees, which will be pro-rated for the remainder of the year. You will pay the full, current rate of your new certification upon recertification.

You may also downgrade your certification to a lower grade at any time through our online portal. There is no fee to downgrade your certification. No fees are refunded when downgrading your certification. You will pay the rate for your lower grade upon recertification.

## Recertification Requirements

All Certus auditors are required to recertify every 12 months from the date of their initial certification. Recertification requires the certified professional to be in good standing with Certus by adherence to the Certus code of conduct, to pay the annual certification fee, to complete required continuing professional development, and to have completed any transition assessments required when a standard is updated. There are no fees for transition assessments.

### CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

All Certus Food Safety Management System auditors are required to engage in 20 hours of annual continuing professional development that is relevant to their profession as a food safety management system auditor.



Valid CPD activities include:

- Attendance at conferences, webinars, or online events
- Attending in-person or online training sessions
- Teaching courses (in-person or online)
- Presenting sessions at conferences or webinars
- Writing books or articles
- Participating in scheme committees, ISO technical advisory groups, or other professional organizations relevant to your scheme.

See the Certus CPD log for allowances for the activities listed above. Work experience does not count toward your CPD hours.

## Certification Fees

Certification and recertification fees are due and payable in advance of the issuance of certification. Certification can and will be suspended or withdrawn if you fail to make payments, do not maintain required continuous professional development, do not meet assessment requirements, or violate our code of conduct.

Certification fees consist of a one-time application fee of \$49 and the annual certification fee. **Application fees cover the cost of your initial assessment and are non-refundable.**

Customers can pay up to one year in advance. Payments are to be made in U.S. dollars and do not include taxes. Payment may be made by credit card through our online portal only.

### INITIAL CERTIFICATION FEES

Fees due for your first year of certification per grade:

Grade	Application Fee	Certification Fee	Total
Provisional Auditor	\$49	\$99	\$148
Auditor	\$49	\$199	\$248
Lead Auditor	\$49	\$249	\$298
Master Auditor	\$49	\$249	\$298

### ANNUAL CERTIFICATION FEES

Fees for your second and subsequent years of certification per grade:

Grade	Certification Fee
Provisional Auditor	\$99
Auditor	\$199
Lead Auditor	\$249
Master Auditor	\$249

Regional discounts (e.g., Latin America) will automatically be applied during the checkout process.

## MULTIPLE CERTIFICATION DISCOUNT

Customers who hold more than one certification are eligible for a multiple certification discount on each additional certification. Discounts do not apply to application fees and may not be combined with any other discount except the senior discount up to a maximum of 30%.

No. of Schemes	Discount
1	N/A
2	10%
3	20%
4	30%—maximum allowed

## SENIOR DISCOUNT

Customers age 65 or older are eligible for a 20% discount on certification fees. The senior discount does not apply toward application fees. Proof of age is required. The senior discount may be combined with the multiple certification discount up to a maximum of 30%.

## LAPSES IN CERTIFICATION

If you do not recertify within 90 days from the expiration date of your certification, your certification will be suspended. You have an additional 90 days to recertify before your certification is withdrawn. **If your certification is withdrawn, you must re-apply as a new customer to reinstate your certification.**

## Transitioning from Another Certification Body

You may transition your food safety management system auditor certification to Certus at no cost for up to 12 months if your certification was issued by one of the bodies listed below:

- Exemplar Global
- International Register of Certified Auditors (CQI-IRCA)
- Professional Evaluation and Certification Board (PECB)

We will grant you Certus certification at no charge at the same scheme and grade as your current certification. Your Certus certification will have the same expiration date as your current certification with your current personnel certification body for up to 12 months, whichever occurs first. For example, if your current certification is due to expire in 6 months, your Certus certification will have the same expiration date.

### What is required?

You must provide evidence of current certification in the form of a current certificate or official letter from the authorizing body. Invoices and receipts will not be accepted as proof of certification. The certification granted will reflect the scheme and grade shown on your current certificate.

You must still meet the requirements for the certification(s) you select, which for most grades includes evidence of work experience, audit experience, and training. You must also pass the Certus knowledge examination for your selected scheme and grade. There is no fee for the exam. Please review the requirements for the specific scheme and grade you select prior to applying.

Additional requirements and fees may be applicable if you apply for a higher grade of certification.

### How to Transition?

Call or email us. We are happy to help you transition!

### DISCLAIMER

While every effort is made to ensure that the process for evaluating applications for certification is effective, Certus Inc. does not accept liability for the performance, conduct, or services provided by the certified person or organization.

This certification program and associated intellectual property is subject to Certus Inc. copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of application, review or reference, as permitted under the United States of America Copyright Act, no part of this program may be reproduced by any process without written permission from Certus Professional Certification Inc. Copyright 2021 by Certus Professional Certification Inc.