



NSF GLOBAL ANIMAL WELLNESS STANDARDS CERTIFICATION PROCESS OVERVIEW



CERTIFICATION PROCESS OVERVIEW

NSF's Global Animal Wellness Standards are the industry's premier assurance of a strong, consistent animal wellness system for the entire protein supply chain. The Global Animal Wellness Standards are the first of their kind, offering a consistent, global approach to meet your corporate commitment to animal wellness. The standards provide confidence in your supply chain no matter where your business takes you.

The following steps are requirements of applicants and participants to gain a certificate of conformity with the NSF's Global Animal Wellness Standards.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Prior to every audit, it is the responsibility of the facility to be aware of the most up-to-date requirements of the standard. A list of the latest standard can be found on the [NSF website](#).

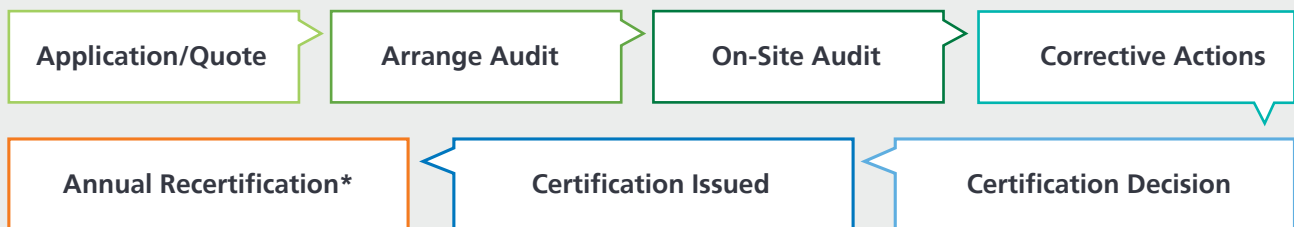
Applicants and participants must:

- > Be fully aware of the requirements of the standard
- > Have read and fully understood the technical requirements
- > Undertake a self-audit (internal audit) of their systems, procedures and policies
- > Address any areas considered to be non-conforming

The average time from quote to certification is 10 to 12 weeks, but can vary depending on a number of factors.



PROCESS



One unannounced audit every three years



1. COMPLETE APPLICATION

You will need to submit a formal application to NSF to begin the certification process. Applications can be requested through animalwellness@nsf.org. Once the application is received, NSF will review the application and supporting documentation to determine the required scope and prepare a quote.

Once the audit scope is agreed upon between the supplier and NSF, it cannot be changed. The quote will also indicate the duration of the audit. The basic duration is one day. The table below indicates some of the factors that may increase audit duration. Once the quote is signed, the audit arrangements can begin.

Audit Duration

Certification Audit	1 day
Single Farm - Single Site	1 day + 0.5 days per additional species
Single Farm – Multiple Site	1 day + 0.5 days per additional species
Hatchery	1 day
Transport	1 day + 0.5 days per additional species
Livestock Assembly	1 day + 0.5 days per additional species
Slaughter	1 day + 0.5 days per additional species

2. ARRANGE AUDIT

NSF will work with you to schedule your on-site audit.

For on-farm unannounced audits, the farm will be given 24 hours prior notice for biosecurity preparedness.

3. ON-SITE AUDIT

Our auditor will assess documentation and handling areas relevant to the audit scope. If non-conformances are found, the auditor will bring it to attention of the operation during the audit. All non-conformances will be described in the audit report and will be reviewed during the closing meeting.

Detailed notes are made during the audit which will be used as a basis for the audit report. Once the audit report is completed it will be submitted for technical review.

NOTE: It will not be possible to carry out a complete audit if sites are empty, de-stocked or not handling animals included in the scope of certification. If the auditor cannot complete the audit in full, the application for initial certification cannot be progressed, nor ongoing certification maintained.

4. CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

When non-conformances are discovered, the facility must submit corrective actions and these must be approved and closed before certification can be granted.

An additional partial audit may be needed to determine that corrective actions have been implemented.



Timelines for the Resolution of Corrective Actions

- > Critical non-conformances will result in an audit failure and must be corrected before reapplication for certification where the auditor will determine if there is evidence of immediate (within 24 hours) corrective action.
- > Major nonconformances will need to be corrected within 14 calendar days of audit end date.
- > Minor nonconformances will need to be corrected within 30 calendar days of audit end date.

5. CERTIFICATION DECISION

NSF considers the results of the on-site audit and corrective action responses in its determination of compliance for granting certification. The certification decision is taken by the Technical Manager or a qualified designee.

If the audit findings and score indicate that the organization has failed the audit, NSF will deny certification. Organizations that do not achieve certification may re-apply once they have corrected any non-conformances. There is no time limit on when re-application can be made.

6. CERTIFICATION ISSUED

Once all criteria have been met and the certification decision has been approved, NSF issues a certificate valid for one year from the date of issue.

7. ANNUAL RENEWAL +/- 30 DAYS

The re-certification audit will be conducted within +/- 30 calendar days of the anniversary of the date of initial certification. The re-certification audit verifies the continued effectiveness of the organization's entire animal welfare management system.

8. UNANNOUNCED AUDITS (THREE-YEAR CYCLE)

Every three years, NSF will conduct one unannounced re-certification audit of a certified supplier. The unannounced audit will occur in the supplier's facility within the 60-day re-certification window (i.e. the anniversary date of the initial certification audit +/- 30 days).

The organization will be notified of any unannounced visit no more than 24 hours in advance, and the auditor will have had no avian or porcine contact for a minimum of 72 hours to allow for appropriate biosecurity considerations.

A defined blackout period will be established by negotiation between the supplier and NSF that prevents the unannounced re-certification audit from occurring out of season or when the facility is not operating for legitimate business reasons.

This outlines the general certification process, but every facility will have its own unique business needs. For more information, please feel free to reach out to us at animalwellness@nsf.org so we can address your specific situation.

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