



Statement of purpose of the IFFO RS Standard

In 2009 the IFFO RS multi-stakeholder Governance Board agreed to set a standard for responsibly sourced marine ingredients based on the following:

VISION

Our vision is that all marine ingredients produced globally will come from responsibly sourced fisheries products and will be produced in a safe and legal manner.

MISSION

Our mission is to assist marine ingredient producers to demonstrate to all stakeholders their commitment to responsible practices in the areas of raw material procurement and food/feed safety.

OBJECTIVES

- To ensure that whole fish used must come from fisheries managed according to the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.
- To ensure no Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishery raw materials are used.
- To ensure pure and safe products are produced under a recognised Quality Management System, thereby demonstrating freedom from potentially unsafe and illegal materials.
- To ensure full traceability throughout production and the supply chain.

To achieve this and provide credibility the standard developed by the Governing Board drew on a number of normative documents, the following being the most important:

- 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries www.fao.org/docrep/005/v9878e/v9878e00.htm#6
- FAO Guidelines for the Eco-labelling of Fish and Fishery Products.
- Implementation of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 9.

These internationally recognised documents were taken to represent good practice for fisheries management and, correctly implemented, provide reassurance that any resulting marine ingredients could be regarded as having been responsibly produced.

Certification of an applicant to the IFFO RS standard is by independent third-party auditors whose implementation of the standard has been accredited to conform to ISO/IEC 17065:2012.

The Unit of Certification is the marine ingredient manufacturing site and to become certified Applicants must provide the following:

For Responsible Sourcing

- Demonstrate commitment to sourcing fishery material from well-managed, legal, reported and regulated fisheries that comply with the key requirements of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.



For Responsible Traceability

- Demonstrate through traceability that only approved fisheries are used in the manufacture of IFFO RS compliant fishmeal and fish oil and demonstrate the avoidance of IUU fishery material from their supply.

For Responsible Manufacturing

- Have attained Certification to the International Feed Ingredients Standard (IFIS) of the International Feed Safety Alliance (IFSA) or an equivalent, as proof of responsible manufacturing.
- Be in possession of all relevant permits and licenses for the production and sale of fishmeal and fish oil products.

The IFFO RS Governance Board are committed to the continuous review and improvement of the IFFO RS Standard to ensure that the standard represents the latest good practices in both fisheries management and marine ingredient production. To this end in 2015 they agreed to undertake a complete revision of the standard to produce Version 2 of the standard which will be implemented in 2016.

Further to this, the Governance Board have initiated a benchmarking against best practice for Standard Setters as defined by the ISEAL Codes of Practice which may lead to the IFFO RS becoming a member of this body.

NOTES

The IFFO RS certification provides a credible level of assurance to buyers and other stakeholders that covers raw material sourcing, traceability, safety and systems. Given the sensitivity of the fishery component, stakeholders may require additional investigation and validation of evidence provided during the assessment process of any whole fish used. The IFFO RS standard recognises and accepts Marine Stewardship Council certification of a source fishery as evidence of good management and full compliance with IFFO RS scheme requirements.

ISEAL membership indicates compliance with Codes of Practice relating to how standards are set, measured and governed. As standards have different scopes, ISEAL membership does not necessarily indicate one standard is equivalent to another in criteria for certification, only in the systems and processes used.

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