



 **FSSC** Development Program

A FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM PROGRAM FOR



SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ORGANIZATIONS

INTRODUCTION

In the expanding global food industry, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play a significant role in the food supply chain. To support these organizations in the supply of safe food, Foundation FSSC offers the FSSC 22000 Development Program.

The [Development Program](#) provides a two-level approach to support SMEs in producing safe food.

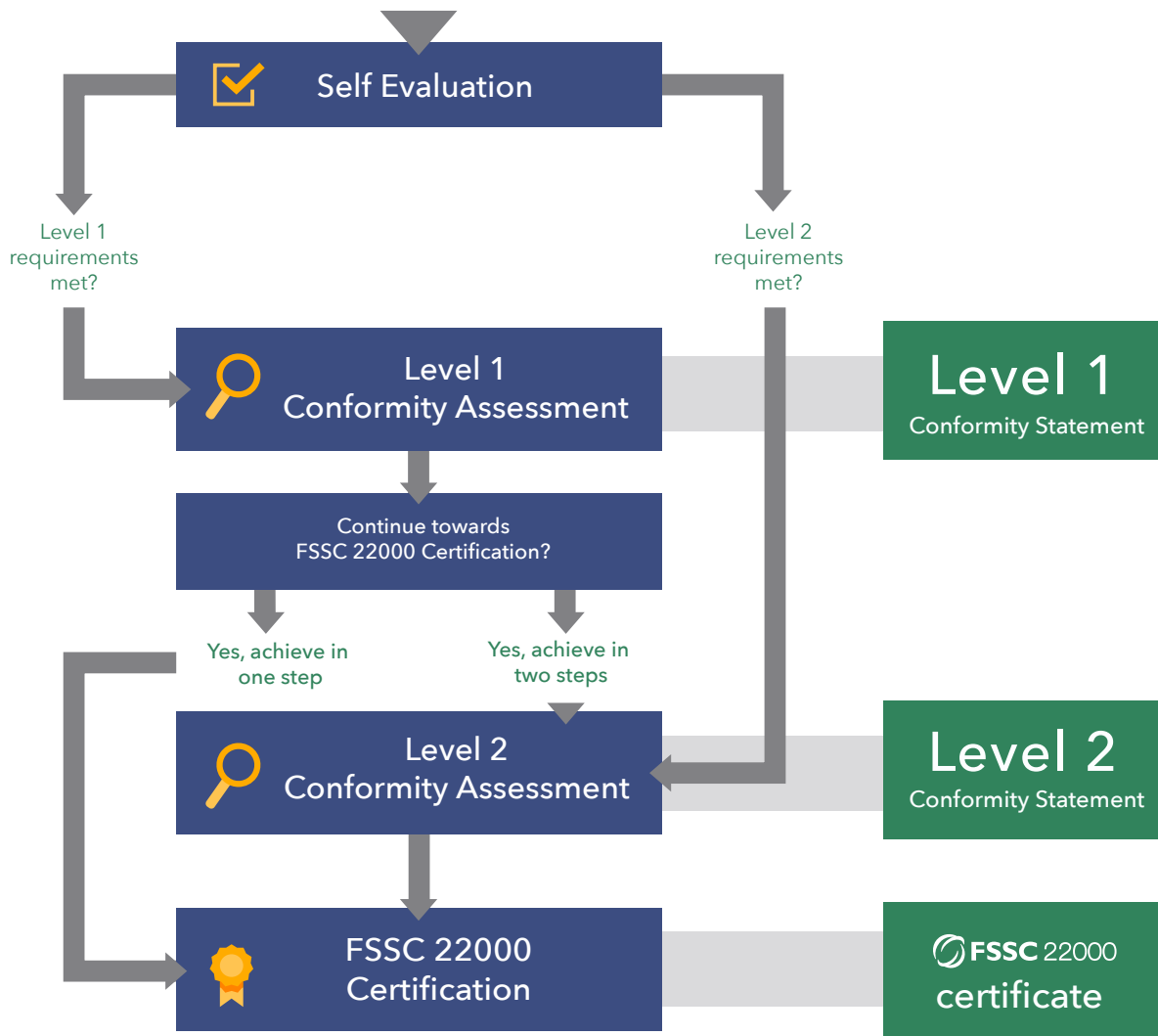
It is aligned with the FSSC 22000 Scheme structure. As such, the Program is especially suitable for SMEs who want to meet their clients' food safety requirements or have the ambition to enlarge their market access. Organizations that conform with the Development Program requirements have the added benefit of being listed on the FSSC website.



Why choose the Development Program?

- It is an easy-to-use Program that is especially suitable for organizations that want to develop and improve their food safety system but might not achieve GFSI-recognized certification in one step.
- The Program offers organizations the flexibility to start at the conformity level, which meets the maturity of their food safety system. Once conforming, the organization decides whether to remain at a certain level, proceed to the next level, or proceed toward full [FSSC 22000 certification](#).
- The Program contains a [self-evaluation tool](#) to support organizations in developing and improving their food safety system.
- The Program is delivered by independent licensed [Assessment Bodies](#) and is governed by an Integrity Program.
- The Program is aligned with the FSSC 22000 Scheme structure, including the option to progress toward full FSSC 22000 certification.
- [Conforming Organizations](#) are listed on the FSSC website.
- Integrating the Program into vendor assurance programs supports food organizations in contributing towards food safety of their SME suppliers. This integration will also improve harmonization and cost efficiency in the food supply chain.
- The Program is owned by a non-profit Foundation and managed by an independent Board of Stakeholders.
- The [Program documents](#) are available in English and are translated into several languages.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROCESS



Which organizations can use the Development Program?

The Development Program applies to SMEs in food manufacturing, catering, retail, and transport and storage. Examples of organizations that the Program could assist are listed here:

Food manufacturing

- artisan food manufacturers and "start-ups"
- food product and food ingredient manufacturers in emerging markets
- developers of novel foods and ingredients
- manufacturers of food products for delivery to restaurants and retail

Retail

- supermarkets and hypermarkets
- convenience stores, wholesale (cash and carry) stores, warehouse retailers

Catering

- onboard catering facilities (including onboard service on airline, railways, cruise, and passenger ships)
- school and industry dining rooms, and canteens
- restaurants and coffee shops
- hotels, hospitality, food trucks, event catering, food services, and food stores

Transport and Storage

- Transport companies including transport services by road, rail, air and water
- Storage companies including warehouses and distribution centres
- Cross-docking activities

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Development Program requires that food organizations meet minimum food safety requirements (Level 1 or Level 2) and allows them to work towards proceeding to GFSI recognized certification (FSSC 22000). The following steps are proposed for a successful result:

1 REFLECT

- Visit our website to download all relevant Program requirements.
- Complete a self-evaluation against the requirements using the sector-specific self-evaluation tool on our website.

2 PREPARE

- When needed, contact a Development Program licensed Assessment Body through our website.
- Arrange an assessment of the food safety system by the Assessment Body and implement any corrective actions in case of non-conformities.

3 CONFORMITY STATEMENT

- After a successful assessment, the Assessment Body will issue a Conformity Statement (Level 1 or 2) and the organization will be listed in the FSSC register of Conforming Organizations.
- To continue the conforming status, annual assessments will be conducted.
- Organizations can decide to stay on their conforming level 1 or 2 or choose to proceed towards full FSSC 22000 certification.
- The validity of a Conformity Statement Level 1 or 2 is one year.

**FIND AN OVERVIEW OF
LICENSED ASSESSMENT BODIES
ON OUR WEBSITE**

“One of the strengths of the Development Program is the flexibility it offers. SMEs can start at any level within the program, and they can choose to proceed to any level depending on their needs and the needs of their clients. With this Program, the Foundation further supports and improves food safety worldwide.”

**Guido Dinjens,
Chief Market Officer
Foundation FSSC**