

**INFORMATIVE CIRCULAR****Ref. DC2025MGR034****Milan, 11-04-2025**

To all accredited and applicant Bodies for the Friend of the Sea PRD scheme

To the Associations of Conformity Assessment Bodies

To all Assessors/Experts of the DC Department

**SUBJECT: Informative Circular DC N°12/2025 – Requirements for the transition of accreditations of Certification Bodies that certify against the Friend of the Sea certification scheme - FOS 0001 – Certification Procedure, Rev. 10**

Dear Sirs,

We inform you that the new version of the standard Friend of the Sea - FOS 0001 – Certification Procedure, Rev. 10, which will replace version 9.3, came into force on 21 March 2025.

The new version will also be applicable to the following scopes:

- FOS-Wild rev. 4
- FOS-AQUA-Inland rev.3
- FOS-AQUA-Shellfish rev. 3
- FOS-AQUA-Marine rev. 2
- FOS-CoC, including CoC for FOS-FF, FM, FO and O3 rev. 5

The new version was positively evaluated at IAF level in accordance with the document IAF PL3, and will be mandatory from March 21, 2026.

From the publication of this circular, ACCREDIA will only accept applications according to the new revision of the standard.

All Bodies already accredited according to the previous version will have to evaluate the modifications introduced by the new version and implement them within their management and document system, inform clients about the modifications in the new version of the standard and the policy defined for managing the transition.

All the above evidence must be sent to ACCREDIA with a specific transition plan by November 30, 2025.

ACCREDIA will verify the effective implementation of the requirements of the transition plan during the first due surveillance activity, reserving the right to carry out further investigations, also at a cost met by the CAB,

before granting the extension of accreditation, if critical issues arise resulting from the documentation sent. The Body will be authorized to issue certificates against the new version of the Standard with reference to accreditation only following a positive evaluation of the transition by the competent Sector Accreditation Committee.

Finally, we inform you that from March 21, 2026, all accreditations issued against the previous version, in the absence of evidence of implementation, shall be withdrawn.

For any clarifications, please contact the Technical Officer Marco Zanardi ([m.zanardi@accredia.it](mailto:m.zanardi@accredia.it)).

With kind regards.

**Mariagrazia Lanzanova**

Vice Director

Department of Certification and Inspection