SSCI’s DSSC Initiative
Definitions
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1. Introduction

1.1. The Supplement Safety & Compliance Initiative (SSCI) is a non-profit foundation comprising major global retailers, distributors, raw material suppliers (including cultivators), raw material manufacturers, finished product manufacturers, certifying bodies, and experts in quality control, quality assurance, and safety of dietary supplement.

1.2. SSCI’s vision is to elevate the quality and credibility of dietary supplements globally by continuously driving improvements in quality processes. The initiative is focused on engaging and collaborating with stakeholders in the supply chain with the goal of raising standards of the entire industry.

2. Purpose:

The following terms and definitions apply for all SSCI’s Dietary Supplement Safety and Compliance (DSSC) Initiative documentation.

3. Definitions:

The definitions included in the current versions of ISO/IEC 17000, ISO/IEC 17011, and ISO/IEC 17065 and any other normatively referenced documents with the DSSC Initiative documentation apply.

Accreditation: Process by which an authoritative body gives formal recognition of the competence of a certification body to provide certification services against the requirements of the DSSC Initiative.

Accreditation Body (AB): An organization having the authority to provide accreditation. Recognized accreditation body under the DSSC Initiative is formally authorized to evaluate the competence of a certification body to provide certification services under DSSC Initiative.

Accredited Certification: A certification to the DSSC Initiative criteria issued by an SSCI-recognized CB that has been accredited by an SSCI-recognized AB. An accredited certificate includes the CB’s symbol, the accreditation symbol of the AB, and the SSCI logo.

Accreditation Cycle: Begins at the initial accreditation date and expires no more than five years later (per ISO/IEC 17011), during which time office assessments and witnessed audits are conducted annually (at a minimum). In the last year of the cycle, a reaccreditation office assessment is conducted prior to expiration of accreditation.
**Appeal:** Request by a recognized entity or an applicant for reconsideration of a decision made by SSCI related to the DSSC Initiative.

Note: An entity that has its recognition suspended or withdrawn may appeal the decision on suspension or withdrawal.

**Appeal Committee:** A committee appointed by the SCCI to review an appeal.

**Assessment:** Process undertaken by an accreditation body to determine the competence of a certification body with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065 and the requirements for recognition under the DSSC Initiative.

**Assessor:** Person assigned by an accreditation body to conduct alone or as part of an assessment team an assessment of a certification body.

**Audit:** Process undertaken by a certification body to determine the conformance of a facility’s management system with the requirements for certification (i.e., scope).

**Auditor:** Person assigned by a certification body to conduct alone or as part of an audit team an audit of organization with the requirements for certification recognized under the DSSC Initiative.

**Audit Duration:** Part of the audit time spent conducting audit activities from the opening meeting to the closing meeting.

**Certification:** Process by which a Certification Body gives formal recognition that a facility operates in accordance with the requirements of the DSSC Initiative.

**Certification Body (CB):** An organization providing certification. Recognized certification body under the DSSC Initiative is formally authorized to certify organizations to the requirements of DSSC Initiative for facilities.

**Certification Program Owner (CPO):** An entity responsible for the development and maintenance of a certification program and having a direct relationship with the AB, CBs and certified facility. A CPO cannot be a Certification Body.

**Complaint:** An official expression of displeasure or dissatisfaction related to SSCI or DSSC Initiative, but is not an appeal.

**Dietary Supplement Safety Compliance (DSSC) Initiative:** Benchmarking and recognition of third-party independent accredited process for facility certification.

**Product Recall:** Request for removal of product that has been deemed unsafe and has been sold to the consumer, or is available for sale from retailers.
**Recognition:** As related to the DSSC Initiative, recognition indicates a formal acknowledgement that an organization has been deemed competent to provide relevant services under DSSC Initiative.

**Remote assessment:** Assessment of a physical location or virtual site of a certification body using electronic means in lieu of or in addition to an on-site assessment.

**Scope:** Specific set of criteria applicable to certification of a facility, defined by SSCI, for which a CB seeks recognition.

Note: The list of available scopes is documented in the DSSC Initiative Scope(s) document.

**SSCI logo:** a symbol issued by SSCI to be used by recognized entities to indicate their recognition status.

**Unannounced audit:** Surveillance audit that is conducted at the facility of the certified organization without prior notification of the audit date.

**Withdrawal of accreditation:** Cessation of accreditation for some or all of the scope of accreditation. Withdrawal for the entire scope of accreditation will result in withdrawal of SSCI’s recognition, cessation of use of the SSCI symbol in any form and any reference to recognition status, and transfer of recognized DSSC Initiative certificates.

**Withdrawal of certification:** Cessation of certification for some or all of the scope of certification. Withdrawal for the entire scope of certification will result in withdrawal of SSCI’s recognition and cessation of use of the SSCI symbol in any form and any reference to recognition status.

**Witnessed audit:** Witnessing by an accreditation body assessment team of a certification body’s auditor or audit team conducting an audit (from beginning to end) of an organization’s management system to the requirements of applicable standards to ascertain the auditor’s or audit team’s competence to conduct the audit and to evaluate the effectiveness of the certification body’s audit program implementation.

END