



Alliance for European  
Flax-Linen & Hemp

# EUROPEAN FLAX™ STANDARD

- Main updates
- Implementation timeframe for audits

OCTOBER 2024

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# Main changes

## V3.0 versus V3.1

### REFERENCE DOCUMENTS UPDATED AND CLARIFIED

- The majority of changes promote a better understanding of the requirements, with **no impacts on certifications requirements or audit processes**:
    - Correction of minor typing mistakes,
    - Homogenised terminology for consistency,
    - Reorganised sections for a streamlined read and easy identification of relevant criteria for each type of company,
    - Improved and clarified wording of certain requirements or processes for a clear comprehension.
  - An **adaptation** of certain **criteria** and **processes** to technical constraints linked to audits and/or to the operational reality and use cases of certified companies:
    - Amendments to sampling of **composition tests** and **composition test results**  
[European Flax™ Standard v3.1 : C.3.2. ; C.7.2. d.](#)  
[European Flax™ Certification Process v3.1 : Article 5 & 6](#)
    - Revised requirements on audits for **trading** activities **without any in-house processing**  
[European Flax™ Standard v3.1: Annex A: Trading](#)  
[Certification Process v3.1 : Article 5.A. a. ; Article 8](#)
    - New processes and clarified requirements for the management of **subcontractors**, of the List of Subcontractors and internal audits  
[European Flax™ Standard v3.1 : C.7.](#)  
[European Flax™ Certification Process v3.1 : Article 7](#)
- **An intermediate update inherent to the life of a certification, ensuring European Flax™ operates smoothly and remains relevant to the expectations of certified companies, brands and consumers.**

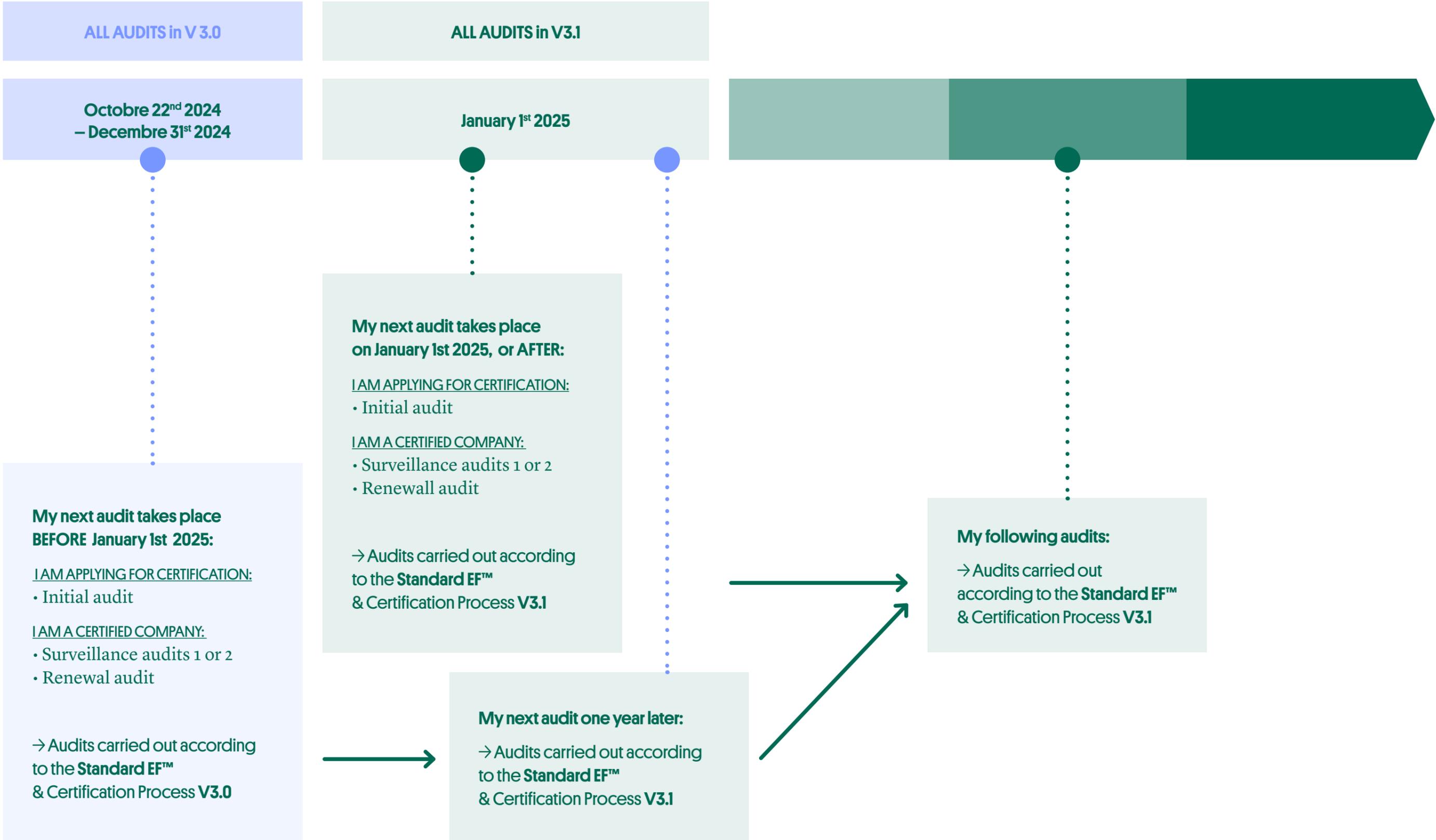
### UPDATED ANNEXES AND NEW TOOLS:

- **How to become European Flax™ certified?** : updated to reflect changes in the Standard and Certification Process.
- **Checklist for internal audits of subcontractors**: new support tool for companies using subcontractors within their certification scope. A guideline to conduct annual internal audits of subcontractors.
- **Change logs for all certification documents**: to assist in identifying changes between version V3.1 and version V3.0 and their level of impact for companies.

### COMING SOON:

- **Video on v3.1 updates**
- **Subcontractor tutorial updated for v3.1** both subtitled in French, Portuguese, Chinese, Italian, Spanish

# Implementation timeframe for audits from v3.0 to v3.1







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