Information and Certification Requirements

GLOBALG.A.P.

bsi

Contents

Revision History

Rev No	Revision Date	Author	Approved by	Page No	Sec. No	Brief Description of Change
1						Old NCSI Recognition Booklet
2	September 2015	Alex Davies	Stephanie Vincent			Update to BSI and GLOBALG.A.P.IFA Version 5
3	October 2018	Mary Portelli	Mary Portelli			Updated contact details Addition of recall information
4	May 2019	Mary Portelli	Todd Redwood	4/6 8/9-10	1/3.7 10/13	Updated contact details Chain of Custody Included
5	July 2023	Rose Fekken	Ana Cicolin	All	All	• Update of title, legal contract section • Update of complaints and appeals section • Update of assessment scheduling section • Update section on additional obligations • Update FAQ section • Update Upgrade requirements V5 to V6
6	May 2024	Rose Fekken	Ana Cicolin	All	All	• Update of CoC V6.1 • Update of IFA V6 • Update of client SLCA & Registration information • Update of Data access rules • Restructuring of document headers sequence • Licenced add-on products (GRASP) added
7	September 2024	Rose Fekken	Ana Cicolin	All	All	• Update Related documents section • Remove V5.4-1 for FV • Add GRASP V2.0 • Add Combinable Crops • Update V6 transition • Update section on notifyable incidents, complaints & appeals • Addition of GLOBALG.A.P. annex on Unannounced audits
8	November 2024	Rose Fekken	Ana Cicolin	All	All	Complete document restructuring

1 Scope

This information requirements document sets out terms which satisfy the related Accreditation and Scheme requirements and forms part of the Service Agreement between client and BSI as indicated in the SRF (Service Request Form) which is completed by your organization when applying for the GLOBALG.A.P. Scheme Certification.

The requirements included in this document do not cover all Scheme rules and therefore the complete Scheme requirements shall be found in the related GLOBALG.A.P. Scheme documents and followed at all times.

For more information about the Scheme and related scheme documents, please visit the GLOBALG.A.P. Scheme Owner website available here.

2 General Scheme description

GLOBALG.A.P. is a certification scheme designed for certification of good agricultural practices, food safety practices for agricultural producers (farmers) and traceability due diligence to traders & supply chain partners in the agricultural food sector.

FoodPLUS GmbH is the legal owner of the GLOBALG.A.P. standards and products.

2.1 GLOBALG.A.P. Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) Plants

The GLOBALG.A.P. IFA Plants Standard is composed of scope and sub-scope modules covering food safety, environmental and social compliance principles & criteria relevant to pre- and post-harvest agronomic activities for plant products intended as food or feed.

The principles & criteria of the IFA Plants scope shall be interpreted according to the inspected sub-scope and following the general regulations for the specific sub-scope and producer type.

Parallel ownership (of certified and non-certified products) is possible under certain conditions when additional rules are implemented.

2.2 GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment for Social Practice (GRASP)

GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment for Social Practice (GRASP) is an add-on for the evaluation of workers' well-being at farm level and is a voluntary, non-accredited standard that may be delivered only in combination with GLOBALG.A.P. Integrated Farm Assurance Standards.

2.3 GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody (CoC) Certification

The objective of the Chain of Custody standard is to assure consumers and corporate clients of the GLOBALG.A.P. certified nature of product sold. It ensures traceability back to GLOBALG.A.P. certified production sites and processes and prevents GLOBALG.A.P. certified product being substituted or diluted with non-certified products, either in error or intentionally for economic gain (Food fraud).

GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody is not a food safety standard and does not result in the certification of a food safety management system. The certification applies to the following aspects:

- Identification of certified and non-certified product
- Input Checks and verification of origin
- Labelling to distinguish and clearly identify respective certified and non-certified product.
- Traceability both of actual product and transactional records
- Mass Balance.

2.4 Related normative requirements

- GLOBALG.A.P. Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) Plants V6 Smart & GFS
- GLOBALG.A.P. Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) Crops Base V5 – Combinable Crops only
- GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody Standard V6.1
- GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment for Social Practice (GRASP) V2
- Scheme additional document as appropriate for the scope of certification;
- ISO 17065:2012
- IAF Mandatory Documents – as applicable and appropriated in accordance with Scheme Rules.

3 BSI accreditation scope

BSI Assurance UK Ltd. holds valid global ISO/IEC 17065:2012 accreditation. The accreditation body is ANAB and the Scheme Owner is FoodPLUS GmbH. The accreditation excludes North America and Canada regions.

BSI Group is accredited and licensed to offer the GLOBALG.A.P. scopes that can be verified here. In addition to the accredited GLOBALG.A.P. scope, BSI also offers the following program unaccredited:

- GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment for Social Practice (GRASP)

4 BSI scope coverage

4.1 Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA)

Scheme	Scopes & Sub-scopes Covered	Product types	Option 1	Option 2
GLOBALG.A.P. IFA V5	1. Crops Base 1.1 Combinable Crops	1.1 Grains, pulses, extracts	Yes	Yes

GLOBALG.A.P. IFA V6 SMART	1. Plants Sub-scope
	  1.1 Fruit & Vegetables
	  1.3 Flowers & Ornamentals
	  1.3 Combinable Crops
	  1.4 Plant Propagation Material
	  1.5 Hops
		1.2 Fruits, veg, herbs
		1.3 Cut flowers & pot plants
		1.4 Grains, pulses, extracts
		1.5 Seeds, seedlings, saplings
		1.6 Hops
			Yes	Yes

GLOBALG.A.P. IFA V6 GFS	1. Plants Sub-scope 1.1 Fruit & Vegetables	Fruits, vegetables, herbs	Yes	Yes

Details of Producer type options allowed under IFA:

b. **Option 1** – Individual Certification – Individual producer applies for certification for a single site.

c. **Option 1** – Multi-Site without QMS – Individual producer or one organization owns several production sites that *do not* function as separate legal entities but as **one legal entity** under the same management with no Quality Management System in place.

d. **Option 1** – Multi-Site with QMS – Individual producer or one organization owns several production sites that *do not* function as separate legal entities, but as **one legal entity** where a centrally managed Quality management system has been implemented.

e. **Option 2** – A producer group applies for group certification. The group may consist of **multiple legal entitles**, but the QMS site of the group, as the main legal entity, is the certificate holder once certified. A group shall have a QMS implemented.

Note: *A single legal entity with multiple sites may not register different sites under different GGNs (GLOBALG.A.P. Numbers): 1 Legal Entity = 1 GGN.*

If a site belonging to a legal entity with 1 GGN, forms part of an Option 2 Group, that legal entity GGN will be part of the producer group members details on the producer group register but shall not be used on product certified under the producer group GGN.

4.1.1 Add-on: GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment for Social Practice (GRASP)

GLOBALG.A.P. offers a number of voluntary add-ons standards that are non-accredited, licensed standards. BSI is licensed for the following add-on products:

Add-on	Scopes Covered	Related GLOBALG.A.P. standard
GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment on Social Practice (GRASP) V2	On-Farm Social Compliance practices assessment	Integrated Farm Assurance (All scopes & Options)

4.2 GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody

Scheme	Scopes Covered	Product types	Option 01	Option 02
GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody Standard V6.1	1. Supply Chain Partners 2. Retail / Food service Partners	All products included in IFA sub-scopes	Yes	Not Allowed

Details of options allowed:

a. **Option 1** – Individual Certification – Individual company applies for certification. The individual company will be the certificate holder once certified.

b. **Option 1** – Single site – Individual company including one production, process, handling, storage or administrative site must be certified as one legal entity with one GLOBALG.A.P. Number (GGN or CoC Number).

c. **Option 1** – Multisite for Supply Chain Partners

   • Individual company owns several production, processing, handling, storage or administrative sites that do not function as separate legal entities.

   • All locations where certified products are processed, handled, stored or administrated must be inspected prior to certification. This is applicable also to sub-contractors and for the administrative sites of brokers that do physically handle the product.

   • Sampling of locations for internal and external inspections is not allowed.

   • All locations will be registered under one legal entity with one GLOBALG.A.P. Number (GGN or CoC Number) and will be stipulated as locations on the certificate.

d. **Option 1** – Multisite for Retail Stores and Restaurant Chains in Franchise.

   • Individual company that owns a franchise network of retail stores or restaurants where the individual sites function as separate legal entities.

   • All locations where certified products are processed, handled, stored or administrated must be inspected prior to certification. This is applicable also to sub-contractors of those sites.

   • Sampling of locations for external certification inspections is allowed for stores, distribution centers and restaurants.

   • All locations will be registered under one legal entity with one GLOBALG.A.P. Number (GGN or CoC Number) and will be stipulated as locations on the certificate.

5 Application process

BSI will require completion of an official application form, signed by an authorized representative of the applicant site. It is the responsibility of the applicant site to ensure that adequate and accurate information is shared with BSI about the details of the applicant site.

6 Certification agreement

BSI will have a legally enforceable agreement with your organization for the provision of the GLOBALG.A.P. certification activities in accordance with the relevant requirements.

7 Audit planning

Your site is required to make all necessary arrangements to allow the certification activities to take place in accordance with the Scheme requirements.

8 Certification cycle

GLOBALG.A.P. has an annual certification cycle, which starts with initial certification (first registration) followed by annual recertification (subsequent) audits, resulting in a certificate with a 12 month validity being issued.

9 Certification and audit process

Certification audits are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the specific standard and version that comprises the audit criteria; please refer to the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations (IFA V5, IFA V6, CoC V6.1, GRASP V2) for detailed requirements.

9.1 Minimum Requirements to Achieve and Maintain GLOBALG.A.P. Certification

Principles & Criteria consist of three types of control points and to obtain GLOBALG.A.P. Certification the following are required:

- **Major Musts:** 100% compliance with applicable Major Must and QMS control points is compulsory.
- **Minor Musts:** 95% compliance with applicable Minor Must is compulsory.
- **Recommendations:** No minimum percentage of compliance required.

The GLOBALG.A.P. Minor Must Compliance Calculation can be found in GLOBALG.A.P.General Regulations for Individual Producers – section 7.1.2 and in General Regulations for Producer Groups / Multisite producers with QMS in section 7.1.2.

9.2 Requirements to Achieve and Maintain GRASP V2 Compliance

Principles & Criteria for GRASP V2 consist of two (2) types of control points and to obtain GRASP V2 Compliance, the following are required:

For Initial GRASP V2 Assessments (First Year):

- **Major Musts:** 100% compliance with applicable Major Must and QMS control points is compulsory.
- **Minor Musts:** 70% compliance with applicable Minor Must is compulsory, except for Family Farms without workers, where any non-compliance with Minor Must criteria is acceptable in the initial assessment of GRASP V2

For Subsequent GRASP V2 Assessments (Following Years):

- **Major Musts:** 100% compliance with applicable Major Must and QMS control points is compulsory.
- **Minor Musts:** 75% compliance with applicable Minor Must is compulsory.
- **Minor Musts** for Family Farms without workers: 100% compliance with Minor Must criteria is compulsory.

9.3 Initial and continuing certification activity

GLOBALG.A.P. audits comprise full assessment audits every year and all Principles and Criteria are assessed starting with an initial certification audit, followed by annual recertification audits annually.

For GLOBALG.A.P. IFA V6 there is a focus on operational aspects mainly in year 2 & 3 after initial / recertification, followed by a full assessment again in year 4.

The purpose of the Certification Audit is to establish whether your organization has implemented and complies with the relevant standard principles and criteria, by observing actual practices, documentation and records and conducting key personnel interviews and comparing the evidence against the organization's policies and procedures as well as the scheme requirements.

Your organization will be sent a confirmation letter in advance of your audit, by the BSI country of operations, confirming the certification audit to be conducted. You must please accept / revert to this confirmation letter if any changes, in writing, as soon as possible.

Within 10 days prior to the audit (only for announced audits), your organization will receive an audit plan, that will detail the following:

- The scope of the audit
- The audit criteria
- The scope of certification
- The assigned audit team members & any other observers that will be in attendance
- The date and duration of the audit, with detailed planning of audit activities.

The Audit will be led by suitably qualified and experienced auditor/s and, where required, witness auditors, observers and/or technical specialists acting as advisers to the audit team may also be present. These specialists bring current specialized knowledge of the activities being audited to the audit team and ensure that the audit provides a relevant and practical review of aspects critical to the business.

BSI auditors will conduct the assessments against specified audit criteria, including GLOBALG.A.P. prescribed General regulations, Principles and criteria documents, rules and requirement documents, relevant country National Interpretation guidelines (NIG's) as well as prescribed checklists, to complete your audit.

Production and/or activities relevant to the scope of certification must be occurring at the time of the audit, in order for the principles and criteria to be verified related to the products within the scope of certification.

9.4 Unannounced program

9.4.1 Unannounced Audit Sampling Protocol

During Subsequent audits (Recertification audits), a minimum of 10% of all BSI certified clients shall be audited unannounced.

The calculation of the 10% shall be carried out for each scope and for each standard covered by the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations (IFA V5, V6 Smart, V6 Plants, CoC V6.1)

The selection of the 10% shall not only consider total numbers but shall also be based on the possible risk and factors such as geographic location, legislation (where multiple countries are covered), crop type, compliance and audit history and product risk.

All clients with production processes certified to a GLOBALG.A.P. core standard (IFA / COC) have a 10% chance of being subject to an unannounced CB audit for their recertification audit.

If a client has been audited outside of their harvesting season, they shall be prioritized for an unannounced audit the following year.

The GRASP add-on does not require unannounced audits of producers but as it must be delivered at the same time as the GLOBALG.A.P. IFA audit, it will follow the same rules for unannounced audits as for the core standard. The auditor may inform the producer / producer group of the GRASP audit at the start of the primary production (core standard) audit.

9.4.2 Unannounced Reward Program

Producers can opt to participate in the Unannounced Reward Program if they meet the following criteria:

- Certified for at least 2 years
- Outcome of last two inspections showed compliance with 100% of Major Musts and at least 95% of Minor Musts on the day of inspection
- No outstanding sanctions in the last two years.

Under the Unannounced Reward Program, producers will be excluded from the additional 10% unannounced inspection. The annual inspection remains unannounced.

9.4.3 Nominating non-audit days

BSI will inform the nominated clients of the upcoming unannounced audit by means of an unannounced audit black out date request form: PF 1990 – Global Food Schemes – unannounced audit & blackout dates), which will be sent to the client at the beginning of the subsequent certification cycle.

BSI clients may, in terms of GLOBALG.A.P. General regulations V6 Section 7.4 nominate a **maximum of 15 working days** where they are not available to receive the unannounced audit, which must be indicated on the PF 1990 – Global Food Schemes – unannounced audit & blackout dates and returned to BSI country operations.

9.4.4 Why are unannounced audits important?

The purpose of the no notification unannounced certification audit is to ensure that producers are "audit ready" and in compliance with standards at all times. Unannounced audits help to ensure that producers and operations are consistently meeting standard requirements. By conducting audits without prior notice, BSI auditors can observe day-to-day operations which helps to identify issues that may not have been detected during a scheduled recertification audit.

9.4.5 How to prepare for an unannounced audit

Here are some ways to ensure you can be prepared for an unannounced BSI audit:

- Provide accurate seasonal and product information to BSI and inform BSI if changes occur (e.g., changes to harvest dates, production locations, end of season dates).

- Notify BSI of up to 15 days on which your organzisation/operation will be unavailable for an unannounced CB audit during the recertification window (e.g., four months before the "valid to" date, and four months after, if seeking a certificate extension).
- Designate staff/worker(s) responsible for receiving BSI auditors.
- Communicate internally about the possibility of unannounced CB audits and prepare staff/worker(s) to receive BSI auditor in a professional manner.
- Maintain current records of all activities related to production, including training, planting, plant protection product applications, harvesting, handling, and storage.
- Ensure that all staff/workers are trained in procedures related to the standard and follow them consistently.
- Keep your production sites well-maintained to reduce the risk of contamination.
- Have an emergency response plan in place in case of an issue.
- Ensure your production site(s) are complaint with the standard at all times.

9.4.6 Unannounced client Notification Rules:

Scheme	Allowed Notification Period
IFA V6 SMART Notification Period including all options	The notification period for Unannounced subsequent inspections shall not exceed **48 hours** (two working days) per producer.
IFA V5 & V6 GFS Notification Period Option 1 Single site & multisite without QMS	**NO** Prior notice to producer for Unannounced subsequent inspections.
Unannounced Notification Period – IFA V5 & V6 GFS Option 1 QMS / Option 2	• **NO** Prior notice to producer for Unannounced QMS audits. • **NO** Prior notice to producer group members for Unannounced audits for **20%** of the sample • **48 Hour notification period** for the remainder of the producer group members **(80%)** unannounced subsequent inspections .
GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment for Social Compliance (GRASP)	The same notice period for unannounced audits shall apply for GRASP as for the core standard version along which it is delivered. For Option 1 QMS / Option 2 Producer group members, the members may be notified of the GRASP assessment once the auditor arrives on site and starts the core standard audit.
GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody Audits	The notification period for Unannounced inspections/ audits shall not exceed **48 hours** (two working days) per producer.

The requirement for a 0-hour notification is part of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) benchmarking requirements and applies to all fully GFSI-recognized standards.

9.4.7 The on-site audit

The unannounced audit shall take place fully on-site, within the 4-month audit window period prior to certificate expiry date.

9.4.8 Can the client reject an unannounced audit?

In exceptional cases where it is impossible for the certificate holder to accept the proposed date (for medical or other justifiable reasons), the client will receive 1 (one) more chance to be scheduled for an unannounced CB audit. There shall be objective evidence of the justification available (e.g. a medical document).

If no evidence of a justifiable reason is available, the producer shall accept the unannounced audit by BSI auditor on the day or be suspended.

The producer shall receive a written warning if the first unannounced audit has not been accepted, regardless of whether the rejection is justified or not.

The producer will be scheduled for a new unannounced audit by BSI. If the audit cannot take place, a suspension of all products (Full certificate suspension) will be issued.

The suspension will be lifted when the unannounced audit has been conducted by BSI along with related certification decision.

9.5 Non-conformance management

Non-conformities will be discussed with your team during the audit and outlined at the exit meeting. These are categorized as Major Musts, Minor Musts and Recommendations. Observations are not raised in GLOBALG.A.P. audits.

NC Level	Definition
Non-compliance (with a control point):	A Minor Must or recommendation in the GLOBALG.A.P. checklist is not fulfilled according to the Principles & Criteria.
Non-conformance (with the GLOBALG.A.P. Certification Rules):	A GLOBALG.A.P. rule that is necessary for obtaining the certificate is infringed (including non-compliance with one or more Major Must or more than 5% of applicable Minor Musts).
Contractual Non-Conformances:	Breach of any of the agreements signed in the contract between BSI Group and the producer related to GLOBALG.A.P. certification.

If you are unclear regarding the meaning of anything in your report, please contact your BSI Client Manager.

If non-compliances and/or non-conformances have been raised during your organisations' audit, BSI will provide guidance on the steps that are needed to take place to continue to certification.

Such guidance may include timeframes for close out or requirement for re-assessment. BSI cannot provide guidance on how to close out non-compliances and/or non-conformances.

It is your organization's responsibility to respond to the non-compliances and/or non-conformities detailed in your audit report by the designated time frame. Failure to do so may result in suspension or cancellation of your certification.

9.6 Corrective Action Plan (CAP) Management

All non-conformities raised during GLOBALG.A.P. certification audits are required to be fully addressed with suitable root cause analysis, correction and corrective action, supported with evidence and submitted to your appointed BSI auditor / client manager within **24 calendar days** of the audit, to allow review and revert or approval and close out by the BSI appointed auditor within 28 calendar days of the last date of the audit.

The timeline to manage the CAP related to the non-conformances issued must be respected at all times.

It is important that your organization submits an effective corrective action plan that addresses the correction taken, root cause and corrective action proposed as per the definitions below:

- **Correction:** action to eliminate a detected nonconformity;
- **Root Cause:** is defined as a factor that caused a nonconformance and should be permanently eliminated through process improvement. The root cause is the core issue (the highest-level cause) that sets in motion the entire cause-and-effect reaction that ultimately leads to the problem;
- **Corrective Action:** action to eliminate the root cause of a nonconformity and therefore avoid recurrence.

You shall provide BSI with the following, within maximum **24 calendar days** from the last day of the audit:

a. the objective evidence of the implementation of correction;
b. the CAP (evidence of an investigation into causative factors, exposed risks and the proposed corrective action plan).
c. Evidence of implementation of the corrective action plan.

The BSI auditor shall review the corrective action plan and the evidence of correction and corrective action and approve them when acceptable.

The auditor´s approval shall be completed within maximum **28 calendar days** after the last day of the audit.

Exceeding this timeframe shall result in a suspension of the certificate for a maximum period of six (6) months.

10 Audit reporting requirements

At the conclusion of the audit, the audit team will prepare a written report on the audit findings and the audit team leader will present these findings to your organization's representative management at the exit meeting.

The audit report includes a summary of the overall compliance of your system with the requirements of the relevant standard. The final report will be provided after completion of a certification review of the audit documentation and process.

Both the procedural and operational conditions of the implemented system shall be verified, to assess the effectiveness in meeting the GLOBALG.A.P. requirements and shall be duly reported.
The audit report shall provide an accurate, concise, and clear record of the outcome of the evaluation to enable an informed certification decision to be made. In addition, audit findings, shall reference objective evidence and conclusions consistent with the requirements of the type of audit and covering all activities as per the certification scope.

The audit report is to be treated confidentially by BSI, in line with agreed GLOBALG.A.P.Data Access Rules, but may be made available to the relevant food safety authorities upon request and after approval by the certified organization.

11 Certification decision

BSI is responsible for, and retain authority for, its decisions relating to certification, including the granting, refusing, maintaining of certification, expanding or reducing the scope of certification, renewing, suspending or restoring following suspension, or withdrawing of certification.

12 Certificate and audit report ownership

A (certified) organization is the owner of an audit report (regarding the decision about who the report may be shared with), whilst BSI is responsible for the report data and therefore holds the ownership of the audit report content.

A (certified) organization is the certificate holder, not the owner. BSI is the data owner of the certificate data.

13 Auditing and certification status information

BSI may have to share the information of your organization relating to the certification and auditing process with the Scheme Owner, the related Accreditation Body, the IAF, GFSI and/or governmental authorities when required.

BSI and the Scheme Owner will share the information regarding your certification status with external parties through the related platforms/database following the agreed GLOBALG.A.P. Data Access Rules.

Data access rights are defined and agreed for each BSI client during registration and outline the level of information which is publically available on each certified client and all certified product. Client acceptance level of data access requirements is re-confirmed during audits as well. The GLOBALG.A.P. Data Access rules are available here.

14 Other persons attending the audit

It is a condition of undertaking an audit that the auditor may be accompanied by other personnel for training, assessment or calibration purposes. This activity may include:

- training of new auditors by BSI;
- witness audits by Accreditation Bodies, Scheme Owner and/or BSI;
- use of technical expert and/or translator and/or observers.

By accepting the BSI contract your organization agrees to cooperate with such process.

15 Scheme Owner platform/ database management

The Scheme Owner maintains a register of certified sites and its status of certification. This register is publicly available on the Scheme Owner website.

The audit documents required by the Scheme Owner will be uploaded to their platform following the Scheme requirements timelines.

16 Scheme Owner audits and communication

The Scheme Owner reserves the right to conduct its own audit or visit to a site once certified in response to complaints and/or as part of the routine Scheme Owner compliance activity (CIPRO Audits) to ensure the integrity of the Scheme. Such visits may be announced or unannounced. The certification status may be affected in the event that access to any parts of the site or process or requests is unreasonably refused.

The Scheme Owner may contact the site directly in relation to its certification status or for feedback on BSI performance or investigation into reported issues.

17 Communication obligations

Your organization has the obligation to communicate with BSI within three working days the following:

- any significant changes that affect the compliance with the Scheme requirements and obtain advice of BSI in cases where there is doubt over the significance of a change;
- Changes to organization name, contact address and site details;
- Changes to organization (e.g., legal, commercial, organizational status or ownership) and management (e.g., key managerial, decision-making, or technical staff);
- Major changes to the certified system, scope of operations and product categories covered by the certified scope (e.g. new products, new processing lines, etc.);
- Any other change that renders the information on the certificate inaccurate.

- Any claim or threatened claim against BSI, any member or auditor has performed or is in the course of performing an Audit.
- Serious events that impact the certified system, legality and/or the integrity of the certification, including situations that pose a threat to food safety or certification integrity as a result of Force majeure, natural or man-made disasters (e.g., war, strike, terrorism, crime, flood, earthquake, malicious computer hacking, etc.). BSI shall be contacted within 24 Hours through critical.food@bsigroup.com.
- Serious situations where the integrity of the certification is at risk and/or where the Scheme Owner and/or BSI can be brought into disrepute. These include, but are not limited to:
  - notice and actions imposed by regulatory authorities as a result of a food safety issue(s), worker health & safety issues, or serious environmental issues, where additional monitoring or forced shutdown of production is required;
  - legal proceedings, prosecutions, malpractice, and negligence; and
  - fraudulent activities and corruption.
  - food safety events/product safety incidents (e.g., recalls, withdrawals, calamities, food safety outbreaks etc.).

    In case your organization is affected by a product safety incident, BSI shall be notified within **24 hours** through food.recall@bsigroup.com from the date of the incident.

    The information related to the product incident will be evaluated and BSI will decide the course of action regarding action needed as well as the status of the certification.

    Related definition as follows:
    - **Product safety incident:** Food safety, authenticity or legality incidents, including product recalls, regulatory notice, food safety-related withdrawals or any other incidents affecting the safety of product.
    - **Product Recall:** The removal by a supplier of product from the supply chain that has been deemed to be unsafe and has been sold to the end consumer or is with retailers or caterers and is available for sale (Ref: GFSI Benchmarking

Requirements _Version 2020.1).

- **Regulatory notice:** Any notice (related to the scope of the certification), filing or other documentation required to be submitted to an Applicable Authority with respect to any Regulatory Clearance.
- **Product Withdrawal:** The removal of product by a supplier from the supply chain that has been deemed to be unsafe, which has not been placed on the market for purchase by the end consumer (Ref: GFSI Benchmarking Requirements _Version 2020.1).
- **Notifiable product safety incidents:** Any product safety incidents related to a product which is within the scope of the site's certification that shall be communicated to BSI and/or Scheme Owner as described in the following section. It includes cases where the product has already been consumed and therefore the client cannot recall/ withdraw the product.

18 Complaints and appeals

Please refer to BSI website for information related to complaints and appeals, including timeline and communication channel: Complaints and appeals.

19 BSI Impartiality

Impartiality is the governing principle of how BSI provides its services. Impartiality means acting fairly and equitably in its dealings with people and in all business operations. It means decisions are made free from any engagements of influences which could affect the objectivity of decision making.

Find detailed information here.

20 Misleading statement

Your organization is not permitted to use its certification in a manner that could bring BSI or scheme owner into disrepute. This includes making misleading or unauthorized statements.

21 BSI Mark of Trust and Accreditation Mark rules

The guideline related to access the marks and the related rules is available here.

22 Scheme Owner Logo rules

The GLOBALG.A.P. logo and trademark is proprietary and use of the logos is subject to GLOBALG.A.P. terms and conditions.

GLOBALG.A.P. trademarks use Policy and Guideline document must be implemented and followed by BSI and its certified clients when using the GLOBALG.A.P. trademarked materials and logos. The rules are available here.

For Chain of Custody clients who intend to use the GGN Logo, the GGN Label License agreement shall also be signed (between client and GLOBALG.A.P.) The GGN Label Use requirements are available here.

23 Scheme transition information

FoodPLUS GmbH published Version 6 of the GLOBALG.A.P. IFA Scheme in October 2022 and GFSI benchmark recognition was achieved for the V6-GFS standard in August 2024.

The main reasons for the release of IFA V6, the Scheme changes as well as the Scheme Requirements can be found here.

The following outlines the requirements that our clients should be aware of relating to the transition process.

Requirements for transition from GLOBALG.A.P.IFA V5 to V6:

Standard & Version	GFSI Benchmarked	Accredited	Until when is audits against this version allowed? From when is audits against this version compulsory?
IFA V5.4-1 GFS	Yes	Yes	• Cut-off date for audits to be conducted against V5.4-1 = **31 December 2024**, • Cut-off date for IFA V5.4-1 certificate Validity allowed = • 30 December 2025 *Exceptions where surveillance audits are still allowed to be conducted for certified producers after 01 January 2025 (ex. To add products to existing, valid IFA V5.4-1 certificate).*
IFA V6 Smart	No	Yes	Current and valid version (already upgraded from V5.2 in 2024).
IFA V6 GFS	Yes	Yes	IFA V6-GFS is already allowed, but will become the compulsory GFSI benchmarked version from **01 January 2025**, whereafter no further V5.4-1 audits will be allowed.

A transition audit is a full onsite audit against the GLOBALG.A.P. V6 requirements and may be conducted announced, or unannounced to meet the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations in terms of unannounced audit requirements.

The BSI local office will notify your organization, in an appropriate time manner of the nature of your audit following the normal notification process.

23.1 Audit duration

The audit duration calculation rules in GLOBALG.A.P. V6 has been reviewed and the minimum duration has been considered, dependent on the option of certification (Opton 1 / Option 2) number of sites, number of crops, complexity of processes including growing, harvesting and post-harvest product handling.

The BSI local office will notify your organization, in an appropriate time manner, about the change, if any, in audit duration for audits to be conducted against GLOBALG.A.P. IFA V6.

23.2 Reporting and Certificate

GLOBALG.A.P. V6 reports are captured on GLOBALG.A.P Audit Online Hub and you will receive an automated notification with the final audit report, once the certification review process is complete. Certificates are issued only after a final, positive certification decision and issued via the GLOBALG.A.P. Database or the Validation Services portal (e-Certificate).

23.3 Readiness Review

GLOBALG.A.P. advises producers to use the GLOBALG.A.P. IFA V6 documents generator (https://www.globalgap.org/ifav6checklist/) to:

- generate a producer-specific Self-Assessment Checklist to identify organizational gaps which need to be addressed to meet the new requirements,
- develop associated documentation and an implementation plan,
- provide appropriate training and awareness of the implication of the transition for all parties that have an impact on the effectiveness of the organization,
- update the existing food safety management system to meet the revised requirements and provide verification of effectiveness.

23.4 How can BSI help?

We can provide a Pre-certification audit against the IFA V6 standard. In case you have interest in this, please contact your local BSI client service manager.

23.5 Training courses

Clients can refer to GLOBALG.A.P. Academy for information on how to access suitable training on IFA V6 requirements.

23.6 GLOBALG.A.P. V6 scheme requirements

The GLOBALG.A.P. V6 requirements that were published are available here: Documents (globalgap.org).

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