GLOBALG.A.P. General Regulations

Rules for Producer Groups and Multisite Producers with QMS

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1 INTRODUCTION

This document, part of the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations (GR), applies to the Integrated Farm Assurance version 6 Smart (IFA v6 Smart) edition, the Integrated Farm Assurance version 6 GFS (IFA v6 GFS) edition, the Harmonized Produce Safety Standard (HPSS), and the Produce Handling Assurance (PHA) standard.

The rules described in this document are for individual producers with multisites where a quality management system (QMS) is implemented, as well as for producer groups managed by a QMS.

Rules for benchmarked schemes/checklists are explained in the GLOBALG.A.P. benchmarking regulations.

The term “shall” is used throughout the GLOBALG.A.P. normative documents to indicate mandatory provisions.

Legislation relevant to P&Cs more demanding than GLOBALG.A.P. requirements overrides the GLOBALG.A.P. requirements. Where there is no legislation (or legislation is not so strict), GLOBALG.A.P. requirements provide a minimum acceptable level of compliance. Compliance with all applicable legislation is not in itself a condition for certification. The audit carried out by the GLOBALG.A.P. approved certification body (CB) does not replace public compliance agencies’ responsibilities to enforce legislation. Existence of legislation relevant to a specific P&C does not change the level of that P&C to Major Must. The P&C levels shall be kept as defined in the P&C documents and checklists approved and published on the GLOBALG.A.P. website (www.globalgap.org).

Definitions of terminology used in the GLOBALG.A.P. GR and P&Cs are available in the GLOBALG.A.P. glossary.

Annexes referenced in the P&Cs are guidelines. Guidelines referenced in the P&Cs to guide producers to comply with the requirements are *not* normative documents.

Only products included in the GLOBALG.A.P. product list, published on the GLOBALG.A.P. website (www.globalgap.org), may be registered for certification. The GLOBALG.A.P. product list is not limited and may be extended based on demand. Requests to add new products to the product list may be sent to the email address standard_support@globalgap.org with the following information:

a) Product

b) Scientific name

c) Any additional information (e.g., cultivation, use, alternative names, pictures). This can be supplied via a website link as well.

Legislation relevant to P&Cs more demanding than GLOBALG.A.P. requirements overrides the GLOBALG.A.P. requirements. Existence of legislation relevant to a specific P&C does not change the level of that P&C to Major Must. The P&C levels shall be kept as defined in the P&C documents and checklists approved and published on the GLOBALG.A.P. website (www.globalgap.org).

GLOBALG.A.P. approved CBs (or VBs) do not assume any warranty or responsibility and are therefore not legally liable for:

a) The safety of the product originating from production processes certified under a GLOBALG.A.P. standard

b) The accuracy and completeness of the data in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems, even if entered by the GLOBALG.A.P. approved CB (or VB)

c) Any violations of applicable legislation, other standards, or best practices through the GLOBALG.A.P. standard chosen and applied by the producer

The choice and application of a GLOBALG.A.P. standard is made at the sole discretion and responsibility of the respective producer. It is the responsibility of the producer to ensure that the GLOBALG.A.P. standard is suitable for the producer's processes and does not cause any negative consequences (especially damages) for the producer or any third party.

Accordingly, FoodPLUS GmbH, its employees, and its agents cannot be held liable for any losses, damages, charges, costs, or expenses of whatever nature (including consequential losses) that any producer may suffer or incur by reason of or arising directly or indirectly from complying with a GLOBALG.A.P. standard or the administration by FoodPLUS GmbH, its employees, or its agents or the performance of their respective obligations in connection with such GLOBALG.A.P. standard. This does not apply to the extent that such loss, damages, charges, costs, or expenses arise as a result of the finally and judicially determined gross negligence or willful default of such person (for the avoidance of doubt, this restriction does not constitute an independent basis for a claim).

2 TERMINOLOGY

According to the terminology of ISO 17065, the term audit/auditor should be used for evaluation of management systems and the term inspection/inspector should be used for process evaluation. For the sake of simplicity, in this document:

- Whenever the term “CB auditor” is used, it shall refer to a CB QMS auditor or CB farm auditor.
- Whenever the term “CB audit” is used, it shall refer to a CB QMS audit or CB farm audit.
- Whenever the term “internal auditor” is used, it shall refer to an internal QMS auditor or internal farm auditor.
- Whenever the term “internal audit” is used, it shall refer to an internal QMS audit or internal farm audit.
- Whenever the term “producer group/multisite producer” is used, it shall refer to producer groups managed by a QMS and/or individual producers with multisites, respectively.
- Whenever the term “member/site” is used, it shall refer to individual members of a producer group and/or individual production sites of a multisite producer, respectively.
- The terms “certified producer,” “certified legal entity,” and “certified member/site” will be used. However, producers, legal entities, and members/sites are not certified but their production processes are certified.
- “Certified product” refers to a product originating from a certified production process.

2.1 Normative and obligatory documents

The following normative documents (and any other documents released as normative or obligatory) are relevant to all applicants (legal entities applying for certification) and GLOBALG.A.P. certificate holders:

a) GLOBALG.A.P. sublicense and certification agreement: contract between the CB and the legal entity applying for certification. Sets legal framework for being granted GLOBALG.A.P. certification.

b) GLOBALG.A.P. license and certification agreement: contract between the CB and GLOBALG.A.P. c/o FoodPLUS GmbH

c) GLOBALG.A.P. principles and criteria (P&Cs): documents that set the compliance requirements for members/sites.

Note: Guidelines referenced in the P&Cs to guide producers to comply with the requirements are *not* normative documents.

d) GLOBALG.A.P. checklists:

- For farm audits
- For quality management system (QMS) audits (requirements for producer groups and multisite producers with QMS)

e) National interpretation guidelines (NIGs): guidelines that clarify and adapt the P&Cs to the relevant country. Only available for countries where approved by the respective technical committees. NIGs become obligatory for use as soon as they are approved and published.

f) GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations (GR; this document and accompanying parts, e.g., rules for certification bodies): regulations that define how the certification process works as well as the requirements for quality management systems and related issues

g) GLOBALG.A.P. scope-specific rules (e.g., rules for plants scope, rules for aquaculture scope): regulations that define how the certification process works for each specific scope

h) Technical news and normative updates issued by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat and published on the GLOBALG.A.P. website (www.globalgap.org)

2.2 Normative and obligatory documents control

a) The latest versions of all normative documents can be downloaded free of charge from the GLOBALG.A.P. website (www.globalgap.org).

b) Language: Original documents are in English. Normative documents are translated into selected languages and published on the GLOBALG.A.P. website. Once published, these official GLOBALG.A.P. documents are the only ones that shall be used for certification in that language. In the case of a discrepancy between translations, the English version shall prevail.

c) Changes to documents:

1. Normative documents are identified with a unique document code, version number, and date.
2. The date in the version name indicates the date of publication of the document.
3. Version number: A change in the first digit (e.g., change from 5.0 to 6.0) indicates changes in the requirements and a version change. A change in the second digit (e.g., change from 6.0 to 6.1) indicates a version update. A change in other digits (e.g., change from 6.0 to 6.0-1) indicates an edition update.
4. Updates can be made independently in the GR and P&C documents.
5. It is the responsibility of the CBs to inform their clients of all version and edition changes and updates. Version and edition updates are summarized and indicated in the version/edition update register at the end of a document. Version changes are summarized and published separately.

3 CERTIFICATION OPTIONS

To determine which rules are applicable, one of the following options shall be chosen:

3.1 Options 1 and 3 – individual certification

3.1.1 Single site producer

a) An individual producer (single legal entity) applies for certification to a GLOBALG.A.P. standard (Option 1) or to a benchmarked scheme/checklist (Option 3).

b) The individual producer is the certificate holder once certified (see "GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for individual producers").

3.1.2 Multisite producer without QMS

a) An individual producer or one organization owns several production sites that do not function as separate legal entities (see "GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for individual producers"). The individual producer is the certificate holder once certified.

3.1.3 Multisite producer with QMS

a) An individual producer or one organization owns several production sites that do not function as separate legal entities but where a QMS has been implemented. The individual producer is the certificate holder once certified.

b) In this case, the rules of "GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for producer groups and multisite producers with QMS" (this document) shall apply.

3.2 Options 2 and 4 – group certification

a) A producer group applies for group certification according to a GLOBALG.A.P. standard (Option 2) or to a benchmarked scheme/checklist (Option 4).

b) The group, as a legal entity, is the certificate holder once certified.

c) A group shall have a QMS implemented and comply with rules set out in "GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for producer groups and multisite producers with QMS" (this document).

4 REQUIREMENTS FOR PRODUCER GROUPS/MULTISITE PRODUCERS WITH QMS

4.1 Legality and administration

4.1.1 Legality

a) There shall be documentation that clearly demonstrates that the applicant is a legal entity.

b) The legal entity shall have been granted the legal right to carry out agricultural production and/or trading and be able to legally contract with and represent the producer group members and production sites.

c) The legal entity shall enter into a contractual relationship with FoodPLUS GmbH by signing the GLOBALG.A.P. sublicense and certification agreement in its latest version (available on the GLOBALG.A.P. website (www.globalgap.org)) with a GLOBALG.A.P. approved CB, or it shall explicitly acknowledge the receipt and the inclusion of the GLOBALG.A.P. sublicense and certification agreement by signing the service contract/agreement with the CB, and the CB shall hand over a copy of the GLOBALG.A.P. sublicense and certification agreement to the QMS manager. The GLOBALG.A.P. sublicense and certification

agreement shall include all scopes, standards, and add-ons in the QMS certification scope.

d) A single legal entity can only operate one QMS per country.

e) Only a legal entity that can be certified under Option 1 can join a producer group for Option 2 certification.

f) If a producer group/multisite producer with QMS joins another producer group, the two QMSs shall merge into one to be managed by one new single legal entity that will be the certificate holder. The certificate holder is legally responsible for all registered production, including placing the product on the market.

4.1.1.1 Producer group members of producer groups

a) There shall be written contracts in force between each producer group member and the legal entity. The contracts shall include the following elements:

- Producer group name and legal identification
- Name and legal identification of the producer group member
- Producer group member's contact address
- Details of the individual production sites, including products originating from certified and noncertified production processes (contract may refer to the producer group's internal register for this information)
- Details of area (plants) or tonnage (aquaculture) (contract may refer to the producer group's internal register for this information)
- Producer group member's commitment to comply with the requirements of the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. standard
- Producer group member's agreement to comply with the producer group's documented procedures, policies, and, where provided, technical advice
- Sanctions that may be applied if GLOBALG.A.P. requirements or any other internal requirements are not being met
- Signatures of producer group members and producer group representatives

b) The registered producer group members shall be legally responsible for their respective production sites, although they remain subject to the common QMS of the producer group.

c) Producer group members are not legal certificate holders. Thus, they shall not market any products under their name with reference to the producer group certificate. All products that are sold without reference to the certificate shall be recorded in the producer group mass balance system.

4.1.1.2 Production sites of multisite producers with QMS

a) All production sites shall be owned or rented and under the direct control of the legal entity.

b) For production sites that are not owned by the legal entity, there shall be a signed document which includes a clear indication that the site owner does not have any responsibility and input or decision-making capacity for the production operations at the rented-out site. There shall also be written contracts in force between each production site owner and the legal entity that include the following elements:

- Certificate holder name and legal identification
- Name and legal identification of the production site owner

- Production site owner's contact address
- Details of the individual production sites
- Signature of both parties' representatives

c) All the product handling units (PHUs) shall be identified and registered.

4.1.2 Internal register

a) An internal register shall be maintained of all members/sites producing in accordance with the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. standard.

b) After certification has been achieved, the producer group may issue a declaration to its producer group members to indicate that they are indeed producer group members. Producer group members shall be listed in the certificate annex to receive this declaration. The declaration does not replace the certificate and shall not be used in trade or to make a claim of certification. For the minimum requirements for this declaration to be issued, see Declaration of group membership (optional).

4.1.2.1 Multisite producers with QMS

a) The register shall contain at least the following information for each production site:

(i) Production site identification

(ii) Production site location

(iii) Information regarding the relation of the legal entity to the production site (ownership, rental, etc.)

(iv) Products registered

(v) Products not included for registration

(vi) Production area and/or quantity for each registered product

(vii) CB (list of all CBs if a producer makes use of more than one CB, including information regarding for which product or standard each CB is used)

(viii) Production site status (internal status as a result of the last internal farm audit: approved, suspended, etc.)

(ix) Date of last internal farm audit

b) The register shall also contain the information included (i) through (vi) above for all production sites under the responsibility of the producer (owned or rented) that have not been registered for GLOBALG.A.P. certification.

4.1.2.2 Producer groups

a) The register shall contain at least the following information for each producer group member:

(i) Name of producer group member

(ii) Name of contact person

(iii) Full address (physical and postal)

(iv) Contact data (telephone number and e-mail address)

(v) Other legal entity ID (VAT number, ID number, etc.), as required in the country of production (see "GLOBALG.A.P. data registration requirements")

(vi) Products registered

(vii) Details of the individual production sites and their location, including products originating from certified and noncertified production processes

(viii) Production area and/or quantity for each registered product

(ix) CB (list of all CBs if a producer makes use of more than one CB, including information regarding for which product or standard each CB is used)

(x) Producer group member status (internal status as a result of the last internal farm audit: approved, suspended, etc.)

(xi) Date of last internal farm audit

b) Those producers who do not apply to be included in the GLOBALG.A.P. producer group certification shall be listed separately and shall not be registered in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems (unless they have applied for a benchmarked scheme/checklist or any other GLOBALG.A.P. standard).

c) The internal register and the list of producers not included in the certification scope are for management purposes within the producer group. Their content need not be disclosed externally, unless it is needed to clarify issues regarding, e.g., the effectiveness of the producer group's QMS. The internal register and list of producers not included in the certification scope shall be available to the CB during the QMS audit.

4.2 Management and organization

The QMS shall be robust and ensure that all registered members/sites comply in a uniform manner with the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. standard requirements.

4.2.1 Structure

a) The applicant shall have a management structure that enables the appropriate implementation of a QMS across all registered members/sites.

b) Sufficient and appropriate resources (technical capacity and suitably trained management) shall be available to effectively ensure that the requirements of the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. standard are met at all registered members/sites.

c) The organizational structure shall be documented and shall include within the QMS structure individuals responsible for and capable of:

(i) Managing the QMS (QMS manager(s))

(ii) Conducting the internal QMS audit and verifying the internal farm audits (by internal QMS auditor(s))

(iii) Conducting for each member/site an annual internal farm audit (by internal farm auditor(s))

(iv) Training the internal auditors and the producers

(v) Providing technical advice to the producer group (voluntary)

d) The management shall give internal QMS auditors and internal farm auditors sufficient authority to make independent and technically justified decisions during the internal audits.

4.2.2 Competency and training of staff

a) The competency requirements, training, and qualifications for key staff (those mentioned in section 4.2.1, but also any other identified personnel) shall be defined and documented. These qualification requirements also apply to external consultants.

b) The management shall ensure that all staff with responsibility for compliance with the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. standard are adequately trained and meet the defined competency requirements:

   (i) The internal QMS auditor(s) and the internal farm auditors shall be independent from the members/sites.

   (ii) The competence of internal QMS auditor(s), the internal farm auditor(s), and the QMS manager(s) shall be checked by management and reviewed by the CB according to section 8, Minimum qualification requirements for key staff.

   (iii) Technical advisers to the members/sites shall meet the requirements described in the applicable P&Cs of the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. standard based on the advice provided (e.g., plant protection product advisers, veterinary services).

c) To demonstrate competence, records of qualifications and training shall be maintained for all key staff (managers, internal auditors, etc.) involved in compliance with GLOBALG.A.P. requirements.

d) If there is more than one internal QMS or internal farm auditor, they shall undergo training and evaluation to ensure consistency (calibration) in their approach and interpretation of the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. standard (e.g., by documented internal witness audits).

e) Systems shall be in place to demonstrate that key staff are informed and aware of developments and legislative changes relevant to compliance with the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. standard. Evidence of induction and annual refreshment trainings for key staff as defined above shall be available, including regulatory compliance if applicable.

4.3 Document control

a) All documentation relevant to the operation of the QMS for GLOBALG.A.P. compliance shall be adequately controlled. This documentation shall include, but is not limited to:

   (i) The quality manual

   (ii) GLOBALG.A.P. operating procedures

   (iii) Work instructions and policies

   (iv) Recording forms

   (v) Relevant external standards (e.g., the current GLOBALG.A.P. normative documents)

b) Documentation shall be sufficiently detailed to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. standard.

c) Relevant documentation shall be available to assigned staff and registered producer group members.

d) The contents of the quality manual shall be reviewed periodically to ensure that it continues to meet the requirements of the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. standard and those internal requirements defined by the QMS. Any relevant modifications of the applicable GLOBALG.A.P. standard or published normative and obligatory documents that come into force shall be incorporated into the quality manual within the period given by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat.

4.3.1 Document control requirements

a) There shall be a written procedure defining the control of documents.

b) All documentation shall be reviewed and approved by authorized staff before issue and distribution.

c) All controlled documents shall be identified with an issue number, issue/review date, and appropriate page numbers.

d) Any changes in these documents shall be reviewed and approved by authorized staff prior to their distribution. Wherever possible, an explanation of the reason and nature of the changes shall be given.

e) A copy of all relevant documentation shall be available at any location where the QMS is being controlled.

f) There shall be a system in place to ensure that documentation is reviewed and obsolete documents are effectively rescinded after new documents have been issued.

4.3.2 Records

a) There shall be records to demonstrate effective control and implementation of the QMS (including requirements, policies, and procedures of the quality manual and other relevant QMS documentation) and compliance with the requirements of the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. standard.

b) Records shall be kept for a minimum of two years.

c) Records shall be genuine, legible, stored appropriately, and maintained in suitable condition and shall be accessible for audits as required.

d) Records that are kept online or electronically are valid. If a signature is required, this can be a password or electronic signature that ensures the unique reference and authorization of the person signing. If a signature of the responsible person is needed, then this shall be present. The electronic records shall be available during the audits. Backups shall be available at all times.

4.4 Complaint handling

a) The applicant shall have a system for effectively managing customer complaints and the relevant part of the complaint system shall be available to the producer group members.

b) There shall be a documented procedure that describes how complaints are received, registered, identified, investigated, followed up, and reviewed.

c) The procedure shall be available to customers as required.

d) The procedure shall cover both complaints against the certificate holder and complaints against individual members/sites.

e) If the certificate holder or a producer group member is facing a complaint regarding food safety (i.e., potentially involved in a foodborne outbreak), workers' well-being, environmental protection, or animal welfare, or is involved in a court trial or has been found by a court of law to have infringed a national or international law, and these actions can endanger the reputation and credibility of FoodPLUS GmbH and/or the GLOBALG.A.P. standard, the certificate holder shall inform the CB within 24 hours.

4.5 Internal audits

a) The applicant shall undertake an internal QMS audit and internal farm audits of all members/sites and PHUs, covering all products and processes under the certification scope, to verify and ensure compliance with the certification requirements.

b) The internal audits (QMS, PHUs, and members/sites) shall be carried out by the internal auditor(s) before the first CB audit and thereafter once per annum.

4.5.1 Internal QMS audits

a) The GLOBALG.A.P. QMS requirements shall be audited at least annually.

b) Internal QMS auditors shall comply with the requirements set in section 8, Minimum qualification requirements for key staff

c) Where the internal QMS auditor does not have the necessary training in food safety and/or good agricultural practices (G.A.P.) but only QMS training/experience, another person with these qualifications (and identified in the QMS) shall form part of the internal audit team to perform the internal PHU audits and the approval of the internal farm audits. Persons without food safety and G.A.P. qualifications cannot perform internal farm audits.

d) Internal QMS auditors shall be independent of the area being audited.

e) The same person who initially develops the QMS may undertake the required internal QMS audits. However, the person responsible for the day-to-day ongoing management of the QMS is not allowed to conduct the internal QMS audits.

f) Records of the internal QMS audit, internal audit findings, and follow-up of corrective actions resulting from the internal QMS audit(s) shall be maintained and available.

g) The completed QMS checklist (including central PHU requirements, where applicable) shall include comments for every QMS requirement and shall be available on-site for review by the CB auditor during the CB audit.

h) The QMS checklist shall include the name and signature of the audited QMS representative, as well as the name and signature of the internal QMS auditor.

i) Where the internal QMS audit is not performed in 1 day but continuously over a 12-month period, a predefined schedule shall be in place.

j) The internal QMS audit shall be based on the GLOBALG.A.P. QMS requirements.

4.5.2 Internal member/site audits

a) Internal farm audits against all relevant GLOBALG.A.P. P&Cs shall be carried out at each registered member/site (including corresponding production sites and PHUs) at least once per year. Farm/Site production-related records (e.g., medicine/plant protection product (PPP) application records) shall be present and audited on-farm to cross-check them with the farm situation (e.g., products, interviews, stores).

b) Internal farm audit timing shall follow the rules defined in the GLOBALG.A.P. GR and scope-specific rules.

c) Internal farm auditors shall comply with the requirements set in section 8, Minimum qualification requirements for key staff.

d) Internal farm auditors shall be independent of the area being audited and therefore be assigned via the QMS. Internal farm auditors cannot audit their own daily work.

e) New members/sites shall always be internally audited and approved prior to being entered in the QMS internal register (see section 4.1.2).

f) The original internal farm audit reports and notes shall be maintained and available for the CB audit.

g) The internal farm audit report shall contain the following information:

(i) Identification of registered member(s)/site(s)

(ii) Signature of the registered member and/or person responsible for the production site

(iii) Date

(iv) Internal farm auditor name and signature

(v) Registered products

(vi) Internal farm audit result against each of the GLOBALG.A.P. P&Cs.

(vii) Comments on P&Cs. Unless the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat issues a separate document predetermining which P&Cs shall be commented on, the checklist shall include details in the comments section for the Major Must P&Cs that are found to be compliant, Major Must and Minor Must P&Cs that are found to be non-compliant, and/or not applicable. This is necessary so that the audit trail can be reviewed after the event. Recommendations do not require comments.

(viii) Details of any non-compliances identified and period for implementation of corrective actions

(ix) Internal farm audit results with calculation of compliance

(x) Duration of the internal farm audit (record of start and end time)

(xi) Name of internal QMS auditor who approved the audit report. Any other evidence of review and approval is also possible.

h) The internal QMS auditor (or internal audit team; see section 4.5.1 c)) shall review and make the decision on whether the member/site is compliant with the GLOBALG.A.P. requirements based on the internal farm audit reports presented.

i) If there is only one internal QMS auditor who also performs the internal farm audits, the QMS manager shall approve the internal farm audits.

j) Where the internal audits take place continuously over a 12-month period, a predefined schedule shall be in place. This is not applicable for initial certification audits.

4.5.3 Non-compliances, corrective actions, and sanctions

a) There shall be a documented procedure for handling the non-compliances and corrective actions which may result from internal or CB audits, customer complaints, or failure of the QMS. This procedure shall describe how to identify and evaluate non-conformances and non-compliances detected at the QMS, PHU, and member/site levels.

b) Corrective actions following non-compliances shall be evaluated and a timescale defined for action.

c) Responsibility for implementing and resolving corrective actions shall be clearly defined.

d) A system of sanctions that meets the requirements defined in section 7.4.3 shall apply to all members/sites. All internal sanctions shall be decided by the QMS.

e) A product cannot be partially suspended for a member/site (i.e., the entire product shall be suspended).

f) Mechanisms shall be in place to immediately notify the GLOBALG.A.P. approved CB about suspensions or cancellations of registered members/sites.

g) Records shall be maintained of all sanctions, including evidence of subsequent corrective actions and decision-making processes.

h) Producer group members cannot change producer groups until the non-conformance that led to the respective sanction is satisfactorily closed.

i) Producer groups can lift product suspensions and self-suspensions issued by themselves on their accepted producer group members.

4.6 Product traceability and segregation

a) For requirements on parallel ownership, including product labeling, please see "GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for parallel ownership."

b) There shall be a documented procedure for identifying registered products and ensuring traceability of all products (conforming and non-conforming) to their members/sites.

c) A mass balance exercise shall be carried out at least annually for each registered product to demonstrate compliance within the certificate holder's legal entity.

d) Products meeting the requirements of the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. standard and marketed as such shall be handled in a manner that prevents their being mixed with products not meeting the requirements of the GLOBALG.A.P. standard. An effective system shall be in place to ensure segregation of products originating from certified and noncertified production processes. This can be done via physical identification or product handling procedures, including the relevant records.

e) Effective systems and procedures shall be in place to prevent any mislabeling of products originating from GLOBALG.A.P. certified and noncertified production processes. Conforming products entering the PHU(s) (either from members/sites or from external sources) shall be immediately identified with a GLOBALG.A.P. identification number (e.g., GGN) or any other reference that is clearly explained in the QMS procedures and provides a unique reference to their certification status in order to ensure proper segregation during handling processes. This reference shall be used on the smallest individually identified unit.

f) If the certificate holder wants to label their products with a GLOBALG.A.P. identification number (e.g., GGN), it can be the identification number of the certificate holder (producer group/multisite producer), the identification number of the producer group member who produced the product, or both numbers. If producer group members pack and label the product, the producer group may require those members to include the identification number of the producer group (e.g., the GGN of the producer group) with or without the identification number of the producer group member. In the case of multisite producers with QMS, it shall be the identification number of the certificate holder. The identification number shall be used on the smallest individually packed unit, regardless of whether this unit is final consumer packaging or not. The GLOBALG.A.P. identification number shall not be used to label products originating from noncertified production processes.

g) There shall be a final document check to ensure correct product dispatch of products originating from certified and noncertified production processes.

h) All transaction documentation (sales invoices, other sales-related documents, dispatch documentation, etc.) related to sales of products coming from a certified production process shall include the GLOBALG.A.P. identification number of the certificate holder and shall contain a reference to the GLOBALG.A.P. certification status. This is not obligatory in internal documentation. Positive identification is enough (e.g.,

"GGN_GLOBALG.A.P. certified <product name>"). Indication of the certification status is obligatory regardless of whether the certified product (i.e., product coming from a certified production process) is sold as certified or not. This, however, cannot be checked during the initial CB audit because the producer group/multisite producer is not yet certified and cannot refer to the GLOBALG.A.P. certification status before the first positive certification decision.

i) Appropriately to the scale of the operation, procedures shall be established, documented, and maintained for identifying incoming products originating from certified and noncertified production processes from members/sites or purchased from different sources (i.e., other producers or traders). Records shall include:

   (i) Product description

   (ii) GLOBALG.A.P. certification status

   (iii) Quantities of incoming/purchased product(s)

   (iv) List of approved suppliers and supplier details

   (v) Copy of the GLOBALG.A.P. certificates, in case of products originating from certified production processes

   (vi) Traceability data/codes related to the incoming/purchased products

   (vii) Purchase orders/invoices received by the certificate holder

j) Sales details of products originating from certified and noncertified production processes shall be recorded, with particular attention to quantities delivered/sold as originating from certified production processes.

k) Quantities (including information on volumes or weight) of incoming, outgoing, and stored products (including the certification status, whether originating from certified or noncertified production processes) shall be recorded and a summary maintained so as to facilitate the mass balance verification process. The documents shall demonstrate the consistent balance between certified and noncertified input and the output. The frequency of the mass balance verification shall be defined and appropriate to the scale of the operation, but the verification shall be done at least annually for each product. Documents for demonstrating mass balance shall be clearly identified. During initial CB audits, the system shall be ready, but there are still no records available, as the processes have not yet been certified.

l) The PHUs included in the certification scope shall operate procedures that enable registered products to be identifiable and traceable from receipt through handling, storage, and dispatch.

m) Conversion ratios shall be calculated and available for each relevant handling process. All generated product waste quantities shall be recorded. Losses due to handling, sorting, grading, and other shall be calculated and records of the losses shall be available for each handling process where loss occurs. The losses can be estimated but shall be justifiable and supported by records. A valid estimated record of the quantity or volume of harvested/slaughtered/processed product shall be compared with the records of the amount of product sold.

n) This section shall be audited both internally and by the CB also at PHU level while PHUs are in operation.

4.7 Product withdrawal

a) Documented procedures shall be in place to effectively manage the withdrawal of registered products.

b) Procedures shall identify the types of events that may result in a withdrawal, persons responsible for taking decisions on the possible product withdrawal, the mechanism for notifying customers and the GLOBALG.A.P. approved CB, and methods of reconciling stock.

c) The procedure shall be capable of being operated at any time.

d) The procedure shall be tested in an appropriate manner at least annually to ensure that it is effective and records of the test retained. If a real withdrawal occurred during the last 12 months, it can be counted as the annual test.

4.8 Outsourced activities

a) Where any activities are outsourced to third parties, procedures shall exist to ensure that these activities are carried out in accordance with the requirements of the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. standard.

b) Records shall be maintained to demonstrate that the competency of any subcontractor is assessed and meets the requirements of the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. standard.

c) Subcontractors shall work in accordance with the QMS-relevant procedures and this shall be specified in service level agreements or contracts.

d) If the PHU is subcontracted and it already has a post-farm gate food safety certification recognized by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) for scope BIII (www.mygfsi.com), the internal QMS auditor shall audit, as a minimum, segregation and traceability, as well as postharvest treatments, if applicable. The internal QMS auditor may reaudit all other applicable P&Cs in the case of doubt. If the subcontracted PHU is included in another GLOBALG.A.P. certification (e.g., IFA, CoC, PHA), the QMS may accept this certificate or may decide to perform its own internal audit of the PHU.

4.9 Registration of additional members/sites to the certificate

a) New sites and members may be added to a valid certificate (provided internal approval procedures are met). It is the responsibility of the certificate holder to immediately update the CB on any addition or withdrawal of members/sites to/from the list of approved members/sites.

b) Up to 10% of new members/sites in one year can be added to the approved list by registering the members or sites without necessarily resorting to further verification by the CB.

c) If the number of approved members/sites increases by more than 10% in one year, further CB farm audits of the newly added members/sites and an audit of at least the relevant part of the QMS will be required before additional members/sites can be added to the certificate. The relevant part of the QMS is the internal approval procedure: internal farm audit, review of the internal farm audit report, inclusion of the new member/site in the QMS internal register with status “approved.”

d) Regardless of the percentage by which the number of approved members/sites increases in one year, should the newly registered farms increase the production area or quantity produced (in the case of aquaculture) of previously registered products by more than 10% in one year, or a change in members/sites exceeds 10%, further CB audits of the newly added members/sites and a CB audit of at least the relevant part of the QMS is required before additional members/sites can be added to the certificate.

e) In c) and d) the minimum sample of members/sites to be audited by a CB is the square root of the number of new members/sites.

f) Regardless of the number of members/sites and the increase in quantity, if a new product is to be added to the certificate between surveillance CB audits and certification audits, a CB audit shall be carried out to the square root of the members/sites growing the new product.

4.10 Logo use

The producer group/multisite producer shall use the GLOBALG.A.P. claim according to the rules in “GLOBALG.A.P. trademarks use: Policy and guidelines.”

5 REGISTRATION WITH THE CB

5.1 Scope

The scope of GLOBALG.A.P. certification covers the following:

a) The controlled production process of primary products. It does not cover wild aquatic species/catch or plants harvested in the wild.

b) Only products included in the GLOBALG.A.P. product list. The list is published on the GLOBALG.A.P. website (www.globalgap.org), and only listed products can be registered for certification. The GLOBALG.A.P. product list is not limited and can be extended based on demand.

c) Only products that are produced by producers themselves. Producers cannot receive certification for the production of products that are not produced by the individual producer with multisites themselves, and producer groups cannot receive certification for the production of products that are not produced by members of the producer group.

5.2 Registration process

5.2.1 General

a) The applicant shall, as a first step, choose a GLOBALG.A.P. approved CB. Contact information on finally approved and provisionally approved CBs is available on the GLOBALG.A.P. website (www.globalgap.org). It is the responsibility of the applicant to verify whether the chosen CB is approved for the relevant scopes.

b) The chosen CB is responsible for the registration of the applicant in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems, data updates, and collection of fees.

c) Before registering a new applicant in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems, the CB shall verify if the applicant is already registered or has any active status or sanction with another CB.

d) Every CB has an application form that covers minimum information required by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat. See “GLOBALG.A.P. registration data requirements.” All collected information shall be verified during the CB audit.

e) By registering, the applicant commits to complying with the certification requirements at all times, communicating data updates to the CB, and paying the applicable fees established by FoodPLUS GmbH and by the CB. See the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. fee table.

f) This information is used by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat to supply the applicant with a unique GLOBALG.A.P. identification number (13 digits with a prefix determined by the

applicable standard), which is used as a unique identifier for all GLOBALG.A.P. activities unless the producer already has a Global Location Number (GLN).

g) Confidentiality, data use, and data release:

(i) During registration, the applicant gives written permission to FoodPLUS GmbH and the CB to use their registration data for internal processes and sanctioning procedures.

(ii) All data in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems is available to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat and the CB the applicant is working with. That data can be used for internal processes and sanctioning procedures.

(iii) The minimum and obligatory data release level, along with additional information on confidentiality and data use, is defined in the GLOBALG.A.P. data access rules.

(iv) If the applicant does not agree to the minimum data release level, the applicant is not complying with the GLOBALG.A.P. sublicense and certification agreement and can neither be certified nor belong to a producer group seeking certification.

(v) No data other than indicated in the GLOBALG.A.P. data access rules can be released by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat or CBs to any other party without written consent of the applicant.

h) The service contract between the CB and the applicant may be valid for up to four years, with subsequent renewal for periods of up to four years.

i) Table 1 Registration

An applicant may or may not:

	May	May not
Register the same product with more than one CB		x
Register the same product under more than one option (as individual producer and member of a producer group)		x
Register production sites in different countries (exceptions granted by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat only on a case-by-case basis)		x*
Register the same or different products under different standards	x	
Choose to register only a subgroup of the producer group members producing the same product for certification	x (PO**)	
Choose to register only parts of the production for certification	x (PO**)	

*Cross-border (international) certification (i.e., where one certificate covers production in more than one country) is generally not allowed. Exceptions may apply. Where the certified legal entity is located in country #1 but has sites in country #2 (owned or rented), and country #2 allows this without creating a legal entity in/for country #2, these sites can be certified under the legal entity in country #1.

Where legislation indicates a minimum/maximum distance of the sites from the country border, this distance shall be complied with. For the sites in country #2, the legislation of country #2 applies (e.g., regarding PPP registration, PPP application).

Sites in different countries shall always be registered as at least one different site per country, even if it is in reality only one production site. In this case (and cross-border certification generally) is considered a producer with multisites.

This rule also applies to producer groups where members have rented land in neighboring countries without having a legal entity in that country.

This rule does not apply for producer groups where some members are located in neighboring countries with separate legal entities.

**Any applicant who produces or owns products originating from GLOBALG.A.P. certified and non-GLOBALG.A.P. certified production processes (of the same product) at the same time shall register for parallel ownership (PO). For registration requirements, see "GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for parallel ownership."

j) For the registration to be completed, the applicant shall satisfy all the following conditions:

(i) Submit to the CB the relevant application that shall include all the necessary information

(ii) Sign acceptance of the GLOBALG.A.P. sublicense and certification agreement in its latest version (available on the GLOBALG.A.P. website (www.globalgap.org)) with the CB, *or* the applicant shall explicitly acknowledge the receipt and the inclusion of the GLOBALG.A.P. sublicense and certification agreement with signature on the service contract/agreement with the CB, and the CB shall hand over a copy of the GLOBALG.A.P. sublicense and certification agreement to the applicant

(iii) Be assigned the unique GLOBALG.A.P. identification number or have a GLN

(iv) Agree in writing to pay the GLOBALG.A.P. fees as explained in the current relevant GLOBALG.A.P. fee table

5.2.2 New registrations

a) In the case of first registration, the CB shall confirm the application and provide the applicant with the unique GLOBALG.A.P. identification number within 28 calendar days of receiving the complete application.

b) The registration process shall be finalized before the CB audit can take place.

5.2.3 Registration with a new CB (transfers)

a) If a producer group/multisite producer that has already been registered changes CBs or applies to a new CB for certification of a different product, the producer group/multisite producer shall communicate the previously assigned unique GLOBALG.A.P. identification number to the new CB. Failure to do so will result in a surcharge fee of €200 for an individual producer and €700 for a producer group.

b) Producer groups/Multisite producers who are sanctioned cannot change CBs until the outgoing CB closes the corresponding non-conformance.

c) Individual producer group members of a producer group are not allowed to leave the group and register with another group (for the same products already registered) if there is any pending sanction on the producer group member issued by the producer group or there are any issues relevant to the producer group member raised by the CB that have not been closed.

d) The registration process shall be finalized before the CB audit can take place.

6 AUDIT PROCESS

In order to achieve certification, the producer group/multisite producer with QMS shall perform internal QMS audits and internal farm audits and receive QMS and farm audits by the chosen CB.

Table 2 Overview of audits in IFA v6 Smart

	Initial audit	**Subsequent audit**
Internally by the producer group/multisite producer with QMS		
Internal QMS audit	Complete QMS	Complete QMS
Internal farm audit	Entire scope (all registered members/sites and PHUs)	Entire scope (all registered members/sites and PHUs)
Externally by the CB		
CB QMS audit	**Certification audit** Complete QMS + square root of the total number of registered central PHUs while in operation; before CB farm audits	**Recertification audit** Complete QMS + square root of the total number of registered central PHUs while in operation; annually, before CB farm audits
Unannounced CB QMS audit	-	**Recertification audit** Minimum of 10% of all producer groups/multisite producers with QMS
CB farm audits	**Certification audit** (Minimum) square root of the total number of registered members/sites	**Recertification audit** a) If non-conformances detected during previous CB surveillance audit: (minimum) square root of actual number of registered members/sites ***or*** b) If no non-conformances detected during previous CB surveillance audit: (minimum) square root of actual number of registered members/sites *minus* the number of members/sites audited during the previous CB surveillance audit

	Initial audit	Subsequent audit
	CB surveillance audit during certificate validity (Minimum) 50% of the square root of the actual number of certified members/sites	**CB surveillance audit during certificate validity** (Minimum) 50% of the square root of the actual number of certified members/sites

6.1 CB audits

a) The CB shall conduct a QMS audit annually.

b) For the plants scope, if there is only one central PHU (i.e., the PHU is used by more than one producer group member), it shall be audited every year while in operation. When there is more than one central PHU, the square root of the total number of PHUs registered shall be audited while in operation. For the aquaculture scope, every PHU shall always be audited annually while in operation.

c) Where product handling does not take place centrally but on the farms of the producer group members, this factor shall be taken into account when determining the sample of producer group members to be audited. The PHU is then audited within the specific producer group member on whose farm it is.

d) As part of the CB audit, the CB shall audit a sample of all registered members/sites annually according to Table 2.

6.1.1 CB QMS audit (including central PHUs)

a) The CB QMS audits (announced and unannounced) shall be carried out by a CB QMS auditor.

b) The CB QMS audits (announced and unannounced) shall be based on the QMS checklist that is available in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems and shall cover all requirements managed at QMS level.

c) During the initial certification audit, the CB QMS audit shall include the central PHUs, if applicable. During subsequent CB audits, the CB may decide to see one or more of the central PHUs during the CB surveillance audit, based on risk.

d) The CB shall carry out one announced CB audit of the QMS during the initial audit and thereafter one announced CB audit per annum.

e) However, for subsequent CB audits, a minimum of 10% of the annual CB QMS audits of the certified producer groups/multisite producers with QMS shall be unannounced. The notification of the unannounced CB audit shall not exceed 48 hours (2 working days). In the exceptional case where it is impossible for the producer to accept the proposed date (for medical or other justifiable reasons), the producer will receive one more chance to be informed of an unannounced CB audit. There shall be objective evidence of the justification available (e.g., medical document). If no evidence of a justifiable reason is available, the producer shall accept the unannounced CB audit or be suspended. The producer shall receive a written warning if the first proposed date has not been accepted, regardless of whether the rejection is justified or not. The producer will receive another 48-hour notification for a new unannounced CB audit. If that audit cannot take place, a suspension of all products (i.e., certificate suspension) will be issued. The suspension will be lifted when the unannounced CB audit has been conducted.

f) During registration, the producer group/multisite producer with QMS may indicate a maximum of 15 days where they are unavailable for an unannounced CB audit.

6.1.1.1 CB QMS audit off-site and on-site stages

a) The CB may divide announced CB QMS audits (both initial and subsequent) into two stages, which shall be carried out by the same CB QMS auditor:

   (i) Off-site stage: This consists of a desk review of documentation sent to the CB auditor before the audit, including, for example, internal QMS audit and internal members/sites audit reports, the internal register of approved members/sites, risk assessments, procedures, residue monitoring system documentation (frequency, parameters, sampling program), residue analysis reports, licenses, list of medicines used (where applicable), list of PPPs used (where applicable), proof of laboratory accreditation, certificates or internal reports of subcontracted activities, etc. The off-site stage shall be conducted no more than four weeks before the on-site stage. The documentation may be supported by interviews and a remote CB audit of the site and facilities.

   (ii) On-site stage: This consists of an on-site CB audit of the remaining content of the QMS checklist, and the verification of the information reviewed off-site and the way the QMS works on-site (e.g., internal audits, traceability, segregation and mass balance, central PHUs).

b) CBs shall offer this as an option to their clients.

c) The use of two stages is to be mutually agreed with each producer group/multisite producer.

d) Overall duration of the CB QMS audit (off-site and on-site stages) is not reduced by this option.

e) The producer group/multisite producer has the right not to send certain requested documents to the CB if they are considered confidential. In this case the information shall be available during the on-site stage.

6.1.2 CB audits of members/sites (including individual PHUs on farm)

a) The CB auditor shall audit the entire checklist of the applicable scope(s) during all CB audits.

b) The CB audit per selected member/site shall cover all accepted products, production processes, administrative sites, and, where applicable, the PHUs.

c) CB audits shall be carried out at each registered production site and their corresponding PHUs. Site production-related records (e.g., medicine/PPP application records) shall be present and audited on-site to cross-check them with the farm situation (products, interviews, stores, etc.).

6.1.2.1 Sampling of members/sites

a) At least the square root (or next whole number rounded up if there are any decimals) of the total number of the members/sites in the certification scope shall be audited before a certificate can be issued. For details on the difference in sampling between initial and subsequent CB audits, consult Table 2.

b) Where sampling is applicable, CB farm audits shall be split into two separate visits during the certification cycle, with the aim of increasing the reliability of the system:

- Certification/Recertification audit (QMS, PHU(s), and members/sites)
- CB surveillance audit during validity of the certificate (members/sites)

c) The sample size of the following recertification audit by the CB may be reduced to the square root of the actual number of the members/sites minus the number of members/sites audited during the previous CB surveillance audit as long as the following prerequisites are met:

- There are no non-conformances detected on the day of the previous member/site CB surveillance audit.
- The result of the QMS audit does not raise doubts about the robustness of the system.

d) The sample size may be increased by the CB, for example if non-conformances are found during CB farm audits, to ensure adequate confidence in the QMS' conformance.

e) Selection of members/sites shall be based on the risk assessment carried out by the CB.

f) The CB notification to the QMS representatives of specific names of members/sites to be sampled shall not exceed 48 hours (2 working days) before the member/site audit.

6.2 Initial and subsequent CB audits

6.2.1 Initial CB audits

This section applies to:

- Producer groups/Multisite producers where a QMS is implemented seeking GLOBALG.A.P. certification for the first time
- Producer groups/Multisite producers whit QMS who want to add a new product to an already existing GLOBALG.A.P. certificate.

When a producer group/multisite producer changes from one CB to another, or from a GLOBALG.A.P. standard to a benchmarked scheme/checklist (or the other way around), it is not considered an initial CB audit, but a subsequent CB audit. In initial CB audits, the following requirements shall be fulfilled:

a) No CB audit can take place until the CB has accepted the applicant's registration.

b) The entire scope of certification shall be audited prior to issuing the certificate.

c) A product shall not be included in the certificate before all applicable P&Cs are audited during the production process (i.e., it is not possible to certify a future production process).

d) The producer group/multisite producer shall have records from the registration date onward or for at least three months before the initial CB audit takes place, whichever is longer.

e) Products that are already harvested/slaughtered/processed before registration with the CB cannot be included in the certificate.

f) Records that relate to harvest or product handling before the producer has registered with the CB are not valid.

6.2.2 Subsequent CB audits

a) The entire scope of certification shall be audited annually by the CB prior to issuing the certificate.

b) In the case of producer groups/multisite producers with QMS that change CBs, the sample size shall not be reduced by the number of members/sites audited during the last surveillance CB audit by the outgoing CB.

c) Subsequent CB QMS audits (including central PHUs where applicable) of 10% of certified producer groups/multisite producers with QMS shall be done unannounced.

d) Subsequent CB audits can be carried out at any time during an audit window that extends over a period of eight months: from four months before the original expiry date of the certificate, and (only if the CB extends the certificate validity in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems) up to four months after the original expiry date of the certificate (see section 7.3, Certificate validity extension)

> Example: first certification date: 14 February 2021 (expiry date: 13 February 2022). Second CB audit can be at any time from 14 October 2021 to 13 June 2022, if the certificate validity is extended before the certificate loses validity.

e) There shall be a minimum period of six months between two recertification audits.

f) No CB audit can take place until the CB has reregistered the producer group/multisite producer in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems. Reregistration shall be finalized before the date of the subsequent CB audit.

7 CERTIFICATION PROCESS

7.1 Requirements for achieving GLOBALG.A.P. certification

7.1.1 Certification rules

To obtain GLOBALG.A.P. certification, the following is required:

a) Full compliance (100%) with the QMS requirements

b) The standard documents consist of three types of P&Cs: Major Musts, Minor Musts, and Recommendations.

- *Major Musts:* 100% compliance with all applicable Major Must P&Cs is compulsory.
- *Minor Musts:* 95% compliance with all applicable Minor Must P&Cs is compulsory.
- *Recommendations:* No minimum percentage of compliance is required.

c) The producer group/multisite producer shall comply with the agreements signed (GLOBALG.A.P. sublicense and certification agreement and CB service agreement in their current version).

d) The producer group/multisite producer shall comply with the requirements defined in the applicable GLOBALG.A.P. GR in their current version.

7.1.2 Minor Must compliance calculation

a) The maximum allowable Minor Must non-compliance is calculated using the following formula:

$$\{ \text{(Total number of Minor Must P\&Cs)} - \text{(Not applicable Minor Must P\&Cs)} \} \times 5\% = \text{(Total Minor Must P\&Cs non-compliance allowed)}$$

E.g., (67 Minor Must P&Cs – 17 not applicable Minor Must P&Cs) × 0.05 = 50 × 0.05 = 2.5

In this example the total number of non-compliances to Minor Must P&Cs allowed is 2.5, which shall be rounded down. Therefore, this producer may have at most 2 non-compliances to Minor Must P&Cs.

50 applicable Minor Must P&Cs – 2 non-compliant Minor Must P&Cs = 48. This gives a compliance level of 96%, whereas if 2.5 were rounded up to 3 it would give a compliance level of 94%, which would be non-conforming with the certification rule.

Note: A score of 94.8%, for example, cannot be rounded up to 95% (the passing percentage).

b) The calculation to show compliance (or non-compliance) shall be available after all internal and CB farm audits.

c) For multisite producers with a QMS, the compliance level is calculated per sampled production site. Each production site shall comply with the certification requirements. Any applicable P&Cs common to all sites (e.g., central chemical storage) shall be taken into account for all sites.

d) For producer groups, the compliance level is calculated per sampled producer group member. Each producer group member shall comply with the certification requirements. Any applicable P&Cs common to all producer group members (e.g., central chemical storage) shall be taken into account for all producer group members.

7.1.3 Certification decision

a) The CB shall make the certification decision within a maximum of 28 calendar days of closure of any outstanding non-conformances (in total 28 + 28 days, i.e., 56 calendar days after the closing meeting of the CB audit). If no non-conformances are detected during the CB audit, it means that the CB shall make the decision no later than 28 days after the closing meeting of that CB audit.

b) The CB shall issue an audit report to the producer group/multisite producer (See “GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for certification bodies”). The producer group/multisite producer representative shall sign or confirm the audit outcome (including at least date and duration of CB audit, name of CB auditor, scope of the CB audit, audited members/sites and facilities, the result in % of compliance for the different levels of P&Cs, and the list of findings) during the CB audit closing meeting.

c) Additionally, if any producer requests it, the CB shall provide the full CB audit report including the completed audit checklist, within five working days of the certification decision. It is not obligatory for the CB to send out a report before it has been through the internal technical review. If the automatically generated CB audit report (including the checklist) is available from the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems, this report shall be used.

d) Where the country of destination (as registered in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems) includes the USA and/or Canada, the CB shall provide the final CB audit report including the completed audit checklist to the producer, at the latest by the time of the certification decision.

e) Any complaints or appeals against CBs shall follow the CB's own complaints and appeals procedure, which each CB shall have and communicate to its clients. If the CB does not respond adequately, the complaint can be addressed to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat using the GLOBALG.A.P. incident/complaint form available on the GLOBALG.A.P. website (www.globalgap.org).

7.2 GLOBALG.A.P. certificate

a) The GLOBALG.A.P. certificate shall be issued to the legal entity (i.e., producer group/multisite producer).

b) The name of the trader can optionally be mentioned on the certificate but only with the following disclaimer: "Can be exclusively traded through [trader name]."

c) A certificate is not transferable from one legal entity to another when producer groups/multisite producers change legal entity. In this case, a complete CB audit following the rules for subsequent CB audits is required. The new legal entity shall receive a new unique GLOBALG.A.P. identification number.

d) The certification validity is 12 months, subject to any sanctions and extensions in accordance with the applicable requirements.

e) The CB shall issue the GLOBALG.A.P. certificate by generating it from the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems.

f) In case there is a need to change the certificate validity dates to be able to do the CB audits according to the CB audit timing requirements described in the scope-specific rules, the CB may shorten the certificate validity.

7.3 Certificate validity extension

a) The validity of the certificate may be extended beyond the usual 12 months for a maximum period of 4 months.

b) If the certificate has expired, it cannot be extended any more.

c) If an extension is given, the full GLOBALG.A.P. system participation fee shall be paid for the next certificate.

d) The producer group/multisite producer shall be reaudited during that extension period.

e) The producer group/multisite producer cannot change CBs for the certificate subsequent to the one for which the extension was granted.

f) The following certificate validity shall be calculated by extracting the duration of the extension period from the normal 12 months validity.

7.4 Requirements for maintaining GLOBALG.A.P. certification

a) The registration of the producer group/multisite producer, the proposed products, and all information requested in the GLOBALG.A.P. registration data requirements for the relevant scope shall be confirmed with the CB annually before the current certificate expiry date.

b) The CB auditor shall complete an audit of the entire applicable scope annually, and the CB shall also complete the certification process annually.

7.4.1 Burden of proof

a) In the case of information (e.g., maximum residue limit exceedance, microbial contamination) about a GLOBALG.A.P. certificate holder that could have a potential impact on the certification status/claim being transmitted to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat, it is the responsibility of the certificate holder and the corresponding CB to refute the claim by verifying and providing evidence of compliance with the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. standard.

b) The CB may conduct additional announced or unannounced CB audits or on-site visits to investigate complaints.

c) The CB shall report the findings and actions taken to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat within the defined period of time.

d) If the certificate holder and the corresponding CB do not provide the requested evidence of compliance within the period of time defined by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat, they will be sanctioned according to the sanctioning procedures described in the GLOBALG.A.P. GR.

e) If the evidence includes laboratory analyses, accredited laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025) and independent sampling (according to the rules as set out in the relevant P&Cs) shall be used.

f) If the certificate holder or a producer group member is facing a complaint regarding food safety (i.e., potentially involved in a foodborne outbreak), workers' well-being, environmental protection, or animal welfare, or is involved in a court trial or has been found by a court of law to have infringed a national or international law, and these actions can endanger the reputation and credibility of FoodPLUS GmbH and/or the GLOBALG.A.P. standard, the certificate holder shall inform the CB within 24 hours.

7.4.2 Non-compliance and non-conformance

a) Non-compliance (with P&Cs): A Minor Must or Recommendation in the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. checklist is not fulfilled according to the P&Cs.

b) Non-conformance (to the GLOBALG.A.P. certification rules): A GLOBALG.A.P. rule that is necessary for obtaining the certificate is infringed (e.g., non-compliance with one or more Major Musts or more than 5% of applicable Minor Musts).

c) Contractual non-conformance: breach of any of the agreements signed in the contract between the CB and the producer related to GLOBALG.A.P. requirements.

> Examples: trading in a product that does not comply with legal requirements, false communication by the producer regarding GLOBALG.A.P. certification, GLOBALG.A.P. trademarks misuse, payments not made in accordance with contractual conditions, etc.

7.4.3 Sanctions

a) If a non-conformance is detected either at the QMS level or member/site level, the CB shall apply a sanction (warning, suspension, or cancellation) to the producer group/multisite producer as indicated in this section.

b) Producer groups/Multisite producers cannot change CBs until the non-conformance that led to the respective sanction is satisfactorily closed.

c) Only the CB that has issued the sanction is entitled to lift it provided there is sufficient and timely evidence of corrective action (either through a follow-up visit or other written or visual evidence).

7.4.3.1 Warning

a) A warning is issued for all types of non-conformances detected (i.e., non-conformance to QMS, P&Cs, GLOBALG.A.P. GR, or contractual requirements).

b) If a non-conformance is detected during the CB audit, the certificate holder shall be given a warning when the audit is finalized. This is a provisional report that can be overridden by the CB decision-making committee.

c) Initial CB audit:

   (i) If a producer group/multisite producer with QMS does not comply with 100% of the applicable QMS and Major Must P&Cs, 95% of the applicable Minor Must P&Cs, and all contractual requirements within three months of an initial CB audit, a complete CB audit shall be performed again before a certificate can be issued.

d) Subsequent CB audit:

   (i) Non-conformances shall be closed within a maximum of 28 calendar days.

   (ii) In the event of a non-conformance with contracts, the GLOBALG.A.P. GR, the QMS, Major Must P&Cs and/or more than 5% of Minor Must P&Cs, the CB shall decide how much time is given to the producer group/multisite producer for closing the non-conformance before suspending the certificate. This period shall never exceed 28 days and may be shortened according to the criticality of the non-conformance in terms of safety of consumers, workers, environment, and animal welfare.

   (iii) An immediate suspension shall be issued where a serious threat to food safety, the safety of workers, the environment, animal welfare, consumers, and/or product integrity (i.e., sale of noncertified products as certified) is present. This will be communicated via an official suspension letter.

7.4.3.2 Suspension

a) If the cause of the warning is not resolved within the defined period (maximum of 28 days), a suspension of the certificate shall be imposed by the CB within 24 hours.

b) If a reputable government regulatory authority has established a clear link between a member/site and a foodborne outbreak, suspension of the certificate shall be imposed by the CB while a review of the producer's/producer group's certification is conducted.

c) If a certificate holder has been found by a court of law to have infringed a national or international law and these actions can endanger the reputation and credibility of FoodPLUS GmbH and/or the GLOBALG.A.P. standard, the CB shall suspend the certificate with immediate effect. If the CB fails to do so, the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat has the right to inform the accreditation body and to change the status of the certificate in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems to not display it as valid. In this case, the CB shall accept liability for this issue.

d) Only CBs can lift suspensions they have imposed on a certificate holder.

e) A suspension can be applied to one, several, or all the products covered by the certificate.

f) If a suspension is applied, the CB shall set the period allowed for corrective actions (not longer than 12 months).

g) During the period of suspension, the certificate holder is prohibited from using the GLOBALG.A.P. logos/trademarks, license/certificate, or any other type of claim that is in any way linked to GLOBALG.A.P. in relation to the suspended product.

h) If a certificate holder notifies the CB that the non-conformance is resolved before the defined period, the suspension can be lifted after evaluation of evidence provided by the

certificate holder. This evaluation of the corrective action may take place on- or off-site. It may be a full CB audit or an evaluation of only the submitted evidence.

i) The suspension remains in place as long as the CB does not lift it or impose a cancellation.

j) If the cause of the suspension is not resolved within the defined period, a cancellation is imposed.

7.4.3.3 Self-declared product suspension

a) A certificate holder may voluntarily ask the respective CB for a suspension of one, several, or all of the products covered by the certificate (unless a CB has already imposed a sanction). This can occur if the certificate holder experiences difficulty complying with the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. standard and needs time to close any non-conformances.

b) This suspension will not delay the renewal date, and neither will it allow the certificate holder to avoid paying the applicable fees.

c) The deadline for closing non-conformances is set by the declaring certificate holder in agreement with the respective CB.

d) The same applies for members of a producer group, who may voluntarily ask the respective producer group to temporarily suspend their product(s). Here too, the deadline for rectifying non-conformances is set by the declaring producer group member and shall be set in agreement with the respective QMS.

e) In the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems the product status “self-declared suspension” shall be set for the respective products.

7.4.3.4 Cancellation

a) A cancellation of the contract shall be issued if one or more of the following apply:

(i) The CB finds evidence of fraud and/or lack of trust to comply with GLOBALG.A.P. requirements.

(ii) The CB finds objective evidence that indicates that the certificate holder has been misusing the GLOBALG.A.P. claim. Any case of misuse may be communicated to the GLOBALG.A.P. Community Members.

(iii) A certificate holder cannot show evidence of implementation of effective corrective actions before the suspension period set by the CB has elapsed.

b) A cancellation of the contract results in the total prohibition (all products, members/sites) of the use of the GLOBALG.A.P. logos/trademarks, license/certificate, or any device or claim that may be linked to GLOBALG.A.P.

c) Certificate holders whose contract has been cancelled shall not be accepted for GLOBALG.A.P. certification within 12 months of the date of cancellation.

8 MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR KEY STAFF

8.1 Key tasks

8.1.1 QMS manager

a) The QMS manager shall manage the organization’s QMS in order to ensure compliance by all registered members/sites and PHUs. This includes, for example, development and control of QMS documentation, management of an internal register, receiving the QMS audits (both internal and by the CB), and implementing the necessary corrective actions.

b) The QMS manager may conduct internal farm audits (at members/sites) to assess compliance with the certification requirements.

c) The QMS manager shall produce timely and accurate reports on such internal farm audits.

d) However, the QMS manager shall not perform internal QMS audits.

e) If the QMS manager does not perform the internal farm audits, they can approve the members/sites based on the audit reports of the internal farm auditor(s).

8.1.2 Internal QMS auditors

a) The internal QMS auditor audits the QMS and central PHUs of the producer group/multisite producer with QMS to assess compliance with the certification requirements.

b) The QMS auditor shall produce timely and accurate reports on such audits.

c) The QMS auditor may approve the members/sites based on the audit reports of the internal farm auditor(s). If internal QMS auditors conduct the farm audits, they shall not approve those audit reports.

8.1.3 Internal farm auditors

a) The internal farm auditor conducts farm audits at members/sites and their PHUs (of producer group members) to assess compliance with the certification requirements.

b) The internal farm auditor shall produce timely and accurate reports on such audits.

c) The internal farm auditor shall not perform internal QMS auditor tasks.

8.2 Qualification requirements

8.2.1 Formal qualifications for internal QMS and farm auditors

8.2.1.1 Internal QMS auditors

A post-high school diploma in a discipline related to the scope of certification (plants and/or aquaculture); or an agricultural high school qualification with two years of experience in the relevant scope after qualification; or any other high school qualification with two years of experience in QMS and three years of experience in the relevant scope after qualification.

8.2.1.2 Internal farm auditors

A post-high school diploma in a discipline related to the scope of certification (plants and/or aquaculture); or an agricultural high school qualification with two years of experience in the relevant scope after qualification; or any other high school qualification with three years of sector-specific experience (e.g., farm management, including own operations in the relevant product; commercial consultant in the relevant product; field experience relevant to specific products) and participation in educational opportunities relevant to the scope of certification.

8.2.2 Technical skills and qualifications

8.2.2.1 QMS manager

Completion of internal QMS auditor training related to QMS and training related to the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. standard (total minimum duration of 16 hours)

8.2.2.2 Internal QMS auditors

a) Practical knowledge of QMS

b) Completion of internal QMS auditor training related to QMS (minimum duration 16 hours)

8.2.2.3 Internal farm auditors

Sign-off of internal farm auditors shall only occur as a result of:

a) One-day practical audit training setting out basic principles of auditing

b) Observing two CB or internal GLOBALG.A.P. farm audits (or other) by an already qualified auditor, and one successful witness audit by the internal QMS auditor, by a qualified internal farm auditor, or by the CB

8.2.2.4 Training in food safety and good agricultural practices for internal QMS and farm auditors

a) Training in the HACCP system either as part of formal qualifications or by the successful completion of formal training based on the principles of the Codex Alimentarius or training in food safety management standards (e.g., ISO 22000, BRCGS, IFS, PHA)

b) Food hygiene training either as part of formal qualifications or by the successful completion of formal training

c) **For plants scope**: plant protection, fertilizer, and integrated pest management training, either as part of formal qualifications or through the successful completion of formal training; all formal trainings by specialists on these topics

d) **For aquaculture scope**: basic veterinary medicine, including animal health and welfare issues

e) In all cases internal auditors shall have practical knowledge about the products they are auditing. Experience may be complemented by trainings on product characteristics and handling operations. These trainings can be done internally.

8.2.3 Communication skills

a) QMS manager and internal auditor(s) shall have “working language” skills in the corresponding native/working language. This shall include locally used specialist terminology in the respective working language.

b) Exceptions to this rule shall be clarified beforehand with the CB before the internal audit.

8.2.4 Independence and confidentiality

a) Internal auditors are not allowed to audit their own work. Independence of key staff shall be controlled and ensured by the QMS (i.e., an internal QMS auditor cannot evaluate their own operations or a producer they have also consulted in the last two years, the QMS manager cannot perform QMS audits, etc.).

b) Key staff shall strictly observe the producer group’s/multisite producer’s procedures for maintaining the confidentiality of information and records.

Note: The qualification of internal auditors shall be evaluated annually by the CBs.

9 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR IFA V6 GFS

In IFA v6 GFS, these additional requirements apply:

9.1 Additions

The following requirements shall be *added* to the sections indicated.

4.2.1 Structure

d) Members of management shall annually conduct a management review, make necessary changes, and document the review and results. The management review may take the form of an annual staff meeting where food safety resources, the status of actions from previous management reviews, external and internal changes that are relevant to the QMS, and the effectiveness of the QMS are reviewed. Evidence of this management review shall be available and verified by the CB auditor.

4.5.1 Internal QMS audits

j) The producer group/multisite producer with QMS shall have completed and signed the food safety policy declaration. Completion and signature of the food safety policy declaration is a commitment to be renewed annually for each new certification cycle.

The QMS (central management) may make this commitment for the organization and for all its members/sites by completing and signing one declaration at QMS level. In this case, the declaration shall be attached to or included in the QMS checklist used for the internal QMS audit.

If the food safety policy declaration has not been completed and signed at QMS level, each member/site shall complete and sign the declaration individually and keep it attached to or included in the internal audit checklist.

5.2 Registration process

5.2.4 Producers moving between GFSI-recognised Certification Programmes

CBs shall complete a risk assessment on producers that switch from any GFSI-recognised Certification Programme to any GFSI-recognized GLOBALG.A.P. standard. This risk assessment shall consider, but shall not be limited to, such aspects as:

- Unannounced audits
- Suspensions
- Withdrawals
- Cancellations etc., by the previous GFSI-recognised Certification Programme

In all cases, audits of producers moving from any GFSI-recognised Certification Programme to any GFSI-recognized GLOBALG.A.P. standard shall always be considered as an initial audit and not a subsequent (recertification) audit.

6.1 CB audits

The following shall be added to the already existing sections 6.1 b) and d):

b) For high-risk PHUs in the plants scope, every PHU shall always be audited annually while in operation. It may be done during the recertification or surveillance CB audit.

d) In the case of members/sites classified as high-risk, all of them shall be audited annually by the CB.

6.1.2.1 Sampling of members/sites

e) Selection of members/sites shall be based on the risk assessment carried out by the CB. However, at least 25% of the sample shall be randomly selected from the actual number of members/sites. The risk assessment shall include consideration of the members'/sites' internal audit program findings and the sites' specific risks. CBs shall record in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems the members/sites that are randomly selected.

g) Sampling of members/sites is not allowed if they have been classified as high-risk (see Table 3). This means that the CB auditor shall audit every high-risk member/site annually against all the applicable P&Cs.

h) A sampling program may be followed whereby all members/sites are audited within a defined period based on the risk classification of the product.

i) If there is no sampling, the CB may decide to perform all CB farm audits in one or two visits based on risk.

j) Minimum 20% of members/sites that shall be audited during the certification cycle shall be audited unannounced. Unannounced CB audit means that there is no notification to the QMS or member/site before the CB audit takes place.

7.2 GLOBALG.A.P. certificate

e) The CB may additionally issue GLOBALG.A.P. certificates to producer group members if those members were audited as part of the sample. Such certificates shall be clearly distinguishable from certificates that are issued to individually certified producers (Option 1) and shall state explicitly that the recipient is part of a certified producer group. Any limitations to the scope of certification shall be transparent to customers.

9.2 Replacements

The following requirements shall be *replaced* in the sections indicated:

4.2.2 Competency and training of staff

4.2.2 b) (i) shall be replaced by:

(i) The internal QMS auditor, the internal farm auditors, and the QMS manager shall be independent from the member/sites.

6 AUDIT PROCESS

Table 2 Overview of audits in IFA v6 Smart shall be replaced by:

Table 3 Overview of audits in IFA v6 GFS:

	Initial audit	**Subsequent audit**
Internally by producer groups/multisite producers with QMS		
Internal QMS audit	Complete QMS	Complete QMS
Internal farm audits	Entire scope (all registered members/sites and PHUs)	Entire scope (all registered members/sites and PHUs)

	Initial audit	Subsequent audit
CB audits of producer groups/multisite producers with QMS, *without* members/sites/PHUs classified as high-risk *		
CB QMS audit	**Certification audit** Complete QMS + square root of the total number of registered central PHUs while in operation; before CB farm audits	**Recertification audit** Complete QMS + square root of the total number of registered central PHUs while in operation; annually, before CB farm audits
Unannounced CB QMS audit	-	**Recertification audit** Minimum of 10% of all producer groups/multisite producers with QMS
CB farm audit	**Certification audit** (Minimum) square root of the total number of registered members/sites	**Recertification audit** a) If non-conformances detected during previous CB surveillance audit: (minimum) square root of actual number of registered members/sites ***or*** b) If no non-conformances detected during previous CB surveillance audit: (minimum) square root of actual number of registered members/sites *minus* the number of members/sites audited during the previous CB surveillance audit
	CB surveillance audit during certificate validity (Minimum) 50% of the square root of the actual number of certified members/sites	**CB surveillance audit during certificate validity** (Minimum) 50% of the square root of the actual number of certified members/sites

	Initial audit	Subsequent audit
CB audits of producer groups/multisite producers with QMS, and members/sites/PHUs classified as high-risk *		
CB QMS audit	**Certification audit** Complete QMS + square root of the total number of registered central PHUs while in operation; before CB farm audits; no sampling of PHUs classified as high-risk	**Recertification audit** Complete QMS + square root of the total number of registered central PHUs while in operation; annually, before CB farm audits; no sampling of PHUs classified as high-risk
Unannounced CB QMS audit	-	**Recertification audit** Minimum of 10% of all producer groups/multisite producers with QMS
CB farm audit	**Certification audit** No sampling of members/sites classified as high-risk; all registered members/sites classified as high-risk shall be audited by the CB before issuing the certificate	**Recertification audit** No sampling of members/sites classified as high-risk; CB audits possible in one or two visits

*Members/sites/PHUs deemed high-risk are not eligible for sampling.

In order to classify a producer group/multisite producer with QMS, site, or PHU as high-risk, the CB shall examine a combination of product and process risk factors. If a high-risk product is combined with a high-risk process, the member/site (farm or PHU) shall be classified as high-risk.

High-risk products include fresh herbs, leafy greens, berries, and cantaloupe melons. This list may be updated and shall be checked (see products marked as high-risk (marked with $*^{HR}$) in the GLOBALG.A.P. product list).

High-risk processes include:

- Postharvest use of water/ice/steam
- Preharvest and/or harvest activities where water touches the edible part of the product
- Preharvest use of raw organic manure applied less than 60 days before harvest

  Example: producer group consists of 10 producer group members producing lettuce with two central PHUs. In the farms there is no use of raw organic manure and there are drip irrigation emitters below a plastic mulch. In the PHUs the lettuce is rinsed before packing. In this case, the producer group member farms are not considered high-risk, but the PHUs are. Therefore, both PHUs will have to be audited on-site every year while in operation.

6.1.1 CB QMS audit (including central PHUs)

6.1.1 e) shall be replaced by:

e) However, for subsequent CB audits, a minimum of 10% of the annual CB QMS audits of the certified producer groups/multisite producers with QMS shall be unannounced. There is no notification to the producer group/multisite producer with QMS before the CB audit takes place. In the exceptional case where it is impossible for the producer to accept the CB audit (for medical or other justifiable reasons), the producer will receive one more chance to be audited unannounced. There shall be objective evidence of the justification available (e.g., medical document). If no evidence of a justifiable reason is available, the producer shall accept the unannounced CB audit or be suspended. The producer shall receive a written warning if the first unannounced CB audit has not been accepted regardless of whether the rejection is justified or not. The producer will receive another unannounced CB audit. If that audit cannot take place, a suspension of all products will be issued. The suspension will be lifted when the unannounced CB audit has been conducted.

7.1.3 Certification decision

7.1.3 d) shall be replaced by:

d) CBs shall provide the final CB audit report including the completed audit checklist to producers registered for any GFSI-recognized GLOBALG.A.P. standard, at the latest by the time of the certification decision.

7.3 Certificate validity extension

7.3 a) shall be replaced by:

a) The certificate validity may be extended beyond the usual 12 months for a maximum period of 4 months but only if there is a valid reason, which shall be recorded. The following are the only reasons that are considered valid:

(i) The CB wants to schedule the on-site CB audit after the certificate has expired in order to observe a certain part of the production process because that part has not been seen in the previous CB audit, because it is considered to be a high-risk process in terms of product safety, or because it involves a newly added product, site, producer group member, or process the CB wishes to observe.

(ii) The CB needs to extend some certificates because of resource restraints.

(iii) The CB was not able to conduct the on-site audit or the producer group/multisite producer with QMS was not able to receive the CB audit due to circumstances beyond their control (*force majeure*) (e.g., natural disaster, political instability in the region, epidemic, unavailability of the producer for medical reasons).

ANNEX I DECLARATION OF GROUP MEMBERSHIP (OPTIONAL)

Members of a certified producer group may receive a declaration from the producer group demonstrating that they belong to the group provided that they are listed on the certificate annex. This is independent of the certificates issued by the CB, and the declaration only shows membership of the producer group.

The CB and GLOBALG.A.P. logos/trademarks shall not be used.

The template shall not resemble a certificate issued by the CB.

It is voluntary for the producer group to issue this declaration.

The declaration shall contain, at least, the following information:

1. Producer group name, producer group GLOBALG.A.P. identification number (e.g., GGN) (address optional)
2. Producer group member name, GLOBALG.A.P. identification number (e.g., GGN), producer group member's product (address optional)
3. Expiry date of the producer group certificate
4. Disclaimer: "The GLOBALG.A.P. certificate of the producer group defines the certification scope. The most up-to-date and accurate list of producer group members is found in the annex of the producer group certificate. The current status of this certificate is always displayed at: http://www.globalgap.org/search."
5. Disclaimer: "The producer group member may only advertise and trade the products as originating from certified production processes through the producer group." *
6. Date of issue of the declaration
7. Authorization by the producer group's representative

*The producer group that applied and was approved for flexible distribution may omit this disclaimer.

VERSION/EDITION UPDATE REGISTER

New document	Replaced document	Date of publication	Description of modifications
240902_GG_GR_Rules_for_QMS_v6_0_Aug24_en	220929_GG_GR_Rules_for_QMS_v6_0_Sep22_en	2 September 2024	Additional requirements for IFA v6 GFS: 9.1 Additions • 5.2.4 Rule added for GFSI recognition • 6.1.2.1 e) Wording on sampling members/sites added for GFSI recognition • 7.1.3 d) Rule added for GFSI recognition

If you want to receive more information on the modifications in this document, please contact the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat at standard_support@globalgap.org.

If the changes do not introduce new requirements to the standard, the version will remain “5.0” and an edition update shall be indicated with “5.0-x”. If the changes do affect compliance with the standard, the version name will change to “5.x”. A new version, e.g., v6.0, v7.0, etc., will always affect the accreditation of the standard.

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