Dear GLOBALG.A.P. scheme manager,

In this issue you will read about:

1   TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION

This technical communication is uploaded to the GLOBALG.A.P. document center and the CB extranet. It is also sent to the scheme managers of each approved and provisionally approved certification body (CB), to the technical committees, to the hosts of the national technical working groups, to the GLOBALG.A.P. Board, to the GLOBALG.A.P. accreditation bodies, and to all benchmarked scheme and benchmarked checklist owners. You can ask us to add selected persons to the mailing list or to send these technical news releases to all your registered staff by sending your request to Valentin Pazachev at pazachev@globalgap.org.

Several of the chapters included have been previously communicated to you and have been added with little or no changes. These are marked with *Previously communicated: XX Month XXXX*. Chapters with new information have been marked with (New) next to the title.

2   INTEGRATED FARM ASSURANCE

2.1   IFA v6 in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems (New)

We hereby inform you that, from April 2023, CBs will be able to conduct the entire audit process for all the certification options for Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) version 6 Smart, IFA v6 GFS, and GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment on Social Practice (GRASP) version 2 in Audit Online Hub (AOH).

CBs will then be able to:

- Assign audit personnel based on CB-AT information
- Retrieve producer masterdata from Validation Service (VS) including production sites and product handling units (PHUs)
- Audit a sample of producer group members/production sites together with the quality management system (QMS)
- Create a multireport in which the sample audit reports are connected to the QMS audit report
- Have a summary of the Option 2 producer group/Option 1 multisite producer with QMS audit results

VS will be available from **April 2023** and it will be obligatory for CBs to use it to issue IFA v6 certificates for all certification options for the plants and aquaculture scopes, for both IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS, and for GRASP v2.

CBs will be able to:

- Register the full scope and issue e-certificates for all the certification options for IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS for the plants and/or aquaculture scope, and for GRASP v2
- Use the upload functionality to register the full scope (masterdata, production sites, products, attributes, etc.)
- Access e-certificates via VS search

Bookmarking users will be able to access IFA v6 and GRASP v2 information in VS by then.

The AOH and VS beta environments are currently available for testing and to allow users to familiarize themselves with the smart process.

2.2   Audits against IFA v6 (New)

We would like to remind you that the first audits of legal entities already certified to IFA v5.2/IFA v5.4-1-GFS/IFA v5.3-GFS against IFA v6 are considered subsequent audits. This means that the rule requiring 10% of the subsequent audits to be unannounced applies to these legal entities and CBs shall consider this new rule in their audit planning.

Please note that the 10% unannounced audits are no longer counted as additional audits under IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS, but are included in the recertification audits of already certified legal entities that CBs plan to conduct.

2.3   Benchmarking rules for IFA v6 (New)

[Version 6 of the GLOBALG.A.P. benchmarking regulations](#) and [version 1 of the GLOBALG.A.P. compared scheme regulations](#) have been published on our website. Starting now, you can start with the rebenchmarking process. Interested parties can find the updated implementation and transition periods in the GLOBALG.A.P. benchmarking regulations, section 1.4. The rebenchmarking process for recognition against IFA v6 shall run from 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2023.

The recognition level "resembling" has been discontinued for IFA v6 and was replaced by compared schemes. Certification systems listed as compared schemes will not receive benchmarking recognition.

The following are links to the [GLOBALG.A.P. benchmarking fees for scheme and checklist owners](#) and the [GLOBALG.A.P. fees for compared scheme owners](#).

These fees will become applicable as soon as producers have their production processes certified to a scheme that has been benchmarked against IFA v6. The new system participation fee model was developed with the following principles in mind:

- Fairness (equitable, size-based fees)
- Simplicity (a single fee with a straightforward formula)
- Value creation (driving efficiency through innovation)

As the livestock scope will be phased out and will no longer be part of IFA v6, there will be no benchmarking process for livestock.

2.4   Clarification for IFA v6 (plants and aquaculture scopes) (New)

We would like to clarify that, for production processes certified to IFA v6 which include postharvest/handling operations, the GLOBALG.A.P. IFA certificate covers the species produced/farmed by the certified legal entity. If species other than those produced/farmed by the legal entity (certificate holder) are handled in the postharvest/handling operations and the certificate holder wishes to maintain their GLOBALG.A.P. certification status, these species shall be covered by a GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody (CoC) certificate.

2.5   Corrections in IFA v6 for aquaculture

Previously communicated on 13 December 2022

During the translation of the IFA v6 for aquaculture principles and criteria (P&Cs), we discovered some editorial mistakes and some points that require amendments to the wording. We would like to inform you about a number of changes to the IFA v6 for aquaculture P&Cs.

The upcoming update will include the following deletions:

- "No N/A" will be deleted from the criteria belonging to P&C AQ 02.05. **Justification**: It does not make sense to enforce the "No N/A" rule in the first two years.

- "No N/A" will be deleted from the 14 P&Cs that included it in section AQ 28. **Justification**: The whole section is either applicable or, if the legal entity does not perform postharvest activities, not applicable. If the whole section is not applicable, then keeping "No N/A" would contradict the criteria.

The upcoming update will include the following amendments:

- In P&C AQ 06.02.03 the text will be amended to match what was stated in IFA v5: The minimum requirement, if no legislation is in place, is a bunded area, which shall be impervious and be able to contain at least 110% of the volume of the largest tank stored within it. In environmentally sensitive areas, the capacity shall be 165% of the volume of the largest tank.

- In P&C AQ 14.02: "stored" will be replaced by "stocked". **Justification:** Aquatic species are stocked, not stored, in the context of aquaculture while they are living.

Until these editorial changes have been adapted in the normative documents, they apply as described above.

Please note that the level of P&C AQ 06.02.03 will be raised to Major Must in the next update of the normative documents.

2.6   Languages available for online tests and QMS auditor tests (New)

We would like to inform CBs about the languages in which the CB farm auditor online tests are currently available in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB Academy for IFA v6 and GRASP v2, and in which the CB QMS auditor tests are available after CB QMS auditor training:

Training product	Languages
IFA v6 for plants CB farm auditor online test	English, Spanish, French, Italian, German, Greek, Portuguese, Dutch
IFA v6 for aquaculture CB farm auditor online test	English, Spanish
CB QMS auditor tests (proctored test taken after the CB QMS auditor training)	English, Spanish
GRASP v2 CB assessor online test	English, Spanish

For IFA v6 and its related add-ons, CB auditors can be assigned multiple working languages in CB-AT. Any language assignment triggers the respective online test for the CB farm auditor in the preferred assigned languages. Although CB farm auditors can be assigned more than one language in CB-AT, they only need to pass the CB farm auditor online test once. The automatic notification for the newly assigned CB farm auditor online tests is sent according to the selected languages.

If no language is selected, no CB farm auditor online test will be assigned and the CB auditor will be blocked from conducting audits against the respective standard/add-on. Scheme managers have an overview in the "Auditor status overview" tab in CB-AT, in which they can review all the online tests assigned to the CB farm auditors and their current status.

For IFA v5 and all related add-ons, scheme managers currently have this overview for all CB inspectors/auditors in "Scheme Requirements" under "Masterdata" in the GLOBALG.A.P. database, where they can see their status for the online tests.

2.7   IFA v6 CB QMS auditor training (New)

As already communicated in technical news 03/2022, all new and approved CB QMS auditors shall attend an IFA v6 CB QMS auditor training and pass the respective QMS auditor test by 31 December 2023. This is necessary for CB QMS auditors to be able to conduct QMS audits for IFA v6 from 1 January 2024.

If this training has not been completed by this deadline, CB QMS audits for IFA v6 can only be conducted once this training requirement has been fulfilled and the CB QMS auditor has passed the test.

CB QMS auditors approved for IFA v5 have the option of attending a shortened and discounted "QMS Auditor Update Training v6" (duration 5 hours, price €125). **This special offer will end on 31 December 2023**. From 2024 onwards only "Full QMS Auditor Training v6" (duration 2 x 4.5 hours, price €250) will be available.

If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please make sure to register for one of the QMS update trainings for IFA v6 while they are available. Please do not wait until the last quarter of 2023 to register for these trainings, as there might not be any places left.

These trainings can be found in CB Academy course catalog.

2.8 GLOBALG.A.P. trademarks policy transition period

Previously communicated on 15 November 2022

Since the launch of the new GLOBALG.A.P. trademarks use: Policy and guidelines in July 2022, we have received valuable feedback from stakeholders which has prompted us to adjust our expectations regarding the implementation timeline.

With the exception of producers – who will transition to the new requirements with the adoption of IFA v6 – we have granted stakeholder groups a transition period for adherence to the trademarks policy's requirements.

New implementation deadline for the trademarks policy – 1 June 2023

Despite our eagerness to implement this key tool, which will strengthen the work of our Integrity Program, we are keen to support stakeholders by allowing them to adopt the new rules within a more appropriate timeline.

We do, however, strongly encourage CBs to adopt the new trademarks policy immediately. We have already seen encouraging progress in this effort to lead by example from our valued partners who ensure compliance in the field, and we greatly appreciate the work that this entails.

Please see the updated news article on the GLOBALG.A.P. website and the summary below for an overview of what the transition period means for each group.

Producers: trademarks policy becomes a normative document in IFA v6

- The trademarks policy is one of the normative documents for IFA v6.
- Producers will have their compliance with the trademark rules checked by CBs as part of their IFA v6 audit.
- The rules only become binding once a producer has transitioned to IFA v6.
- Until then, the rules in IFA v5 (v5.2, v.3-GFS, or v5.4-1-GFS according to the current certificate) apply.

All other stakeholders: transition period until 1 June 2023

- Any existing materials that already feature the GLOBALG.A.P. logo may remain in use until this deadline.
- After this date, the specific use cases outlined in the trademarks policy must be followed and any materials updated.
- The (re)design of any new materials between now and the mandatory implementation date must follow the new trademark rules.
- All stakeholders, with the exception of producers as outlined above, are required to follow the new rules by 1 June 2023.

CBs shall communicate the new trademarks policy to their clients and share the logos/trademarks that are available in the CB extranet with them.

This additional time will allow stakeholders to thoroughly review the new policy – now available in English, Spanish, and German – and assess the current use of any GLOBALG.A.P. trademarks and claims, updating them where necessary.

If you have any questions concerning CBs and the GLOBALG.A.P. trademarks policy, please contact us at customer_support@globalgap.org.

2.9   GLOBALG.A.P. achieves ISEAL Community Member status (New)

We are pleased to inform you that GLOBALG.A.P. recently achieved ISEAL Community Member status following a rigorous months-long qualification process. ISEAL supports ambitious sustainability systems in addressing the world's most pressing challenges and drives improvement by defining credible practices, convening forums for collaboration, providing training, and promoting innovation.

By becoming an ISEAL Community Member, we have highlighted our ongoing commitment to sustainability while also signaling our commitment to continuous improvement. Being an ISEAL Community Member will also allow us to deliver greater value to stakeholders by improving our system's effectiveness with ISEAL's guidance. Seeking and achieving ISEAL Community Member status also lends value to our assurance products – including the consumer-facing GGN label – by adding further tangible evidence of our ongoing investment in the development of effective sustainability measures. We look forward to continuously improving our system, being part of ISEAL's enabling environment, and to the various partnership opportunities that this will entail.

2.10 IFA v6 for plant propagation material and combinable crops public consultation period (New)

We are happy to announce that the IFA v6 for plant propagation material (PPM) and combinable crops (CC) product categories have entered their public consultation periods. We kindly ask you to review the new normative documents and add your comments here.

3   GLOBALG.A.P. CHAIN OF CUSTODY STANDARD

3.1   CoC v6.1

Previously communicated on 21 November 2022

GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody (CoC) version 6.1 was published in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center on 8 November 2022. CoC v6.1 will be valid for audits from 1 January 2023 and will become obligatory from 1 July 2023. **All CoC audits shall be conducted against CoC v6.1 from 1 July 2023**.

Notify your clients

CBs were kindly requested to inform their clients that upcoming audits **may** be conducted against CoC v6.1 from 1 January 2023 and **shall** be conducted against CoC v6.1 from 1 July 2023. Companies shall use the new CoC v6.1 checklist for the self-assessment.

CoC v6.1 update training for in-house trainers (IHTs)

All CBs and CB auditors currently approved for CoC v6.0 will be allowed to conduct CoC v6.1 audits. No extra training is required.

CoC IHTs shall internally train their approved CoC auditors in the changes in CoC v6.1 using the edition update register. Evidence of the internal training **shall** be available during any integrity assessment.

New CoC IHT trainings will be held according to CoC v6.1 from now on. Existing CoC IHTs are not obliged to attend a new CoC v6.1 training but may attend voluntarily.

What is new in version 6.1?

Changes have been made to the:

- GLOBALG.A.P. CoC general regulations (GR)
- GLOBALG.A.P. CoC control points and compliance criteria (CPCCs)

CoC GR updates

The changes in the GR are mainly clarifications of the existing requirements. Compared to CoC v6.0 these changes are:

- Alignment with current IFA v6 language and style guide
- Clarification of the definition of subcontractors
- Clarification of the definition of mixed products
- Clarification of the retail store and restaurant chains sampling criteria
- Clarification of retail store distribution center requirements. This includes the requirement for CoC certification for retail store distribution centers when selling products with the GLOBALG.A.P. claim to other companies outside the retail store network.
- Clarification of GLOBALG.A.P. certification for subcontractors. IFA and Product Handling Assurance (PHA) certificates were included as accepted certifications for subcontractors classified as high risk.
- For fruit and vegetables, the scope definition now includes products which are processed. Processing may include cutting, slicing, dicing, freezing, and/or quick freezing to the extent that the original product remains visibly recognizable.
- New fields added on the CoC paper certificate template that include the GLOBALG.A.P. certificate number and a list of subcontractors classified as high risk

Control points and compliance criteria

Changes were made to the control points and compliance criteria (CPCCs) after we received comments from various stakeholders. This update directly addresses the unclear issues that were identified. Some grammatical changes were made, however, the content and intent remain the same. Compared to CoC v6.0, these changes are:

- Changes in structure (order of some points)
- Addressing mass balance requirements
- Addressing the communication of new subcontractors to CBs.
- Addressing the use of GGN label visual elements
- Two new Recommendations addressing food losses and waste reduction goals
- Clarification of the supplier authentication procedure that makes it clear that only the direct supplier's (i.e., the ones from which the company is buying the products) GGN, CoC Number, or PHA-N needs to be included
- Clarification that the traceability requirement using the identity preservation method and the segregation method is applicable to all types of products

- Merging of the requirements related to product labelling into one unique CPCC

- Alignment with the IFA v6 for aquaculture requirements

- Clarification of the CPCCs regarding retail stores and restaurant chains by creating CPCC groups that are applicable to each area of the retail store or the restaurant chain group (e.g., central office, retail store distribution center, retail store, and restaurant)

3.2   CoC through QS (New)

Joint QS and GLOBALG.A.P. CoC audits

QS and GLOBALG.A.P. have agreed to allow combined QS and CoC audits – GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody through QS Wholesale Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes (CoC through QS).

In the framework of this cooperation, the QS auditor, with additional CoC training, shall conduct the audit against the CoC standard v6.1 in a combined audit with QS Wholesale Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes. The combined audit will result in two separate certificates: one "CoC through QS" (with no accreditation seal) and one QS Wholesale Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes certificate.

Validity

CoC through QS audits will be possible after 10 March 2023.

Documents

If the company is QS certified, the CoC standard can be used for a combined audit. The CoC through QS audit shall be conducted using the applicable QS checklist(s) and the CoC through QS checklist. The CoC through QS checklist covers the requirements not included in QS Wholesale Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes and consists of five additional requirements.

The CoC v6.1 GR, CPCCs, and modified checklist apply for the CoC part of the audit. The normative documents are available on the GLOBALG.A.P. website.

For the specific CoC through QS general regulations specifications please contact Andrea Meizoso at meizoso@globalgap.org

Who can apply for CoC through QS?

The CoC v6.1 standard covers crops/fresh produce and products. This cooperation, CoC through QS, is applicable to any QS Wholesale Fruit, Vegetables, Potatoes certified companies who handle and/or trade with products originating from GLOBALG.A.P. certified production processes (e.g., fruit, vegetables).

Application process for CBs applying for CoC through QS

1. It is not mandatory for the CB to have accreditation for the CoC standard.

2. The CB shall be QS accredited and approved and GLOBALG.A.P. approved to perform audits against CoC through QS and to issue CoC through QS certificates. The CB shall be displayed on the QS website as an approved CB (GLOBALG.A.P. CoC accreditation is not a requirement).

3. The interested CB shall send a formal letter of intent by email to Andrea Meizoso at meizoso@globalgap.org.
The following documents shall be attached and available for the application to be accepted:

   - Copy of QS accreditation

   - Valid liability insurance policy

   - QS approval for at least two auditors

4. CBs shall pay the evaluation fee of €300 and the add-on extension fee. The standard add-on extension fee for CBs of €500 (US$750 for North America) applies (see GLOBALG.A.P. general fee table and GLOBALG.A.P. North America fee table in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center). For CBs already approved for the standalone CoC v6 standard, the scope extension for this module is free of charge. The standard CoC v6 certificate fees as in the current GLOBALG.A.P. fee table(s) apply.

5. Once the CB is approved, the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat shall inform QS and the approved CB shall be displayed on the GLOBALG.A.P. website under "CoC through QS.''

6. The CB shall nominate an IHT who shall register for and complete a CoC v6.1 IHT training within 6 months of approval. CoC v6.1 IHT training is available periodically; please check the GLOBALG.A.P. Academy. If no trainings are listed, please contact the CB Academy team at cbtraining@globalgap.org to request a training.

7. QS-approved auditors shall pass the GLOBALG.A.P. online test for CoC v6.1 before they are allowed to conduct CoC through QS audits.

8. The auditor reviewer and certification decision maker shall meet the CoC auditor qualifications.

9. The modified checklist for CoC through QS audits shall be uploaded to AOH.

10. CoC through QS certificates can only be issued once the certification process has been registered in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems.

NOTE 1: CoC through QS is not a benchmarked scheme but a combined audit approach to reduce duplication of auditing resources.

NOTE 2: The current certification options CoC through IFS, CoC through BRCGS, and CoC through AMA are still available and valid.

4   COMPOUND FEED MANUFACTURING

4.1   Compound Feed Manufacturing v3.1

Previously communicated on 22 November 2022 and on 21 December 2022

As already communicated in TN 01/2022, GLOBALG.A.P. launched the new version of the Compound Feed Manufacturing (CFM) standard version 3 that was supposed to become obligatory from 15 December 2022.

The decision was made to **postpone** the obligatory date for CFM v3, launch the updated CFM v3.1, and set the obligatory date to **1 January 2024**. CFM v3.1 is valid from **1 January 2023.**

CFM v2.2 will still be available in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems for those CBs that were not CFM v3.0 approved before **31 December 2022.**

All CBs should seek accreditation for **CFM v3.1.**

Compared to CFM v3.0, the CFM v3.1 GR contain a number of improvements to the scope, registration process (for parallel production), certification options, and audit process.

Wording changes and improvements were made to the CPCCs.

CB IHTs approved for CFM v2.2 shall complete a new CFM v3.1 IHT training to get approval. They shall register for and attend a CFM IHT training for v3.1 and successfully pass the tests. After the successful completion of the IHT training, the CB shall inform the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat and request approval for CFM v3.1. Please contact Valentin Pazachev at pazachev@globalgap.org.

CB IHTs who attended the CFM IHT training for v3.0 and passed the tests are not required to attend a new training for CFM v3.1.

All CFM auditors already approved for CFM v2.2 shall complete CB internal training for CFM v3.1 provided by the IHT and shall pass the new online tests for CFM v3.1.

4.2 CFM reports for the accreditation assessment (New)

We hereby inform you that CBs shall, on request, send the latest results and the report for the accreditation assessment to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat. This rule replaces the one set out in section 4.3 i) of version 6 of "GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for certification bodies" and is applicable immediately from version CFM v3.

5 ADD-ON-RELATED UPDATES

5.1 GRASP clarifications (New)

Regarding the GRASP QMS checklist

We hereby inform you that any references in the GRASP v2 general rules to a QMS checklist refer to the GRASP QMS checklist that includes the eight requirements in GRASP P&C 14.

First assessment against GRASP v2

The first assessment against GRASP v2 shall count as an initial assessment regarding the GRASP compliance system. The compliance level requirements for initial assessments shall apply as described in the GRASP general rules, section 8. The sampling rules shall follow the rules for subsequent audits, as with the IFA combined audits.

Correction to GRASP v2 general rules, section 6.2.3 c and d

We hereby inform you that sections 6.2.3.c and 6.2.3.d do not apply to Option 1 single site producers or Option 1 multisite producers without QMS but only to Option 2 producer groups and Option 1 multisite producers with QMS.

GRASP assessors' qualifications

We hereby clarify that CB GRASP assessors conducting GRASP assessments of Option 2 producer groups or Option 1 multisite producers with QMS shall comply with the IFA CB QMS auditor qualifications.

CB GRASP assessors that conduct GRASP assessments of Option 1 single site producers or Option 1 multisite producers without QMS shall comply with the IFA CB farm auditor qualifications.

Observing and being witnessed while conducting an Option 2 GRASP QMS audit is not mandatory for GRASP assessors who only conduct assessments of Option 1 single site producers or Option 1 multisite producers without QMS.

5.2 GLOBALG.A.P. country risk classification for 2023 (New)

We hereby inform you that the GLOBALG.A.P. country risk classification for 2023 is now available on our website. You can find it here.

5.3 Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule (FSMA PSR) add-on (New)

The FSMA PSR add-on v1.3 general rules specifications clarify how QMS audits shall be conducted in the case of parallel production/parallel ownership. The rules indicate that a proportional percentage of producer group members/production sites shall be selected for the external CB inspection sample. However, in the example, the calculation was not applied correctly.

In the example with a group of 100 producer group members of which 25 are registered for the FSMA PSR add-on, the rule incorrectly concluded that 5 of the 10 external CB inspections shall include FSMA. A proportional percentage in this case would mean that 3 of the external CB inspections shall include the FSMA PSR add-on (25% is 2.5 rounded up to 3). Parallel ownership/Parallel production will be amended in the next update of the normative documents.

5.4 Nurture Module

5.4.1 Nurture Module v11.4

Previously communicated on 16 November 2022 and on 13 January 2023

It was previously communicated that the updated Nurture Module v11.4 would become obligatory from 1 February 2023. Following a decision by TESCO, the release of Nurture Module v11.4 will be postponed until **1 April 2023** (instead of 1 February 2023). As a result of this decision **Nurture Module v11.3 will remain applicable until 31 March 2023**.

The combined IFA v5.2 + Nurture Module v11.4 and IFA v5.4-1 + Nurture Module v11.4 checklists have been deployed in the AOH Beta system and will be deployed in AOH live system on 1 April 2023.

For Nurture Module v11.4, the Nurture Module rules remain unchanged and will remain valid as they were in v11.2.

CBs shall only conduct audits using Nurture Module v11.4 **from 1 April 2023, not earlier**. her

Please inform your clients that upcoming audits/inspections after 1 April 2023 will be conducted using Nurture Module v11.4 for fruit and vegetables and that they shall use the new checklist for the self-assessment as well the CB audit/inspection.

The Nurture Module IHT was required to complete a one-hour online training course (in English) focusing only on the new CPCCs without needing to pass a test. If Nurture Module IHTs failed to participate in this training, the CB for which they work will not be able to perform v11.4 audits from 1 April 2023 (and they will be blocked because v11.3 will not be available after that date).

No CB approval or CB training fees apply.

Nurture Module IHTs shall train their approved assessors internally after completing the online training. Evidence of the internal training shall be available during any integrity assessment.

All CBs and auditors/inspectors currently approved for Nurture Module v11.3 will be allowed to conduct Nurture Module v11.4 audits after completion of the internal training by the IHT.

5.4.2 New requirements for CBs in Nurture Module v11.4

Previously communicated on 6 March 2023

Tesco has introduced additional reporting requirement for CBs in Nurture Module v11.4.

We hereby inform you that, from 1 April 2023, while implementing Nurture Module v11.4 CBs shall:

1) Send by email to the respective primary supplier of each Nurture Module producer a PDF audit report that includes:

   a)   Full assessment details (checklist details are not required)

   b)   Non-compliances and the respective corrective actions

The CB audit report shall include:

- In the "**Company profile**" section: information about the product handling sites that were audited by the CB including the full address, geo-coordinates, and other relevant information for identification (e.g., Production Unit Code (PUC))

- In the "**PHU-products seen during packaging-handling in this assessment**" section: the products that were seen during the assessment

- In the "**Sites audited**" section: which production sites *and* product handling units were audited during the assessment.

The CB shall send the above-mentioned audit report to primary suppliers when it receives the status "Closed".

2) In case of Major non-conformances detection, the *Nurture Module sanction form* shall be sent to the respective primary supplier **instead of** TESCO immediately after the audit if the non-conformance is directly related to food safety, and at the latest 2 days after the audit.

5.5. BioDiversity add-on rules amendment

Previously communicated on 6 March 2023

We hereby inform you of a change to the BioDiversity add-on rules which *allows* audits against the BioDiversity add-on to be conducted by auditing less than 100% of the members of Option 2 producer groups/less than 100% of the production sites of Option 1 multisite producers with QMS. This is an amendment to the BioDiversity general rules specifications v1, section 5.1.

There will be no transition period from the current rule (which requires all producer group members/production sites to be included) to the new rule (which does not require all producer group members/production sites to be included). This change to the rules takes effect *immediately*.

The GGNs of producer group members included in the add-on shall be listed in the group certificate and producer groups are advised to require the buyer to follow-up on those individual GGNs.

The same rule is planned for BioDiversity add-on v1.1, allowing producer groups to split and not requiring all producer group members to participate in the add-on.

For the upcoming version 1.1, the plan is to set an increase rate that determines how many producer group members should be added to the audited producer group each year. This rate will be set in consultation with GLOBALG.A.P. stakeholders and project partners and communicated as soon as possible.

6 GLOBALG.A.P. IT UPDATES

6.1 GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems updates (New)

We continuously update our IT systems. You can find more information about all the updates to AOH, the GLOBALG.A.P. database, and VS here.
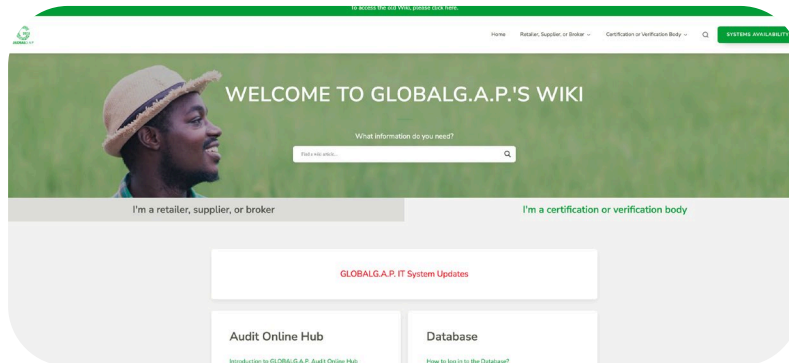
6.2 IFA v6 translations overview (New)

The following is an overview of the languages in which the IFA v6 documents have been published and can be downloaded from the GLOBALG.A.P. document center. Please note that these are often only the P&Cs pdf files and not always the customizable checklists.

IFA v6

- Spanish (fruit and vegetables Smart, fruit and vegetables GFS, flowers and ornamentals, hops, aquaculture)
- German (fruit and vegetables Smart, fruit and vegetables GFS, flowers and ornamentals, aquaculture)
- Italian (fruit and vegetables Smart, fruit and vegetables GFS, flowers and ornamentals)
- French (fruit and vegetables Smart, fruit and vegetables GFS, flowers and ornamentals, aquaculture)
- Russian (fruit and vegetables Smart, fruit and vegetables GFS)
- Portuguese (fruit and vegetables Smart, fruit and vegetables GFS, and flowers and ornamentals)
- Turkish (aquaculture)
- Norwegian (aquaculture)

GRASP v2

- Spanish, French, German, Italian, Turkish, Norwegian, and Japanese

For further questions please contact us at standard_support@globalgap.org.

6.3 Fee calculator for IFA v6 and GRASP v2 (New)

We hereby inform you that the fee calculators for IFA v6 and GRASP v2 (international and North America) were uploaded to the CB Extranet on 14 November 2022 with a notification to the CBs. The fee table video tutorial is available in the CB Academy and in the database wiki.

You can find the fee calculators for IFA v6 and GRASP v2, the fee table video tutorial, and the GLOBALG.A.P. system participation fees guideline here.

6.4 Updated rules for AOH (New)

Following some changes that were made during recent months, we would like to summarize the AOH upload rules and clarify the percentages to be uploaded for each standard and add-on.

They were all individually announced in previous issues of the technical news, but the following offers you a summary of all of them.

GLOBALG.A.P. approved CBs are required to use AOH to upload a certain percentage of the audits/inspections they conduct per month. The uploading requirements depend on the respective standard/add-on.

1. From **15 November 2020**, all (i.e., 100%) checklists for the FSMA PSR add-on (including its IFA checklist part) shall be uploaded per month.

2. From **1 December 2021**, 50% of all checklists for IFA v5.2, IFA v5.3-GFS, IFA v5.4-GFS, shall be uploaded per month. This requirement is extended to IFA v5.4.1-GFS.

3. From **1 December 2021**, 50% of all checklists for HPSS v1.2 or PHA v1.2 shall be uploaded per month.

4. From **1 April 2021**, all (i.e., 100%) checklists for Nurture Module v11.2 shall be uploaded per month. This requirement is extended to v.11.3 from **6 September 2022**. The Nurture Module checklists consist of the Nurture Module and IFA checklist (see "Nurture Module Scheme Rules", section 5 d)).

5. From **15 May 2020** (when the GLOBALG.A.P. Full Remote procedure was first published), all (i.e., 100%) the inspections conducted according to the GLOBALG.A.P. Full Remote procedure for IFA v5.2 and the FSMA PSR add-on shall be uploaded per month.

6. From **25 January 2021** (when Nurture Module v11.2 was released in AOH), all (i.e., 100%) the inspections conducted according to the GLOBALG.A.P. Full Remote procedure for the Nurture Module shall be uploaded per month.

7. Those IFA checklists uploaded for the FSMA PSR add-on, the Nurture Module, or because of the use of GLOBALG.A.P. Full Remote may be counted towards the 50% referenced in item no. 2 of this list.

8. From **1 October 2021**, 50% of all checklists for CoC v6 shall be uploaded per month.

9. From **10 August 2022**, all (i.e., 100%) checklists for the GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS Add-on shall be uploaded per month.

10. From **10 August 2022**, all (i.e., 100%) checklists for the Coop Italia Pesticide Transparency add-on shall be uploaded per month.

11. To keep these rules updated, all (i.e., 100%) checklists for any further version (e.g., Nurture Module v11.4) of any mandatory standard/add-on (Nurture Module, FSMA PSR add-on, GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS Add-on, Coop Italia Transparency add-on) shall be uploaded per month.

12. The percentage required for all standards or add-ons is calculated based on the total number of checklists for all valid versions (e.g., 50% for IFA means 50% (IFA v5.2 + IFA v5.3 + IFA v5.4-GFS + IFA v5.4.1-GFS))

13. During this period AOH use is not considered in CB key performance indicator scoring, and no sanctions will be issued for unintentional operational mistakes. Violations of the uploading rules will however be subject to sanctioning.

14. 50% shall be calculated per certificate holder – i.e., the CB may choose any combination of standards, Option 1 and Option 2 audits.

15. The number of checklists to be uploaded (resulting from the % calculation above) shall always be rounded up to the next whole number.

16. All deadlines are linked to the date of the audit and not to the date of the certification decision.* (see clarification below)

17. Initial, recertification, surveillance, and unannounced inspections and audits are included.

Clarification:

*Two processes are relevant here:

(i)   Uploading of audit reports to AOH as conducted by the CB (linked to the audit date)
(ii) Monitoring of CB performance by the Customer Support team with regards to (i) above (linked to the date of the certification decision))

Uploading audit reports to AOH: The date indicated in the AOH upload rules correlates with the date of the audit, rather than the date of the certification decision.

E.g., all remote audits for IFA v5.2 and the FSMA PSR add-on conducted from 15 May 2020 onwards shall be uploaded to AOH.

Monitoring of CB performance: The certification decisions taken in the database and the certification decisions recorded in AOH (as part of the audit upload process) for a defined period are compared. Files in AOH must have their status set to 'closed' in order to be considered in this comparison. During this monitoring, the date of the certification decision in the database is compared with the date of the certification decision recorded in AOH (for closed audit files).

The Customer Support team checks the percentage of uploads and sends warning emails to urge CBs to comply with these upload rules. This warning system is defined in the AOH rules and AOH rules update that are available in GLOBALG.A.P. document center. CBs that, according to this sanctioning system, were sanctioned with a Yellow Card will be sent to ISC (Integrity Surveillance Committee) and this committee will apply the corresponding sanctions according to the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations.

6.5   Valid organization email in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems

As previously communicated in technical news 03/2018, a producer email address (used for business) has been an obligatory entry in the GLOBALG.A.P. database (together with the name and postal address of the legal entity) since 1 November 2018.

According to the registration data requirements (issued with IFA v6) we will be implementing a new rule in the GLOBALG.A.P. database soon (we will inform you three months prior to live deployment) that checks the uniqueness of the respective email address. This means that the same email address may not occur twice under "Organization email" in the GLOBALG.A.P. database. If the same email exists for two producers, the system will recognize the fact and the CB will not be able to continue managing these two clients as they will be blocked as long as a duplicate email address exists.

Referring to technical news 03/2018 and 02/2022: Please be aware that the same rules also **apply** to Option 3 individual producers and Option 4 producer groups.

Overview of the rules:

*   Producer groups:

    As we do not foresee a situation in which a producer group does not have an email address, it is compulsory to enter a unique email address as of now. "N/A" is not allowed!

*   For Option 1/3 individual producers (single site, multisite with or without QMS) and Option 2/4 producer group members:

    It is currently possible to enter "N/A" under organization email in the database.

    Please note, however, that in the **future,** according to the new GLOBALG.A.P. registration data requirements, section 3.1.1 i), it will become **mandatory to enter the unique organization email for the certificate holders** (Option 1 and Option 3 individual producer and Option 2 and Option 4 producer group).

We therefore strongly recommend that you start entering the unique organization email addresses as soon as possible, where available.

For Option 2/4 producer group members, entering an email **will remain voluntary** and **"N/A" may be entered** (see GLOBALG.A.P. registration data requirements, section 3.1.1 i))

6.6 Same certificate validity for IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS (New)

We hereby inform CBs that the GLOBALG.A.P. IFA v6 Smart certificate and the GLOBALG.A.P. IFA v6 GFS certificate for the same legal entity **must** have the same validity regardless of the products.

Example: If the certificate validity for IFA v6 Smart started on 1 January 2023 and a GLOBALG.A.P. IFA v6 GFS certificate is added later (e.g., 28 February 2023), the same validity shall apply and both certificates shall have the same "valid to" date (31 December 2023). The valid to date of the **currently** valid certificate is decisive.

7 PRODUCT LIST UPDATES (NEW)

There have been some updates to the GLOBALG.A.P. product list.

The latest versions of the GLOBALG.A.P. product list (v5.16 and v6.0_Mar23) are available on the GLOBALG.A.P. website:

GLOBALG.A.P. product list v5.16

GLOBALG.A.P. product list v6.0_Mar23

Product name	Change/ Comment	Applicable IFA version		Sub-scope/Product category ID numbers				
		v5	v6	FV	PPM	CC	FO	AQ
Plantain	Added *Musa paradisiaca* under "Plantain"	X	X	141	616			
Agave	Change the name "Tequila plant" to "Agave." This product not yet available under IFA v6 due to combinable crops (CC) product category not yet launched.	X				100905		
Walnut	Walnut changed to singular	X	X	193	656			

Product name	Change/ Comment	Applicable IFA version		Sub-scope/Product category ID numbers				
		v5	v6	FV	PPM	CC	FO	AQ
Common octopus	Common octopus was incorrectly allocated under "seaweed" in v5 PDF version, now moved to "molluscs." Was correct under v6 in the PDF document.	X						100944
Edible chrysanthemum	Edible chrysanthemum re-added as a separate product.	X	X	309	743			
Hop shoot	Hop shoots (consumed as a vegetable), moved to product category fruit and vegetables from 1 October 2022. This change only affects IFA v6.		X	99523				
Astragalus/Milk vetch	New product. Not yet available under plant propagation material (PPM) for IFA v6.	X	X	100947	100948			
Bulb (end product bulb) (end consumer)*	New product. Definition added – see below	X	X				100950	
Red dulse	New product added under aquaculture (AQ) – seaweed	X	X					100952
Red tilapia	New product added under AQ – Finfish	X	X					100949

Product name	Change/ Comment	Applicable IFA version		Sub-scope/Product category ID numbers				
		v5	v6	FV	PPM	CC	FO	AQ
Lemon stardust (herb)	This product will move to edible flowers from 1 June 2023	X	X	100161	100163			
Common bean	Changed to "Green bean" and scientific name changed to *Phaseolus vulgaris*	X	X	10	502			
Peruvian mint (herb)	Changed to Peruvian mint/Huacatay (herb)	X	X	100160	100162			

***Bulb (end product bulb) (end consumer):** Bulbs of flowering plants sold directly to the end consumer.

<u>Additional reminder for the sub-scope/product category fruit and vegetables:</u>

In situations where one species of a product is registered for certification and the other species is not registered for certification, parallel ownership shall apply. For example, the blueberry species *Vaccinium corymbosum* is registered for certification, but the species *V. angustifolium is not.* This is a case of parallel ownership.

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Sincerely,

GLOBALG.A.P. Certification Body Administration, Benchmarking, and Compliance team