



GFSI BENCHMARKING UPDATE

27th January 2012 – Paris, France

On 5th January 2011, GFSI released the Sixth Edition of its Guidance Document. Food safety scheme owners whose food safety management schemes had been previously recognised against the Fifth Edition of the Guidance Document were given until 31st December 2011 to reapply for full benchmarking against the Sixth Edition.

The GFSI Guidance Document was drafted with input from food safety experts from all over the world, and defines the process by which food safety schemes may gain recognition by GFSI and gives guidance to these schemes.

Benchmarking is a “procedure by which a food safety-related scheme is compared to the GFSI Guidance Document”. Upon completion of the benchmarking process, a food safety management scheme is ‘recognised’ by GFSI when all of its criteria are considered to be equivalent to the requirements set out in the GFSI Guidance Document. Achieving equivalence against a common set of requirements means that GFSI recognized schemes have a common foundation for managing food safety which should provide consistent audit results.

Benchmarking Status Update

We are pleased to announce that the following schemes are currently going through the GFSI Benchmarking Process:

BRC Global Standard for Food Safety and BRC/IoP Global Standard for Packaging and Packaging Materials

CanadaGAP (Canadian Horticultural Council On-Farm Food Safety Program)

FSSC 22000

Global Aquaculture Alliance Seafood Processing Standard

GLOBALG.A.P.

Global Red Meat Standard (GRMS)

IFS Food

PrimusGFS

SQF

In the GFSI Guidance Document Sixth Edition, GFSI committed to full transparency throughout the benchmarking process. To this end, regular updates on each scheme’s progress will be available on www.mygfsi.com, as well as an overview of the scopes of recognition covered by the applicant scheme.

Transitional Arrangements for Benchmarking

In order to guarantee a smooth transition period, all of the schemes listed above will retain recognition against the GFSI Guidance Document Fifth Edition until they are recognised against the Sixth Edition. However, at the end of the benchmarking process, these schemes will lose their status if the GFSI Board cannot grant recognition on the basis of the application.

GFSI Benchmarking and its Relevance for the Food Industry

GFSI does not undertake any certification or accreditation activities. Instead, GFSI encourages buying companies to accept certificates issued during third party audits against the GFSI recognised schemes, thus enabling their suppliers to work more effectively through less audits. As a result, resources can be redirected to continually ensure the quality of food produced and sold worldwide. Many major retail, manufacturer and food service companies have come to a common acceptance of the GFSI recognised food safety schemes. Through its collective efforts the food industry is aiming to enhance food safety and quality, ensure consumer protection and strengthen consumer confidence worldwide while driving cost efficiencies in the supply chain and reducing the duplication of audits.

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GFSI Guidance Document Sixth Edition

The GFSI Guidance Document Sixth Edition was issued after global food safety industry stakeholders agreed on common criteria for food safety best practice. The document was drafted by the GFSI Guidance Document Technical Working Group and supported through two global stakeholder consultation during which over 5000 comments were received.



The document is divided into four parts:

Part I – The Benchmarking Process

Specifies the process by which food safety schemes may gain recognition and gives guidance to these schemes covering:

- the requirements for the key steps in the GFSI benchmarking process,
- the systems and procedures relating to the GFSI benchmarking process,
- the requirements for selection for the GFSI Benchmark Committee members.

Part II – Requirements for the Management of Schemes

Specifies the requirements to be put in place by a food safety scheme seeking recognition by GFSI covering:

- requirements for eligibility of a food safety scheme to be considered for benchmarking by GFSI,
- requirements for food safety scheme ownership and management,
- requirements for food safety scheme supporting systems,
- requirements for continuing recognition by GFSI, if recognition status is granted.

Part III – Scheme Scope and Key Elements

For each GFSI scope of recognition, this section defines:

- Food safety management systems requirements,
- Good Practice requirements,
- HACCP or HACCP based requirements,

to be in place in the scheme's standard.

Part IV – Glossary of Terms

GFSI Scopes of Recognition - Current

The scope of the Guidance Document Sixth Edition published in January 2011 will ultimately cover the whole of the food and feed supply chain and associated services. The current version of the GFSI Guidance Document covers the following scopes of recognition:

- A1 Farming of Animals
- AII All Farming of Fish
- B1 Farming of Plants
- BII Farming of Grains and Pulses
- C Animal Conversion (*included in August 2011*)
- D Pre Processing Handling of Plant Products
- E1 Processing of Animal Perishable Products
- EII Processing of Plant Perishable Products
- EIII Processing of Animal and Plant Perishable Products (Mixed Products)
- EIV Processing of Ambient Stable Products
- L Production of (Bio) Chemicals
- M Production of Food Packaging (*included in August 2011*)

GFSI Scopes of Recognition - Future

Key elements will be drafted for the following scopes of recognition over the course of 2012 and 2013:

- F Production of Feed
- G Catering
- H Retail / Wholesale
- I Provision of Food Safety Services
- JI Provision of Transport and Storage Services (Perishable Food and Feed)
- JII Provision of Transport and Storage Services (Ambient Stable Food and Feed)
- K Manufacture of Food Processing Equipment
- N Food Broker / Agent

GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE



The Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) is a business-driven initiative for the continuous improvement of food safety management systems to ensure confidence in the delivery of safe food to consumers worldwide. GFSI was launched in 2000 following a number of food safety crises when consumer confidence was at an all-time low. Its collaborative approach to food safety brings together international food safety experts from the entire food supply chain at technical working group and stakeholder meetings, conferences and regional events to share knowledge and promote a harmonized approach to managing food safety across the industry. GFSI is managed by an industry-driven Board of Directors and supported by The Consumer Goods Forum Board of Directors.

THE CONSUMER GOODS FORUM



The Consumer Goods Forum (CGF) is a global, parity-based industry network, driven by its members. It brings together the CEOs and senior management of over 650 retailers, manufacturers, service providers and other stakeholders across 70 countries and reflects the diversity of the industry in geography, size, product category and format.

The Forum's vision is: "Better lives through better business". To fulfil this, its members have given the Forum a mandate to develop common positions on key strategic and operational issues affecting the consumer goods business, with a strong focus on non-competitive process improvement. The Forum's success is driven by the active participation of the key players in the sector, who together develop and lead the implementation of best practices along the value chain.

With its headquarters in Paris and its regional offices in Washington, D.C., and Tokyo, the CGF serves its members throughout the world.

For more information, please visit www.mygfsi.com

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