

GFSI Benchmarking Requirements

What's Changing in Versions 7, 7.1 and 7.2

WHY A NEW VERSION?

At GFSI, we drive harmonisation and continuous improvement in food safety systems through our extensive benchmarking and recognition work. Over the past seventeen years, experts in GFSI working groups have collectively created the world's most widely accepted fundamental benchmarking requirements for food safety management, laid out in the **GFSI Benchmarking Requirements**. Aligned with Codex Alimentarius, these science-based requirements incorporate stakeholder input and are regularly revised to promote best-practice and evolving needs in the industry.

WHAT'S NEW?

Version 7 and version 7.1, released in 2016 and 2017 respectively, includes additions to the technical content, improvements in the assessment process, a shift in format and some terminology updates.



CONTENT

New clauses to continue to raise the bar while reflecting changes in the marketplace and new regulations relating to food safety.



FORMAT

Version 7 adopts a more user-friendly online **modular approach**, with a dedicated document for each scope of the supply chain.



PROCESS

Calls for a more robust and independent process for increased **transparency and objectivity**.



TERMINOLOGY

Guidance Document >
Benchmarking Requirements
Scheme Owner >
Certification Programme Owner (CPO)

WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

A SHARED REFERENCE

- Fosters a harmonised approach to food safety.
- An ever-more critical tool to advance food safety worldwide.
- Robust process and requirements to further raise the bar and drive confidence in food integrity and safety.

A FOOD SAFETY PASSPORT

- Creates a common understanding and mutual trust in the supply chain.
- Facilitates trade and improves efficiencies.
- Lends nameplate authority to operations certified to a recognised programme.



NEW CONTENT

Version 7 and subsequent versions (7.1 and 7.2) include both new clauses and new scopes, which contributes to expanding GFSI's inclusive farm-to-fork approach.

It was critical for issues such as **food fraud and food defense** to be addressed and built into our requirements. GFSI worked with subject matter experts to strengthen requirements on **auditor competence**, building in a consistent baseline for clear skill sets, experience and education. **Unannounced audits** have long been seen a critical tool to increase confidence in certifications. Finally, the addition of **new scopes** reflects GFSI's commitment to continually strengthen its comprehensive supply chain approach.



FOOD FRAUD & FOOD DEFENSE

All scopes now include the requirements for a **food defense plan and a food fraud mitigation plan**.



UNANNOUNCED AUDITS

Certification Programme Owners are now required to offer **unannounced audits** in their audit programme.



AUDITOR COMPETENCE

V7.2 will add a standardised questionnaire to the auditor's assessment programme, for more consistency across evaluations.



NEW SCOPES

Food Brokers and Agents (N) has been added to V7.1 while V7.2 will include both **Food Service (G) and Retail and Wholesale (H)**.



NEW PROCESSES

The aim of changes made to the GFSI benchmarking process is to **increase transparency and objectivity**. Importantly, GFSI is reinforcing annual assessment for recognised CPOs.



SELF-ASSESSMENT

CPOs now score themselves in this step of the process and discuss their results with the benchmark leader. This provides more visibility on the potential outcome of their assessment.



OFFICE VISIT

The self-assessment is complemented with an office visit, during which the management of the programme is verified through record review.



INDEPENDENT ASSESSORS

Benchmark leaders are selected, trained and appointed to CPOs to serve as independent assessors.



INTEGRITY PROGRAMME +

Recognised CPOs are re-assessed every year against the latest version of the GFSI Benchmarking Requirements, further strengthening confidence in the process.



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