



# BRCGS Global Food Safety Standard

## Worldwide Standard for food safety



### MOTIVATION AND BENEFITS

The BRCGS Global Food Safety Standard is the market-leading program of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI). It sets clear food safety requirements and covers 18 different food categories in total.

**The standard provides a framework to manage product safety, integrity, legality and quality, as well as the operational controls for these criteria in the food and food ingredient manufacturing, processing and packing industry.**

The standard is recognized worldwide and is designed to reflect best practices and provide a traceable, risk-based approach to product safety and certification.

### OBJECTIVES

The program:

- is recognized at international level, including GFSI benchmarking;
- provides a single standard and a protocol that regulates accredited auditing by external certification bodies and enables a credible, independent assessment of a company's product safety and quality systems;
- covers a comprehensive scope (quality, legality, product safety, food defense, authenticity);
- helps to reduce waste, complaints, recalls and rejected products;
- enables companies to ensure that their suppliers adhere to good product safety practices;
- provides a framework for developing quality and hygiene management systems in companies and promotes continual improvement, waste reduction and increased efficiency;
- offers a range of audit options, including announced and unannounced audit programs;
- is suitable for companies with multiple sites including headquarters, outsourced operations, and external warehouses operated entirely by the certified site;
- enables listing in the publicly available BRC Global Standards Directory upon successful certification.

### TARGET GROUP

- All manufacturing and packaging stages of the supply chain from primary processing of agricultural products to manufacturers of consumer products.
- Companies that produce private label products and/or own market products of customers or that process and package food products and pet food on behalf of customers.
- The standard may also include traded goods in its scope (manufacturers who also offer wholesale products that they buy and sell, but do not process).
- The food standard covers all food categories including pet foods.

### CRITERIA

The standard is divided into 9 sections:

- Senior Management Commitment
- The Food Safety Plan – HACCP
- Food Safety and Quality Management System





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- Site Standards
- Product Control
- Process Control
- Personnel
- Production Risk Zones – High-risk, High-care and Ambient High-care
- Traded Goods

There are several audit options:

- Announced
- Unannounced\*)
- Mixed/Blended (a two-part remote and on-site audit)

\*) Note that it is a GFSI requirement that at least one unannounced audit is conducted every three years.

## ACCREDITATION

Quality Austria – Trainings, Zertifizierungs und Begutachtungs GmbH has been accredited by Accreditation Austria acc. to ISO/IEC 17065 for certifications based on BRCGS since February 2006 and is thus recognized as an Austrian certification body by BRCGS.

## OTHER RELEVANT NORMS

BRCGS Standards (Packaging Materials, Storage and Distribution, START!, Agents and Brokers, Gluten-Free, FSMA (Food Safety Modernisation Act) preparedness module and Global GAP CoC through BRCGS)

## QUALITY AUSTRIA – WHO WE ARE

We are the leading Austrian contact for the Integrated Management System, based on quality, environmental and OH&S (occupational health and safety) management, and the topic of business excellence. Our main focuses are system and product certification, training and personal certification. We are accredited by Accreditation Austria for system, product as well as personal certification and have many international registrations and accreditations. Furthermore, we present the Austrian Excellence Award together with the BMWA (Federal Ministry for Economy and Work) and award the Austria Quality Seal.

Additionally, we organize several forums and conferences and have issued numerous publications. We participate actively in standardization bodies and international networks such as EOQ, IQNET and EFQM. We cooperate with some 50 partner and member organizations worldwide and thus ensure the facilitation of global know-how.

Having more than 1.000 auditors, trainers, assessors and technical experts all over the world, we ensure the successful implementation of standards and regulations within the organizations and provide sector and product specific knowledge with a very high focus on practical relevance. More than 10.000 customers in approx. 30 countries and over 6.000 annual participants in our trainings benefit from the long-standing expertise of our organization. We adapt our offer according to our clients' needs and support them in achieving their long-term goals!



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