

Dear GLOBALG.A.P. scheme manager,

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## 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, 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 of your registered staff by sending your request to Valentin Pazachev at: [pazachev@globalgap.org](mailto: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-xx 2020*. Chapters with new information have been marked with (NEW) next to the title.

## 2. INTEGRATED FARM ASSURANCE (IFA)

### 2.1. VERSION 6 DEVELOPMENT PROCESS EXTENDED

*Previously communicated: 4 December 2020*

As you may already know, GLOBALG.A.P. is currently reviewing its Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) standard for the launch of a new version. We are putting in every effort to bring a fully tested and functional version 6 to the market. In order to do so, and in light of the ongoing pandemic, the GLOBALG.A.P. Board has decided to extend the revision phase. As a result, the launch of the Fruit and Vegetables and Aquaculture standards of version 6 have been postponed until April 2022. The Flowers and Ornamentals standard may be launched earlier.

#### **What are the reasons for extending the development phase?**

We have seen a very successful first round of public consultation. Hundreds of people have taken part in our ongoing World Consultation Tour, and we have received over 1,000 comments. Nevertheless, the coronavirus pandemic has hindered participation from many important parties, such as certification bodies and focus groups. Rather than launch a standard that is not fully consulted and tested, the GLOBALG.A.P. Board has decided to extend the timeline of development. The extension will allow more time for stakeholders to give their input and for sufficient testing. Field trials, which are critical for testing the new approach on farm level and assessing its auditability before the launch, and a third public consultation period will take place in 2021.

#### **What does this mean for the timeline of events?**

The launch of version 6 was originally planned for September 2021, with obligatory implementation as of September 2022. The timeline has now been extended as follows:

- The field trials – originally planned for December 2020 to January 2021 – will take place in May to June 2021, alongside an additional (third) public consultation period.
- Version 6 Fruit and Vegetables and the Aquaculture standards will be finalized and published in April 2022, with the usual transition period of one year. They will therefore become obligatory in April 2023.

Please see [our website](#) for a visual timeline.

### **What can you do now?**

Stay tuned for the latest developments of version 6. The World Consultation Tour kicked off another round at the start of December 2020, which offers you the opportunity to check back in and review the changes made since the first round of public consultation. Or, if you missed the first public consultation round, you may use this opportunity to have your say in the development of version 6. In a further communication, GLOBALG.A.P. will contact approved certification bodies as we will need your assistance in organizing the version 6 field trials.

Thank you for your input and engagement so far and for your patience with the latest developments. GLOBALG.A.P. remains committed to bringing the best-possible version of our flagship standard to the market.

## **2.2. PRE-CHECKLIST FOR IFA FV V5.2 CERTIFICATION IN AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND, AND GERMANY**

*Previously communicated: 20 November 2020*

The following document is an effort of the National Technical Working Group Germany/Austria/Switzerland. The developed document is a questionnaire consisting of 21 questions, leading to automated completion of correlated control points and compliance criteria (CPCCs) in the checklist. It is an offer to the inspector/auditor to be able avoid repetitive work in the checklist and thus conduct a thorough and efficient inspection/audit. The document can also be used by the producer ahead of the inspection/audit when conducting the self-assessment. Please find the "Vorfragebogen" in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center [here](#).

## **2.3. EXTENDED EMERGENCY MEASURES RELATING TO THE UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION (OPTION 1) AND UNANNOUNCED QMS AUDIT REQUIREMENTS**

*Previously communicated: 10 February 2021*

In the Technical News issue 5/2020, GLOBALG.A.P. reduced the percentage of required unannounced inspection/audits/assessments from 10% to 5% for all GLOBALG.A.P. standards (this includes HPSS, the PHA standard, and the IFA v5.2 and IFA v5.3-GFS standards) and add-ons in 2020. Due to the continuing pandemic, GLOBALG.A.P. has decided to extend this exception to 2021, until further notice. The 5% can be performed remotely in part or in full. The on-/off-site module may also be used for unannounced audits/inspections. Unannounced inspections/audits may also be conducted completed remotely. Please note that inspections/audits against IFA v5.3-GFS, IFA v5.4-GFS, HPSS, and PHA cannot be completely remote because of the GFSI requirement.

The 5% reduction is also allowed for the following private add-ons:

- AH-DLL GROW v3 (Albert Heijn add-on)
- Nurture Module
- GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS (McDonald's add-on)

## 2.4. IFA V5.4-GFS ONLINE EXAM

*Previously communicated: 10 December 2020*

As announced in our Technical News issue 04/2020, the IFA v5.4-GFS update online exam for FV and AQ is now available in **English**. All inspectors and auditors registered for this scope/sub-scope with English as working language need to pass this exam by **10 March 2021**.

*Previously communicated: 8 January 2021*

The IFA v5.4 GFS update online exams for FV and AQ are now available in Spanish. All inspectors and auditors registered for this scheme with Spanish as working language need to pass this exam by **10 April 2021** in order to conduct an inspection/audit against IFA v5.4-GFS.

## 2.5. IFA V5.3-GFS FEES

*Previously communicated: 11 December 2020*

As announced in our Technical News issue 01/2020, from 1 June 2020, higher fees apply for IFA v5.3-GFS (see GLOBALG.A.P. fee table, 2.12 & 2.13). Those fees were charged from 1 July 2020. In December 2020, we sent the CBs the invoices charging the difference on the IFA v5.2 fee to the IFA v5.3-GFS fee for the June 2020 invoice.

In addition, some producers were transferred from IFA v5.2 to IFA v5.3-GFS. A higher fee also applies for those, which was charged in December 2020.

Please note that the higher fees also apply for IFA v5.4-GFS.

## 2.6. GENERAL REMINDER FOR IFA CERTIFICATE ISSUANCE (NEW)

We would like to remind approved CBs that the certificate issuance is available immediately upon the certification decision, except for transfer clients. Waiting for expiry of the previous certificate cycle before issuing the new certificate to the producer is therefore not best practice.

For IFA v5.3-GFS, IFA v5.4-GFS, and the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR) add-on, the full report and the FSMA PSR certificate of conformance shall be provided to the producer. Therefore, except for transfer clients, certificates shall be issued to the producer upon certification decision and the fully completed checklists and reports provided within 5 days of a producer's request.

## 3. ADD-ON RELATED UPDATES

### 3.1. SPRING ADD-ON

*Previously communicated: 4 February 2020*

The online exam for the SPRING add-on v1.1 is available in English and Spanish. All SPRING assessors registered with English and/or Spanish as working language shall pass this exam before their first assessment.

All pilot SPRING online exam results are transferred to the SPRING v1.1 online exam. Assessors who passed the pilot SPRING online exam do not need to take the SPRING v1.1 online exam.

## 3.2. GRASP ADD-ON

### 3.2.1. EXTENSION OF GRASP V1.3 ASSESSMENT VALIDITY IN THE DATABASE (NEW)

To enable the 4-month assessment extensions in the GLOBALG.A.P. database, the GRASP add-on version validity in the GLOBALG.A.P. database **has been extended to 31 May 2021**. Please note that this is **not** an exception to conduct new GRASP assessments under v1.3 because the new v1.3-1-i applies exclusively as of 1 February 2021. In case of scope extension of GRASP v1.3 assessments (adding new products, additional sites, or new producer group members), the rules of v1.3 shall be applied.

### 3.2.2. CLARIFICATION ON SAMPLING RULE (NEW)

This section clarifies sections 5.2 b) and c) “Sample Size for Employee Interviews in Option 2 and 4” and 5.2.1 “Sampling Cascade” of the GRASP general rules v1.3-1-i, edition 1.1.

These sections refer to the method to calculate the sample size of interviews in a producer group assessment. Once the sample for the external assessment is decided by the assessor, the selection (i.e., the list of producer group members in the sample) shall be provided to the group’s management representative. Then the manager of the group will request from each producer group member selected in the sample the approximate number of employees who are (or will be) present on the day of assessment. The size of the interview sample (in the overall assessment) will be the square root of the sum of employees who have been reported present at the selected producer group member. The number of interviews that shall be conducted is then distributed among the producer group members selected for the CB assessment.

The assessor does not need to gather the employees for group interview(s) in one place. Rather, after distribution, the assessor will be able to calculate the logistics of the overall assessment and the number of interviews per site. The assessor shall conduct these employee interviews at each of the sites of the producer members selected for external assessment.

Further technical details on this sampling rule and other clarifications will be issued at a later date.

### 3.2.3. CLARIFICATION ON GRASP SCOPE (NEW)

#### **Subcontractors**

Employees who do not perform agricultural work on farm but whose work is indirectly related to production shall be included in the GRASP assessment as well. This includes security staff, office personnel (e.g., HR), drivers and machine operators, cleaning staff, and so on. Producers need to comply with the GRASP requirements for these staff members as well.

#### **Assessing subcontractors**

1. Subcontracted product handling unit (PHU) with GRASP proof of assessment

Producer (producer A) that also handles products applies for GRASP with a certification body (CB1). Product handling is subcontracted and carried out by another producer (producer B) who was already assessed against GRASP by his certification body (CB2). As product handling was already included in the assessment through CB 2, the assessment result can be accepted by CB1 for producer A.

In this case, the GRASP checklist shall indicate:

- the GGN of producer B.
- that the subcontracted PHU has been assessed against GRASP.
- the compliance level of this GRASP assessment.
- that it was not assessed by CB1, but producer A uses a PHU that has already been assessed against GRASP under the responsibility of CB2.

The assessment results can be accepted only for the current assessment cycle.

## 2. Other subcontracted companies

Other subcontracted activities can be carried out by specialized companies (not by other producers) – for example, for weeding, soil preparation, spraying, pest and rodent control, aerial baiting, fumigation, and so on. If the same subcontracted company (e.g., company C) supplies multiple GRASP-assessed producers with the same activity, and the activity was already included in the GRASP assessment (e.g., by CB3), the assessment result may be accepted for other producers (by CB3 or by other CBs).

Consequently, the subcontractor shall be assessed annually – at least once for each assessment cycle – by one of the respective certification bodies.

In this case, the subcontractors shall have their own assessment report provided by an approved CB (approved for IFA and GRASP). The report will be kept by the subcontractors and the CB.

Furthermore, the CB shall prepare a letter of conformance for the subcontractor with the following information:

- Date of assessment
- Name of the certification body
- Assessor name
- Details of the subcontractor, indicating the extent of the activities that have been assessed by the CB3
- List of the inspected control points and compliance criteria (mentioning at least the headers, not necessarily the content and the result)
- Overall compliance level

Proofs, letters, reports, or certificates issued to subcontractors against other standards that are not officially approved by GLOBALG.A.P. are not valid evidence of compliance with GRASP.

The subcontractors shall distribute this letter of conformance to all producers they provide services to.

### 3.2.4. CLARIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION SCOPE OF ANNEX VI (NEW)

This section clarifies the scope of application of Annex VI of the GRASP general rules v1.3-1-i, edition 1.1.

Annex VI indicates that it can be applied when “authorities at a local and/or national level declare a COVID-19-related state of emergency (verifiable evidence of public announcement (declaring and/or lifting)).”

“Related state of emergency” refers to any type of local and/or national authority instruction that could impact conducting interviews, such as limitations on gatherings, prescribed distances when gathering, and other instructions not described here.

Therefore, if the GRASP assessment is possible on a production site but gatherings are limited due to a mandate from a local or national authority, then the procedures included in Annex VI can be applied by the assessor.

### 3.2.5. GRASP GENERAL RULES V1.3-1-I (ENGLISH VERSION)

*Previously communicated: 7 December 2020 and re-sent 1 February 2021*

The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat has issued *edition 1.1. of the GRASP general rules v1.3-1-i* (English version). This edition includes the “GRASP Country Risk Classification Concept, Sampling Rules for Groups and PHUs.” Edition 1.1 contains the GRASP interview protocol as well, subject to the restrictive conditions due to the pandemic and in remote assessments.

Changes in detail:

- New “Mandatory from” date
- Clarification added in:
  - 5.2.1. “Subcontractors”
  - 6.2.1.c. “In Countries Where GRASP NIGs Exist” (6.2 “Technical Skills and Qualifications”)
  - 6.2.2.a) i. “In Countries without GRASP National Interpretation Guidelines (no-NIG countries)”
  - 6.3. “Maintenance of Competency”
- Addition in Annex IV: Proof of assessment template
- New Annex V: “GRASP Country Risk Classification Concept” – already published in the Technical News issue 3/2020. *New in this document: Section 5.2.a-c*
- New Annex VI “GLOBALG.A.P. COVID-19 INTERVIEW PROTOCOL”

Following translations are available:

Italian, Spanish, French, German, Greek, Polish, Portuguese, Turkish, Dutch, Vietnamese

You will find the GRASP version 1.3-1-i documents in the GLOBALG.A.P. document center.

### 3.2.6. VOLUNTARY SELF-PACED GRASP UPDATE COURSE (NEW)

On 13 November 2020, the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat launched a voluntary self-paced GRASP update course on the GLOBALG.A.P. Academy platform explaining the risk classification concept and the employee interview methodology in 11 languages. Recent analysis of completed courses show a low interest for these courses. Based on the reports that have been created, the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat has decided to provide the course only in English and Spanish. The course in these two languages will be permanently available.

Interested users have the possibility to sign up on the platform and visit the course (<https://cbgrasp-globalgapacademy.talentlms.com/index>).

### 3.3. FSMA-PSR ADD-ON AND IFA V5.4-GFS (NEW)

The IFA v5.4-GFS incorporates updates from GFSI v2020 intended to address FSMA PSR requirements. In consultation with CBs and other stakeholders, GLOBALG.A.P. will not release a new version of the FSMA PSR add-on specifically for IFA v5.4-GFS, as it would require

parallel versions for IFA v5.2/IFA v5.3-GFS and IFA v5.4-GFS. All FSMA PSR add-on reports are required to be uploaded into the Audit Online Hub, and there are only two add-on control points (PSR 1.1 and PSR 4.3) impacted by IFA v5.4-GFS. Therefore, the FSMA PSR add-on v1.2 checklist in the Audit Online Hub (AOH) (and only the AOH checklist) has been updated to reflect that “N/A” is possible for these two control points when producers are already in compliance with IFA v5.4-GFS FV 5.1.1 and FV 5.1.4. In other words, because IFA v5.4-GFS FV 5.1.1 and FV 5.1.4 have been assessed with the IFA v5.4-GFS checklist, these points can be marked “N/A” in the FSMA PSR checklist.

### 3.4. AH-DLL GROW ADD-ON V3

#### 3.4.1. VALIDITY DATES AND TRANSITION PERIOD FROM V2 TO V3

*Previously communicated: 10 December 2020*

This is to clarify how the “Valid from” date for the AH-DLL GROW v3 add-on is considered, especially in cases where the initial assessment against the AH-DLL GROW add-on v3 is added mid-cycle (as allowed in the AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications 5.2.1 a) and 5.2.2 a)).

When the AH-DLL GROW add-on is added mid-cycle, the validity of the letter of conformance shall be adjusted to match the GLOBALG.A.P. IFA cycle. This is done by shortening the “Valid to” date of the AH-DLL GROW cycle in order to align it with the GLOBALG.A.P. IFA “Valid to” date.

In case of the transition from AH v2 to AH-DLL GROW v3, we allow delaying the “Date of certification decision” to start a matching cycle.

To align the validities, the CB shall enter the “Valid from” date of the next GLOBALG.A.P. IFA certificate as “Date of certification decision/Assessment date” for AH-DLL GROW in the GLOBALG.A.P. database, which will then be taken as the “Valid from” date for the AH-DLL GROW letter of conformance. This can only be done on the actual “Valid from” date or later. Please document this reason internally as the 28-day-rule might be “broken” by this.

Please note that AH v2 reports may still be uploaded in the database after 1 November 2020 – provided that the assessments have been carried out before 1 November 2020. The validity of AH v2 was extended in the GLOBALG.A.P. database (30 April 2021 at the latest). The same applies to scope extensions: new products can be added to a running assessment against AH v2 during its validity period.

Extensions of AH v2 assessments’ validity are allowed as well. The validity of a letter of conformance can be extended for AH v2 up to a maximum of 6 months (here the generic COVID-19 procedure applies). However, the subsequent assessment shall be performed against AH-DLL GROW v3, not AH v2 (as no new assessment can be done against AH v2 from 1 November 2020).

Please contact the Customer Support Team ([customer\\_support@globalgap.org](mailto:customer_support@globalgap.org)) in case of any queries.



### **3.4.2. CLARIFICATION OF AH-DLL GROW ADD-ON GENERAL RULES SPECIFICATIONS**

Previously communicated: 10 February 2021

#### **1. Assessments against AH-DLL GROW Add-on with IFA**

- a) It is *not* possible to carry out assessments against the AH-DLL GROW add-on on its own (see AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications sections 5.2.1 a) and 5.2.2 a)). Therefore, the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations shall also apply to the assessment process for the AH-DLL GROW add-on.
- b) The AH-DLL GROW add-on can be assessed against any of the currently valid IFA versions (v5.2, v5.3-GFS or v5.4-GFS) (see AH-DLL GROW checklist module 1–1.3 a)).
- c) In the case of the initial/first assessment of a producer against the AH-DLL GROW add-on v3, the add-on can be added mid-cycle (see AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications sections 5.2.1 a) and 5.2.2 a)). However, in such a case, harvest or the relevant agronomic activities shall be observed. The producer shall receive a *full* IFA inspection again together with the AH-DLL GROW add-on, even if they are already certified against IFA. The CB does not re-register the producer for IFA, but just conducts the IFA inspection again with the AH-DLL GROW add-on. The AH-DLL GROW assessment cycle shall then correspond to the existing IFA certification cycle.
- d) Currently, the IFA inspection and the assessment against the AH-DLL GROW add-on can be performed by two different CBs. However, this will incur high costs to the producer because the assessment against the AH-DLL GROW add-on must always be done in combination with the IFA standard. Therefore, the CB issuing the AH-DLL GROW letter of conformance shall always conduct a *full* IFA + GROW assessment.
- e) In the case of producers changing over from the AH Protocol v2 to AH-DLL GROW v3, the first assessment against the AH-DLL GROW add-on will be seen as a subsequent assessment.
- f) There is no automatic link between the IFA standard and the AH-DLL GROW add-on in the GLOBALG.A.P. database. The status is set per standard and can therefore be set to “suspended” for IFA and still remain “compliant” for AH-DLL GROW. This situation shall be avoided. However, database producer searches always show all results; if someone searches for a GGN in order to check that producer’s AH-DLL GROW status, they will therefore also see that producer’s IFA status.

#### **2. Service Providers**

- a) Currently, the updated list of service providers is given in the AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications section 2 under the definition of “service provider”. It includes Bakker Barendrecht, Bakker Belgium, Vezet, Nedato, Agrico, and Vogelaar Vredehof. If this list changes, GLOBALG.A.P. will update it via the CB Extranet.
- b) The producer shall be informed by the service provider about the AH-DLL GROW add-on requirements. The service provider can inform the producer in various ways, e.g., via e-mail (it may be a generic e-mail), by providing an AH-DLL GROW documentation package and/or booklet with instructions, through a specific platform (e.g., app), etc. Evidence of this communication shall be provided to the CB when applying for the AH-DLL GROW add-on assessment (see AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications section 4.1 a)). The producer cannot be assessed until evidence is available that the producer has been informed. In some cases, the service provider will send this information directly to the producer, but it may also be sent to the supplier. In both cases, there must be acceptable evidence to present to the CB.
- c) Producers/Suppliers are also required to send the completed checklist and applicable forms back to the service provider. This is given as point 8 of the "Guidance" sheet in the AH-DLL GROW checklist. Producers/Suppliers will receive details on how to submit the

evidence to the service provider in the service provider's information package/booklet/e-mail about the AH-DLL GROW add-on requirements. If a producer does not submit the checklist and forms, the CB shall mention this in the "Summary and conclusion" sheet of the AH-DLL GROW checklist.

### **3. Assessment Process**

#### **3.1.1 Self-Assessments**

- a) Producers are required by the AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications section 5.1 a) to conduct a self-assessment against all the applicable sections of the AH-DLL GROW add-on. If a producer has not conducted a self-assessment, and therefore has not completed the AH-DLL GROW checklist or relevant forms, then they cannot be considered compliant with the AH-DLL GROW add-on or, in the case of incomplete self-assessments, even with a relevant module of the AH-DLL GROW add-on. This shall be clearly indicated in the "Summary and conclusion" sheet as part of the AH-DLL GROW checklist. The CB shall continue with the GROW assessment and complete the AH-DLL GROW checklist, as some requirements can still be checked by the CB, as long as the "Summary and conclusion" sheet as part of the AH-DLL GROW checklist clearly indicates that no self-assessment was performed.
- b) In terms of producer groups, each producer member shall annually conduct their own self-assessment. The internal inspector shall still conduct the internal inspection of 100% of producer members annually to verify that the AH-DLL GROW add-on requirements have been met. The producer group shall submit the information (as a group with an overall summary) to the service provider via the required platform.
- c) Before a new producer member who is to supply AH-DLL can be added to a producer group, the internal inspectors of the group shall conduct an internal assessment of that producer, before adding this producer to their list. The rest of the rules regarding new members described in GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations then apply.

#### **3.1.2 Duration and Timing**

- a) According to the AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications section 5.2.1 b) the duration of the AH-DLL GROW assessment is about 30 minutes per module. The overall duration of the assessment must be included in the "Summary and conclusion" sheet. If the time is different from (i.e., shorter or longer than) that given in the general rules specifications, the CB must justify the reason.
- b) The AH-DLL GROW assessment should be performed as close as possible to harvest, when there are products available to test (e.g., in microbiological/residue testing) (see AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications sections 5.2.1 c) and 5.2.2 d)).

#### **3.1.3 Option 2 Assessments**

- a) The assessment process for producer groups always follows the IFA process requirements.
- b) AH-DLL GROW requirements shall be incorporated as part of the QMS (see AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications section 5.2.2 a)).
- c) There is not a separate AH-DLL GROW checklist for Option 2 assessments.
- d) Sampling continues as per IFA requirements, even if an initial AH-DLL GROW add-on assessment occurs with a surveillance/subsequent inspection for IFA, as long as the sample of selected producer group members is always representative of the number of AH-DLL GROW producers in that group (see AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications section 5.2.2 b)).

#### **3.1.4 Unannounced Assessments**

- a) Refer to the AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications, section 5.3 "Unannounced Assessments".

- (i) The AH-DLL GROW add-on requires unannounced inspections. Therefore, if a producer supplying AH-DLL has been selected as part of the 10% rule, the producer shall be inspected unannounced (together with the IFA unannounced inspection). In such cases, the AH-DLL GROW assessment report shall also be uploaded to the GLOBALG.A.P. database.
- (ii) If the AH-DLL GROW add-on is assessed for the *first time*, but as part of an unannounced IFA inspection (the AH-DLL GROW rules allow this possibility, see the AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications section 5.2.1 a)), then the AH-DLL GROW assessment report shall be uploaded to the GLOBALG.A.P. database.
- (iii) If a CB has only one producer that is assessed against the AH-DLL GROW add-on, then this producer shall be selected annually for the unannounced assessment.

### 3.1.5 Scoring

- a) Refer to the AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications section 6.1 “Requirements for Achieving and Maintaining Add-on Conformance”.
- b) Scoring is done per module (different sheets in the AH-DLL GROW checklist). To comply with a module, the producer needs to comply with 100% of Major Musts (see AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications sections 6.1 a) and c)).
- c) No scoring applies to the forms (see AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications, section 6.1 a)).
- d) A producer can still get a letter of conformance even if they have failed one or even two modules. The letter of conformance lists only those module(s) that the producer has fully complied with, i.e., those modules where no non-compliances with Majors Musts were identified.

AH-DLL GROW Add-on Version XXXX

Modules:

- e) If a producer complies with all modules, the producer is considered “**compliant**” with each module and overall “**conforming**” to the AH-DLL GROW add-on. If a producer complies with only one module, the producer is considered “**compliant**” with that one module, but “**not compliant**” with the other two modules, and the overall status will be listed as “**improvements needed**”. If a producer does not comply with any modules, the producer is considered “**not compliant**” with each module and overall as “**not conforming**” with the AH-DLL GROW add-on. Please refer to section 3.3.7 d) below for the statuses that will be listed in the GLOBALG.A.P. database.

### 3.1.6 Corrective Actions

- a) The producer is *not* required to send in any corrective actions to the CB after the AH-DLL GROW assessment (see AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications section 6.2 c)). The service provider and the producer will communicate (directly or via the supplier) to establish the required actions and improvements. The role of the CB is only to verify if the producer has implemented the applicable AH-DLL GROW requirements and what the result was on the day of assessment.
- b) A producer may implement corrective actions in consultation with the CB, but doing so will not influence the final AH-DLL GROW assessment report that is uploaded to the GLOBALG.A.P. database. Submitting corrective actions to the CB is therefore only optional.
- c) In the case of point b) above, those producers that have submitted corrective actions to their CBs and successfully closed out their non-compliances may inform their service provider (directly or via their supplier) that corrective actions have been submitted and accepted by the CB. However, this result will not be updated/uploaded to the GLOBALG.A.P. database.

- d) The AH-DLL GROW assessment report (checklist/summary document) that is uploaded to the GLOBALG.A.P. database shall contain the details of the findings **on the day of assessment**. The letter of conformance is then issued to reflect the modules the producer conformed to on the day of assessment (if any).

### 3.1.7 Letter of Conformance

- a) A CB can use their own digital format of the AH-DLL GROW letter of conformance as long as it includes at least all information required by the AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications, Annex 2 “AH-DLL GROW Add-on Letter of Conformance Template”).
- b) There is no electronic (E-) letter of conformance generated via the GLOBALG.A.P. database.
- c) The CB is required to upload the AH-DLL GROW assessment report. The CB may also upload an additional letter of conformance, but doing so is optional.
- d) On the letter of conformance template for the AH-DLL GROW add-on the following applies:
- (i) *Further columns, scope, sub-scope or product*: include e.g., harvest included/excluded; product handling included/excluded
  - (ii) *Number of producers/production sites*: applicable to Option 2/multisite producers; including the following options possible under the AH-DLL GROW scope:
    - i. For Option 2 (or a producer group) the item refers to the number of producer members registered for AH-DLL GROW in the producer group.
    - ii. For Option 1 multisite (with/without QMS) the item refers to the number of production sites.
    - iii. The letter of conformance shall consider only the number of producer members in the producer group that supply to AH-DLL.
- e) When the AH-DLL GROW add-on is added mid-cycle, the validity period/date of the letter of conformance shall be adjusted to match the IFA cycle.

In the case of a transition from the AH Protocol v2 to AH-DLL GROW v3, the “date of approval decision” can be delayed to start a matching cycle. Please document this reason internally, as the date change may appear to violate the 28-day-rule.

Scenario 1: Example

AH v2 validity: 3 March 2020 – 2 March 2021

Current IFA cycle: 5 May 2020 – 4 May 2021

Upcoming IFA cycle: 5 May 2021 – 4 May 2022

CB action:

1. Re-accept the AH Protocol v2 and enter an extension until May 2021.
  2. Certify AH-DLL GROW in May by choosing the “Valid from” date of the next GLOBALG.A.P. IFA certificate as the ‘Date of approval decision/Assessment date’ for AH-DLL GROW – in this case 5 May 2021. This will be taken as the “Valid from” date for the AH-DLL GROW letter of conformance. This can only be done on or after the actual “Valid from” date.
  3. Contact the Customer Support Team to de-accept the AH Protocol v2 cycle.
- f) There is no AH-DLL GROW logo available to include on the letter of conformance.

### 3.1.8 AH-DLL GROW Assessment Report and the GLOBALG.A.P. Database

- a) AH-DLL GROW assessment report (see AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications, additional rules 4)): The CB shall upload the outcome of the AH-DLL GROW assessment to the GLOBALG.A.P. database. *At minimum*, this shall include the “Summary and conclusion” sheet but may also include the full AH-DLL GROW checklist with the “Summary and conclusion” sheet. The AH-DLL GROW letter of conformance can be uploaded to the GLOBALG.A.P. database as well, but doing so is optional. If, and only if, there is a specific request to upload more information, then other documents such as forms may also be uploaded.

The AH-DLL GROW assessment report can be uploaded to the GLOBALG.A.P. database under “Upload > Checklist Upload”. The category “Audit Report” shall be selected. Please note that the documents can only be uploaded in PDF format or as protected Microsoft Word/Excel files.

- b) The AH-DLL GROW assessment report shall be uploaded after the certification decision for the IFA inspection has been taken. This is to ensure that the assessed producer is certified against IFA, as required by control point 1.3 a) in the AH-DLL GROW checklist. Therefore, the easiest is to link it with the IFA process.
- c) The results of the outcome of the AH-DLL GROW add-on assessment will be reflected in the GLOBALG.A.P. database as follows:

<b>Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Possible values</b>
residues_module	What is the residues module result?	0 = Not Compliant 1 = Compliant
hygiene_module	What is the hygiene module result?	0 = Not Compliant 1 = Compliant
foreign_body_module	What is the foreign body module result?	0 = Not Compliant 1 = Compliant
overall_assessment_result	What is the overall assessment result?	0 =Not Conforming 1 = Conform 2 = Improvements needed

### 3.1.9 CB Trainings and Online Test

- a) All AH-DLL GROW assessors shall be internally trained by **1 February 2021**. They should also pass the AH-DLL GROW online exam, if available in their respective language, by the **1 February 2021** deadline.

The online exam for the AH-DLL GROW add-on v3 is available since 26 February 2021 in Dutch. Not yet approved AH-DLL GROW assessors registered with Dutch as working language shall pass this exam before their first assessment. Already approved AH-DLL GROW assessors registered with Dutch as working language have 90 days – till **27 May 2021** to pass the training.

- b) Failing the exam twice requires that the assessor retry the exam in a proctored setting. Failing this third exam attempt requires that the assessor attend an AH-DLL GROW IHT training and pass the respective exam.
- c) In the case of *new* CBs/assessors that want to carry out assessments against the AH-DLL GROW add-on, the rules shall be followed as described in the AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications section 7 on assessor qualifications for new AH-DLL GROW add-on assessors.

### 3.4.3. CLARIFICATION OF AH-DLL GROW ADD-ON REQUIREMENTS

Previously communicated: 10 February 2021

#### 1. Module 1: Residue Monitoring

a) The following control points can be clarified as follows:

Control Point Number	Clarification/Comment
1.3 a)	The CB can only answer this requirement once all non-conformances from the IFA inspection part have been closed out and the producer is re-certified. If the producer is not certified, this control point shall be marked as non-compliant. Producers are also not allowed to sell their product to AH-DLL if they are not certified against IFA for the relevant products.

#### 1.1. FORM01: Risk Assessment for Residue Monitoring

Reference Number	Topic	Clarification/Comment
a)	ARfD (acute reference dose) values	The ARfD values of Belgium (BE) and the Netherlands (NL) follow the EU values. Details on the relevant ARfD will be supplied with the information package/booklet sent by the service provider, or updated in the app used by the service provider to communicate with the producer/supplier.
b)	Are CBs required to complete FORM01 if the crop is classified as "high-risk"?	No, this is not required. However, the CB shall <i>verify</i> that the producer has completed FORM01 for each crop if the AH-DLL GROW annex indicates that the specific crop falls in the category "high-risk" and a risk assessment (FORM01) is required. If the producer has not filled in FORM01 or there are incomplete sections, this shall be mentioned in the "Summary and conclusion" sheet as part of the AH-DLL GROW checklist.
c)	Are organic producers also required to complete FORM01 if their product is classified as "high-risk"?	Yes, this is currently required by AH-DLL even for organic producers. If the AH-DLL GROW annex requires a risk assessment (FORM01) to be completed for a specific crop, it shall be implemented.

## 2. Module 2: Hygiene

Control Point Number	Clarification/Comment
2.2	<p>The CB shall check if these control points are compliant <i>at the time</i> of the AH-DLL GROW add-on assessment. If any of these IFA control points are not compliant, this shall be reflected in the AH-DLL GROW assessment report.</p> <p>In terms of IFA, the producer is still allowed to send in corrective actions to the CB.</p>
2.3	<p>This control point applies only if product handling takes place under the ownership of the producer. If the producer only harvests, and no product handling (e.g., sorting, packing, washing, pre-cleaning, trimming, post-harvest treatment, storage) takes place under the producer's ownership, this control point can be marked not applicable (N/A).</p> <p>Currently, if a crop is considered "low-risk", this requirement cannot be marked as N/A. In such cases, please mark this requirement in the checklist as "Yes" and justify why it is N/A – e.g., "classified as a low-risk crop" or "no risk assessment required as per the AH-DLL GROW annex". In the next version, we will allow the option "N/A" in the checklist for low-risk crops.</p>
2.4	<p>The service provider is ultimately responsible for implementing and managing the "micro monitoring system". Usually, the service provider indicates to the producer what to test for and the required limits. For producers with their own monitoring program, AH-DLL requires that they do a full spectrum analysis that includes <i>E.coli</i>, <i>Listeria</i>, and <i>Salmonella</i>. This information and the details are part of the information package/booklet (or relevant app used) sent by the service provider. If the producer is unsure what to test for, the producer should consult with their supplier or directly with the service provider.</p> <p>The requirement in the AH-DLL GROW checklist refers to the "end product" – i.e., the product ready to be transported to the next client, after washing/sorting, or immediately before delivery. The service provider may also take a sample once the product is delivered to them. However, details on this procedure will be communicated by the service provider.</p>

### 2.1. FORM02: Hygiene Round

Reference number	Topic	Clarification/Comment
a)	When is FORM02 applicable?	<p>FORM02 applies only if the producer takes care of product handling (e.g., packing in the field or a packing house, storage, trimming, cooling, etc.) while the producer still legally owns the product. This is covered in the AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications under section 2 of the additional rules and at the top of the FORM02 checklist.</p> <p>FORM02 excludes harvesting.</p>

Reference number	Topic	Clarification/Comment
b)	How often shall FORM02 be completed?	FORM02 must be completed by the producer as part of the <i>daily activities during product handling</i> .  The CB shall verify this is implemented by the producer and also check that the requirements of FORM02 are in place on the day of the AH-DLL GROW assessment. Therefore, the CB shall also complete a copy of FORM02 on the day of the assessment and keep it as part of the information gathered by the CB for possible future reference. If any findings relate to FORM02, this fact shall be reflected in the "Summary and conclusions" sheet.
c)	Does any scoring apply to FORM02?	No score shall be calculated for FORM02 (see AH-DLL GROW general rules specifications section 6.1 a)).
d)	Shall bandages/sticking plasters always be metal detectable?	Yes.
e)	If a product is never touched but only stored, does the requirement on hand-washing facilities still apply?	If a product is never touched, the question on handwashing facilities can be marked as N/A.

### 3. Module 3: Foreign Body/Substance

Control Point Number	Clarification/Comment
3.2	The producer is required to show evidence that the AH-DLL GROW annex has been consulted to confirm the risk classification of the specific product. If the product is "low-risk," it can be marked "N/A," and if it is "high-risk," the control point will be marked "Yes."  If the producer has not checked the AH-DLL GROW annex and is not able to confirm in which risk category the product falls, this is considered a non-conformance.

### 3.5. NURTURE MODULE

#### 3.5.1. NEW UPDATE OF THE NURTURE MODULE V11.2-2.

*Previously communicated: 4 January 2021*

GLOBALG.A.P. and Tesco have been working on an update to the Nurture Module v11.2-2.

#### Validity

The new update becomes valid on **1 April 2021**. Nurture Module assessments after **31 March 2021** shall be conducted against Nurture Module v11.2-2. Nurture Module assessments conducted before 1 April 2021 may still be certified according to v11.2 procedures.



## Documents

You can find the updated documents that include updates to the Nurture Module Scheme Rules, Nurture Module CB and Integrity Programme Rules, and the Nurture Module Guidelines in the [GLOBALG.A.P. document center](#). While there are no changes to the Nurture Module CPCCs, for your convenience we have updated the Nurture Module checklists to version 11.2-2. Please note that the checklists for the moment are available only in English and only in combination with IFA v5.2. CBs may create their own version for IFA v5.3-GFS using the unprotected checklists or the GLOBALG.A.P. Audit Online Hub.

### Main changes in this update include:

- A simplified producer confirmation process that removes the use of the “Producer Confirmation Form”
- The Nurture Module checklist now shall be uploaded to the GLOBALG.A.P. Audit Online Hub instead of the database
- Nurture Module logo use rules added
- Updates to the Nurture Module Data Access Rules
- General alignment of Nurture Module rules to IFA rules
- Minor clarification and formatting improvements

There are no changes in the database, meaning there will be no new scheme for Nurture Module v11.2-2 and CBs shall continue to register Nurture Module certificates under v11.2.

### In-house trainer update sessions

There is no new online exam required for Nurture Module assessors in the GLOBALG.A.P. database. However, GLOBALG.A.P. organized several update online sessions for Nurture Module IHTs. Attendance was **mandatory** for one IHT per each Nurture Module approved CB.

CBs that did not participate in the trainings will be suspended to conduct Nurture Module assessments from 1 April 2021 until a new training can be arranged.

### Nurture Module checklist upload requirements

The Nurture Module was released on the GLOBALG.A.P. Audit Online Hub on 25 January 2021. For all Nurture Module assessments conducted until **1 April 2021**, CBs may choose whether to follow the current checklist upload process and upload the Nurture Module checklist in the GLOBALG.A.P. database or the GLOBALG.A.P. Audit Online Hub. For Nurture Module assessments conducted after **31 March 2021**, CBs shall upload all Nurture Module checklists in the GLOBALG.A.P. Audit Online Hub.

## 3.5.2. NURTURE MODULE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE AOH

*Previously communicated: 25 January 2021*

We are now pleased to inform you that the Nurture Module is available in the GLOBALG.A.P. Audit Online Hub (AOH). We would like to use this e-mail also to remind you of the upload requirements for the Nurture Module checklist.

- Nurture Module assessments completed until 31 March 2021 (i.e., date of assessment is before 31 March 2021) – CBs have the choice to upload the Nurture Module checklist in the GLOBALG.A.P. database following the current process or alternatively in the AOH.
- Nurture Module assessment completed after 31 March 2021 (i.e., date of assessment is after 31 March 2021) – CBs shall upload the Nurture Module checklist in the AOH.

Please note that the Nurture checklist is the combination of the IFA + Nurture CPCCs and assessment information (ref. Nurture Scheme rules 5 d)).

### **3.6. COC V6 THROUGH BRCGS (NEW)**

#### **Joint BRC Global Standard Food Safety – Issue 8 and GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody V6 Inspections/Audits (CoC V6 through BRCGS)**

BRCGS and GLOBALG.A.P. have developed a module for joint BRCGS and GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody (CoC) inspections/audits for the fruit and vegetables sector.

In the frame of this module, the BRCGS auditor can carry out inspections/audits against the GLOBALG.A.P. CoC standard v6 in addition to the BRCGS Food Safety audit in the produce packaging company. The joint inspection/audit would result in two separate certificates.

#### **Validity**

The GLOBALG.A.P. CoC standard v6 was published in September 2019 and became obligatory on 23 September 2020, replacing CoC v5. CoC v6 through BRCGS inspections/audits will be possible after 1 March 2021. Joint inspection/audits using GLOBALG.A.P. CoC v5 are no longer possible.

#### **Documents**

For the CoC v6 through BRCGS, BRCGS has developed the following normative documents:

1. CHECKLIST – GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody – Global Standard Food Safety Issue 8
2. PROTOCOL – Voluntary Module 10 – GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody
3. AUDIT REPORT – GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody

The documents can be found on the BRCGS website, [www.brcgs.com](http://www.brcgs.com).

#### **Who can apply for CoC v6 through BRCGS?**

The GLOBALG.A.P. CoC standard v6 in general covers crops/fresh produce, aquaculture, and livestock products.

This cooperation, the CoC v6 through BRCGS, is limited to fruit and vegetable companies as long as the produce is unprocessed. Washing, trimming, and packaging are not considered processing. Likewise, cooking, juice pressing, and sauce making are considered processing and cannot be GLOBALG.A.P. CoC certified and therefore do not fall in the scope of this module.

#### **Application process for CBs already approved for CoC v5 through BRC**

1. CBs already approved for CoC v5 through BRC will be automatically re-approved to conduct CoC v6 through BRCGS inspections/audits. There is no action required from the CBs for this.
2. Those CBs shall nominate an IHT and register and complete a GLOBALG.A.P. CoC v6 IHT training within 6 months after approval. CoC v6 IHT training is available periodically; please check GLOBALG.A.P. Academy. If none are listed, please contact Lisa Hausen ([hausen@globalgap.org](mailto:hausen@globalgap.org)) to request a training.
3. There are no CB application or re-approval fees. However, the CB add-on fee applies once annually: €500/\$750 for North America CBs (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 GLOBALG.A.P. CoC standard v6, 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.

4. BRCGS Food Safety approved auditors need to pass a GLOBALG.A.P. online exam for CoC v6 before they are allowed to conduct combined CoC v6 through BRCGS inspections/audits.

### **Application process for CBs applying for the first time for CoC v6 through BRCGS**

1. The CB needs to be BRCGS approved and accredited and GLOBALG.A.P. approved to perform CoC v6 through BRCGS inspections/audits and to issue CoC v6 through BRCGS certificates. The CB must be displayed on the BRCGS website as an approved CB.
2. The interested CB shall send a formal letter of intent by e-mail to Valentin Radoslavov ([radoslavov@globalgap.org](mailto:radoslavov@globalgap.org)) and also register on the [GLOBALG.A.P. CB Extranet](#). The following documents need to be attached and available for an application to be accepted:
  - Professional liability insurance coverage as per [GLOBALG.A.P. requirements](#)
  - Copy of the BRCGS accreditation
  - Training certificates for at least 2 auditors for complete BRCGS auditor training
3. The CB shall pay the evaluation fee (€300) and scope extension fee. The standard scope extension fee applies: €500/\$750 for North America CBs (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 GLOBALG.A.P. CoC standard v6, 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.
4. Once the CB is approved, GLOBALG.A.P. will inform BRCGS and the approved CB will be displayed on the GLOBALG.A.P. website under “Chain of Custody (CoC) version 6 through BRCGS.”
5. The CB shall nominate an IHT and register and complete a GLOBALG.A.P. CoC v6 IHT training within 6 months after approval. CoC v6 IHT training is available periodically; please check [GLOBALG.A.P. Academy](#). If none are listed, please contact Lisa Hausen ([hausen@globalgap.org](mailto:hausen@globalgap.org)) to request a training.
6. BRCGS Food Safety approved auditors need to pass the GLOBALG.A.P. online exam for CoC v6 before they are allowed to conduct combined CoC version 6 through BRCGS inspections/audits.
7. The inspection reviewer and certificate decision maker shall meet GLOBALG.A.P. CoC v6 inspector/auditor qualifications.

### **3.7. COC V6 THROUGH IFS (NEW)**

#### **Joint IFS and GLOBALG.A.P. CoC V6 Inspections/Audits (CoC V6 through IFS)**

IFS and GLOBALG.A.P. have agreed to allow combined IFS and GLOBALG.A.P. CoC inspections/audits – “CoC v6 through IFS”. In the framework of this cooperation, the IFS auditor, with an additional GLOBALG.A.P. CoC training, will inspect/audit the GLOBALG.A.P. CoC standard v6 in a combined inspection/audit with the IFS Food, IFS Cash & Carry/Wholesale, IFS Logistics, or IFS Broker standards. The joint inspection/audit will result in two separate certificates: one GLOBALG.A.P. CoC v6 and one IFS certificate for the applicable IFS standard.

#### **Validity**

The GLOBALG.A.P. CoC standard v6 was published in September 2019 and became obligatory on 23 September 2020, replacing the CoC standard v5. CoC v6 through IFS inspections/audits will be possible after 1 March 2021. Joint inspections/audits using GLOBALG.A.P. CoC v5 are no longer possible.

## Documents

The GLOBALG.A.P. CoC standard – on its own – should be used in the absence of an existing IFS (or other GFSI recognized post–farm gate) standard. Where the company is IFS certified, the GLOBALG.A.P. CoC standard can be used for a combined inspection/audit. The CoC v6 through IFS inspection/audit shall be conducted using the applicable IFS checklist(s) and the GLOBALG.A.P. CoC v6 checklists.

GLOBALG.A.P. CoC general regulations v6, CPCCs, and checklist apply for the GLOBALG.A.P. CoC part of the inspection/audit. The normative documents are available on the [GLOBALG.A.P. website](#), currently in English, German, and Spanish.

## Who can apply for CoC v6 through IFS?

The GLOBALG.A.P. CoC standard v6 in general covers crops/fresh produce, aquaculture, and livestock products. This cooperation, CoC v6 through IFS, is applicable to any IFS (IFS Food, IFS Food with United Fresh, IFS Broker, IFS Cash&Carry/Wholesale, IFS Logistics standards) certified companies who handle and/or trade with products from GLOBALG.A.P. certified production processes (e.g., fruit, vegetables, crops, fish, seafood, meat, or milk).

Fruit and vegetable companies may be GLOBALG.A.P. CoC certified only if the products are unprocessed. For example, washing, trimming, and packaging are not considered processing. However, cooking, juice pressing, and sauce making are considered processing, cannot be GLOBALG.A.P. CoC certified, and therefore do not fall into the scope of the standard.

For other products such as fish, seafood, meat, or milk, GLOBALG.A.P. CoC certification and/or a CoC v6 through IFS inspection/audit is possible.

## Application process for CBs already approved for CoC v5 through IFS

1. CBs already approved for CoC v5 through IFS will be automatically reappraised to conduct CoC v6 through IFS inspections/audits. There is no action required for this from the CBs.
2. Those CBs shall nominate an IHT and register and complete a GLOBALG.A.P. CoC v6 IHT training within 6 months after approval. CoC v6 IHT training is available periodically; please check [GLOBALG.A.P. Academy](#). If none are listed, please contact Lisa Hausen (hausen@globalgap.org) to request a training.
3. There are no CB application or re-approval fees; however, the CB add-on fee applies once annually: €500/\$750 for North America CBs (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 GLOBALG.A.P. CoC standard v6, 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.
4. IFS approved auditors need to pass a GLOBALG.A.P. online exam for CoC v6 before they are allowed to conduct CoC v6 through IFS inspections/audits.

## Application process for CBs applying for the first time for CoC v6 through IFS

1. The CB needs to be IFS accredited and approved and GLOBALG.A.P. approved to perform CoC v6 through IFS inspections/audits and to issue CoC v6 through IFS certificates. The CB has to be displayed on the IFS website as an approved CB.
2. The interested CB sends a formal letter of intent by e-mail to Valentin Radoslavov ([radoslavov@globalgap.org](mailto:radoslavov@globalgap.org)) and also registers on the [GLOBALG.A.P. CB Extranet](#). The following documents need to be attached and available for the application to be accepted:
  - Professional liability insurance coverage as per [GLOBALG.A.P. requirements](#)

- Copy of the IFS accreditation
  - Training certificates for at least 2 auditors for completed IFS auditor training
3. CB shall pay the evaluation fee (€300) and add-on extension fee. The standard add-on extension fee applies: €500/\$750 for North America CBs (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 GLOBALG.A.P. CoC standard v6, 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.
  4. Once the CB is approved, GLOBALG.A.P. will inform IFS and the approved CB will be displayed on the GLOBALG.A.P. website under “Chain of Custody (CoC) version 6 through IFS.”
  5. The CB shall nominate an IHT and register and complete a GLOBALG.A.P. CoC v6 IHT training within 6 months after approval. CoC v6 IHT training is available periodically; please check GLOBALG.A.P. Academy. If none are listed, please contact Lisa Hausen (hausen@globalgap.org) to request a training.
  6. IFS approved auditors need to pass the GLOBALG.A.P. online exam for CoC v6 before they are allowed to conduct CoC v6 through IFS inspections/audits.
  7. The inspection reviewer and certificate decision maker must meet the GLOBALG.A.P. CoC inspector qualifications.

## **4. GLOBALG.A.P. AUDIT ONLINE HUB**

### **4.1. HPSS V1.2 AND IFA V5.4-GFS NOW AVAILABLE**

*Previously communicated: 11 December 2020*

Harmonized Produce Safety Assurance Standard (HPSS) v1.2 (all sub-scopes – Combinable Crops and Fruit and Vegetables) and GLOBALG.A.P. Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) standard v5.4-GFS (all sub-scopes – Fruit and Vegetables and Aquaculture) are now available in the GLOBALG.A.P. Audit Online Hub (AOH). CBs can now create and upload checklists with the HPSS v1.2 and IFA v5.4-GFS standards in the AOH.

Please note that checklists uploaded for HPSS v1.2 and IFA v5.4-GFS may be counted toward the 10% checklists required to be uploaded monthly in AOH during the trial period until 15 February 2021 (ref. Technical News issue 5/2020). (Note: This has been changed to 25% in the meantime.)

Furthermore, our IT team has deployed translations of IFA v5.2 checklist in Portuguese and Russian and addressed several minor bugfixes. You can read the full details on the changes in the upcoming December GLOBALG.A.P. Audit Online Hub newsletter.

If you are not receiving the GLOBALG.A.P. Audit Online Hub newsletter, please send an e-mail to [pazachev@globalgap.org](mailto:pazachev@globalgap.org) to get signed up.

### **4.2. TEMPORARY PROCEDURE FOR UPLOAD OF COMBINED FSMA PSR AND NURTURE MODULE CHECKLISTS**

*Previously communicated: 10 December 2020*

GLOBALG.A.P. is working to include additional standards and add-ons in the GLOBALG.A.P. Audit Online Hub (AOH) with the Nurture Module released 25 January 2021. In the meantime, we have been made aware of some issues that are affecting CBs using the AOH to upload

checklists of producers certified for both Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule (FSMA PSR) and for the Nurture Module.

### **Upload procedure until the Nurture Module is available in the AOH**

As you are aware, the combined Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) and FSMA PSR add-on has to be uploaded to the GLOBALG.A.P. database (ref. FSMA PSR general rules). The same requirement exists for the combined IFA and Nurture Module checklist (ref. Nurture Module scheme rules 5 d)) currently.

Since 15 November 2020, the IFA + FSMA PSR checklists shall be instead uploaded in the AOH (ref. Technical News issue 5/2020, 1.1). However, we are aware that for producers certified against both the FSMA PSR add-on and the Nurture Module, the CB needs to complete two separate checklists: one IFA + FSMA PSR that is uploaded to the AOH and one IFA + Nurture Module that is uploaded to the GLOBALG.A.P. database, until the Nurture Module is available in AOH. To avoid this duplication until the Nurture Module is added to the AOH, CBs may continue to upload the IFA + FSMA PSR checklist in the GLOBALG.A.P. database. This exception is valid only for producers that are certified against the FSMA PSR add-on *and* Nurture Module. FSMA PSR checklists for producers not certified against the Nurture Module shall be uploaded in the AOH, following the rules described in the Technical News issue 5/2020.

We would like to remind the CBs that they shall not share confident business information with the wrong target group in the database – i.e., only IFA + Nurture Module information shall be made available to Nurture Module Observers. This means the IFA + Nurture Module checklist shall be uploaded only for the Nurture Module and the IFA + FSMA PSR checklist shall be uploaded only for the FSMA PSR add-on.

### **Upload procedure after the Nurture Module is available in the AOH**

For those producers that required both FSMA PSR and Nurture Module certification, GLOBALG.A.P. is working on a solution in the AOH that will allow the CB to create one combined IFA + FSMA PSR + Nurture Module checklist that will be shared automatically with the correct target groups. However, this solution will not be available until sometime after the Nurture Module is available in the AOH. Until then, whenever the CB needs to upload a checklist for a producer certified against both the FSMA PSR add-on and Nurture Module, the CB may take one of the following options:

- Upload the IFA + Nurture Module checklist under the Nurture Module and a separate IFA + FSMA PSR checklist under the FSMA PSR add-on in the GLOBALG.A.P. database

OR

- Upload a combined IFA + Nurture Module checklist and a separate combined IFA + FSMA PSR checklist in AOH.

Once the AOH can automatically share the producer's checklist with the correct target groups, GLOBALG.A.P. will notify all Nurture Module and FSMA PSR add-on approved CBs with a timeline when the CBs shall upload all checklists for producers certified for both the FSMA PSR add-on and Nurture Module in the AOH *only*.

### 4.3. EXTENSION OF AOH UPLOAD REQUIREMENTS

*Previously communicated: 10 February 2021*

The most recent newsletter on the GLOBALG.A.P. AOH offered CBs a summary of updates and improvements to the system. GLOBALG.A.P. has also presented this summary to our Certification Body Committee (CBC). Based on the significant progress observed, GLOBALG.A.P. and the CBC jointly agreed to expand the checklist information captured in the AOH. Therefore, **from 15 February to 15 May 2021**, GLOBALG.A.P. approved CBs shall use the AOH to upload **25%** (up from 10%) of all audits/inspections conducted per month. During this extension of the introduction phase, GLOBALG.A.P. will continue to monitor but will not sanction CBs for incorrectly or incompletely updated checklists in the AOH. Whenever possible, GLOBALG.A.P. will advise CBs on systematic errors and general performance in their use of the AOH.

As of **15 February 2021**, the upload requirements are as follows:

- 1 From **15 November 2020**, all (i.e., 100% of) checklists for the FSMA PSR add-on (including its IFA checklist part) shall be uploaded (requirement unchanged).
- 2 From **15 February 2021**, 25% of all checklists for IFA v5.2, IFA v5.3-GFS, IFA v5.4-GFS, HPSS v1.2, or PHA v1.2 shall be uploaded per month for the next 3 months (until 15 May 2021) (updated requirement).
- 3 From **1 April 2021**, all (i.e., 100% of) checklists for the Nurture Module v11.2 shall be uploaded (updated requirement). The Nurture Module checklists consist of the Nurture Module and IFA checklist (see 'Nurture Module Scheme Rules' 5. d)).
- 4 From **15 May 2020** (when the GLOBALG.A.P. Remote procedure was first published), all (i.e., 100% of) the inspections conducted according to the GLOBALG.A.P. Remote procedure for IFA v5.2 and the FSMA PSR add-on shall be uploaded (requirement unchanged).
- 5 From **25 January 2021** (when the Nurture Module v11.2 was released in the AOH), all the inspections conducted according to the GLOBALG.A.P. Remote procedure for the Nurture Module shall be uploaded (requirement unchanged).
- 6 Those IFA checklists uploaded for the FSMA PSR add-on, the Nurture Module, or because of the use of GLOBALG.A.P. Remote may be counted towards the 25% referenced in item no. 2 of this list (updated requirement).
- 7 At the end of the trial period of 3 months (15 May 2021), there will be an evaluation meeting with the CBC to determine further strategy based on the feedback collected (updated requirement).
- 8 During the trial phase (until 15 May 2021), AOH use is not considered in CB key performance indicator scoring, and no sanctions for unintentional operational mistakes will be issued (requirement unchanged).
- 9 The 25% shall be counted per certificate holder – i.e., the CB may choose any combination of standards, Option 1 inspections, and Option 2 audits (requirement unchanged).  
Example: The CB has inspected/audited 100 IFA v5.2 Option 1 producers and 20 IFA v5.2 Option 2 producer groups as well as 100 IFA v5.3-GFS Option 1 producers and 20 IFA v5.3-GFS Option 2 producer groups. Total number of certificate holders inspected/audited is thus 240. The CB has to upload 25% of 240 = 60 inspection/audit checklists. CB may select any 60 checklists – e.g., 60 IFA v5.2 Option 1 producer inspection checklists – to comply with the upload rule.
- 10 If the CB chooses to upload an Option 2 or an Option 1 with QMS checklist, the CB shall upload the QMS checklist for the producer group/producer as well as the checklists for all sampled producer group members/production sites (requirement unchanged).

- 11 The number of checklists to be uploaded shall always be rounded up to the next whole number (requirement unchanged).  
*Example:* CB has inspected/audited 45 certificate holders. 25% of 45 = 11.25, so 12 checklists shall be uploaded.
- 12 All deadlines are linked to the date of audit and not to the date of certification decision (requirement unchanged).
- 13 Initial, re-certification, surveillance, and unannounced inspections and audits are included (updated requirement).
- 14 The AOH upload rules communicated in chapter 5.1 of the Technical News issue 5/2020 continue to apply, except for the percentage of required uploads as set out here (updated requirement).

GLOBALG.A.P. will soon publish the AOH upload rules as a separate normative document. This document will be continuously updated based on the feedback of the CBs and with newly included standards, add-ons, and checklist attributes.

## 5. GLOBALG.A.P. DATABASE UPDATES

### 5.1. PRODUCER/PRODUCER GROUP E-MAIL UPLOAD REMINDER(NEW)

It is compulsory to enter the producer's/producer group's e-mail address under *Masterdata* >> *Organization e-mail* in the GLOBALG.A.P. database.

We will support you with the statistics, indicating the GGNs with missing e-mail addresses or the GGNs with CB e-mail addresses instead of the producers' e-mail addresses. *You will receive this statistic shortly before the updated producer upload process\* is available.* If a producer's e-mail is not available, then "N/A" may be entered. Please note that the e-mail addresses entered will **not** receive any notifications.

The producer/producer group's e-mail address may be changed:

- via the web interface under Masterdata > Producer/Producer Group.
- via the producer upload sheet using mode 2 – temporary, the system accepts only the complete dataset.\*<sup>1</sup>
- via the database API through the action "producerUpdate" an existing producer (e.g., "companyEmail") can be modified according to the current API documentation: <https://api-doc.globalgap.org/#07f5727e-d18c-47dd-808e-39e8c30cf014>.

\*<sup>1</sup>Please note that we are also working on improving the functionality of the producer upload sheet. This change will facilitate the updates of producers' contact details (CBs would no longer need to complete the whole dataset to change one element of the producer details such as the producer e-mail.) The amended API documentation with the updated producer upload process will follow soon.

*More information can be found in the Technical News issue 03/2018:*

*"Starting from 1 November 2018, a producer e-mail address (used for business) will be an obligatory entry in the GLOBALG.A.P. database (together with the legal entity name and postal address of the legal entity). CBs will need to enter this information for all the legal entities: Option1 producers, producer groups, as well as Option2 producer group members.*

*•If a single Option1 producer does not have an e-mail at all, please enter "N/A".*

*•If a member of the producer group has an own e-mail, please enter this into the database.*

*•If a member of the producer group does not have a personal e-mail, please enter the e-mail of the producer group for that person.*

*We do not foresee a situation where the group itself does not have an e-mail address.*



*This function is available in the web application (directly online in the database) as well as in the producer upload sheet and via an XML/SOAP interface.”*

## **5.2. ADD-ON CYCLE SYNCHRONIZATION (NEW)**

During the last CBC meeting, held on 4 February 2021, GLOBALG.A.P. and the CBC jointly decided that the automatic cycle synchronization starting with GRASP only will take place from 30 March 2021.

All CBs received between 19 and 26 February an Excel file with a statistic from the live database (based on the status on 4 February 2021) of the leading IFA cycle and the GRASP cycle for Option 1 and 2 certificate holders with an active GRASP product (e.g., accepted or assessed). This statistic also includes a separate document with an explanation on how the synchronization works. With this, the CBs will be able to work individually and apply the necessary scenarios.

## **5.3. ATTRIBUTES FOR OPTION 2 MEMBERS (NEW)**

During internal data mining, we detected that the attributes “Produce handling” and “Harvest included” are not entered for some GGNs. The GLOBALG.A.P. database does not validate the entry of this information during its intake. We will keep this feature as is so that you do not need to enter this information prior to the certification for Option 1 and Option 2 certificate holders. However, the CB shall enter this information for Option 2 producer group members, once accepted, as mentioned in the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations part I, 4.2.1, Annex 1.2.

We therefore kindly ask you to enter this information during the next recertification for all Option 2 producer group members, respectively.

## **5.4. DIFFERENT PRODUCTS CERTIFIED AGAINST DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF IFA (NEW)**

GLOBALG.A.P. currently offers multiple valid versions of the IFA standard: v5.2, v5.3-GFS, and v5.4-GFS. Therefore, some producers/producer groups may choose to implement a different version of IFA for different products due to their customer’s demands. We would like to clarify to our CBs that they may inspect/audit and certify different products with a different version of IFA based on the producer’s/producer groups’ request. For example, a producer may produce apples and pears. The producer may require IFA v5.2 certification for the production of apples and IFA v5.3 certification for the production of pears. Please note that certifying the production process for the same product for different versions of IFA is *not* allowed other than in the scenario described below (communicated with Technical News issue 5/2020):

From Technical News issue 5/2020 sent 2 November 2020:

*A producer shall have a certificate for only one version of IFA for the same product under normal circumstances. Due to the current transition from IFA v5.3-GFS to IFA v5.4-GFS, a producer may receive a certificate for both versions for the same product. The GLOBALG.A.P. database, however, does not support this. In this case, the producer shall decide which version of IFA shall be registered in the database and which version is only issued as a paper certificate. For commercial reasons, only the version that is required by the buyers shall be listed in the database.*

*This exception is only valid during the transition period between IFA v5.3-GFS and IFA v5.4-GFS. If the cycles of the IFA v5.3-GFS and IFA v5.4-GFS are not aligned, the CB may continue with the IFA v5.4-GFS certificate cycle to benefit the producer.*

## 5.5. PRODUCT LIST UPDATES (NEW)

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

The latest version of the [GLOBALG.A.P. product list \(v5.10 February 2021\)](#) is available on the GLOBALG.A.P. website.

### 5.5.1. CROPS

#### 5.5.1.1. Sub-scope Fruit and Vegetables

**Scientific name updated for the following products:**

- *Citrus bergamia* under Bitter Oranges ID 469 (FV) and ID 817 (PPM)
- *Cucumis melo var. reticulatus* under Cantaloupe Melons – ID 100168 (FV) and ID 100169 (PPM)
- *Citrus sudachi* under Mandarins – ID 66 (FV) and ID 551 (PPM)

**The following products have been renamed or additional product names added:**

- Industrial (Hemp) change to Hemp (Industrial) – ID 204 (CC)

**Products that will be removed:**

The following changes will apply when version 6 comes into effect:

- Hemp (Herb) (ID 100128) will be removed from the GLOBALG.A.P. product list.
- Hemp (Industrial) (ID 204) will only apply to fiber and seed production.
- Hemp for CBD oil will no longer be covered under the GLOBALG.A.P. scope, because the health and wellness market for hemp will be excluded.

**Medicinal use defined under the sub-scope Fruit and Vegetables and Combinable Crops:**

- Any plant used with the specific purpose to treat a specific physical illness, disease and/or mental distress, including any recreational purposes.

**Note 3: Hemp:**

- Include reference to a sampling guideline for THC levels in hemp:

The hemp sampling guidelines to test for THC levels, as issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), can be followed as a guideline: [www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/SamplingGuidelinesforHemp.pdf](http://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/SamplingGuidelinesforHemp.pdf)

**Update of foot notes at end of Table I in GLOBALG.A.P. product list:**

<sup>(13)</sup> **Hemp (Herb) (ID 100128) – sub-scope Fruit and Vegetables:** Only fresh hemp (e.g., solely for fresh consumption in e.g., salads) with a low Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) value are covered under this product. Also see note 3 under clause 1.1.1 of this document for further clarification.

<sup>(14)</sup> **Hemp (Industrial) (ID 204) – sub-scope Combinable Crops:** Is a variety of the *Cannabis sativa* plant species that is grown specifically for industrial uses (e.g., processed, cooked, fiber, etc.) of its derived products. Only dried hemp with a low

Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration are covered under this product. Dried hemp (including seed) is typically harvested mechanically or by machine. Also see note 3 under clause 1.1.1 of this document for further clarification.

**Table I – sub-scope Fruit and Vegetables (FV):** The following new products in Table I are already active in the GLOBALG.A.P. database and can be used with immediate effect.

New Product	Identification Number (ID)
Cardoon	100200
Yerba Mate (Herb)	100199

#### 5.5.1.2. Sub-scope Plant Propagation Material (PPM)

**Table II – sub-scope PPM:** The following new products in Table II are already active in the GLOBALG.A.P. database and can be used with immediate effect.

New Product	Identification Number (ID)
Cardoon	100202
Daikon Radish Seed	100204
Yerba Mate (Herb)	100201

#### 5.5.1.3. Sub-scope Combinable Crops (CC)

- *Gossypium barbadense* under Cotton - ID 202 (CC) and ID 665 (PPM)

**Table III – sub-scope CC:** The following new products in Table II are already active in the GLOBALG.A.P. database and can be used with immediate effect.

New Product	Identification Number (ID)
Daikon Radish Seed	100203

#### 5.5.1.4. Sub-scope Flowers and Ornamentals (FO)

- The definition of Flowering Bulbs – ID 100004 (FO) has been updated:  
(Flowering Bulbs: Flowering plants, in pots or outside, grown from a bulb or a tuber.

### 5.5.2. LIVESTOCK

**Table IV – scope Livestock:** The following new products in Table IV are already active in the GLOBALG.A.P. database and can be used with immediate effect.

New Product	Scientific name	Identification Number (ID)
Breeding Boars (IKB) <sup>(1)</sup>	<i>Sus domestica</i>	100198
Breeding Sows (IKB) <sup>(2)</sup>	<i>Sus domestica</i>	100197
Finishing Pigs (IKB) <sup>(3)</sup>	<i>Sus domestica</i>	100196
Gilts (IKB) <sup>(4)</sup>	<i>Sus domestica</i>	100195
Suckling Piglets (IKB) <sup>(5)</sup>	<i>Sus domestica</i>	100193
Weaned Piglets (IKB) <sup>(6)</sup>	<i>Sus domestica</i>	100194

**NOTE:** IKB marked products are only applicable for benchmarked schemes

- (1)**Breeding Boars (IKB) (ID 100198)**: Male pigs used for breeding purposes.
- (2)**Breeding Sows (IKB) (ID 100197)**: Female pigs, intended for the piglet production starting from the first mating.
- (3)**Finishing Pigs (IKB) (ID 100196)**: Pigs older than 10 weeks and/or heavier than 25 kilos and intended for meat production and slaughter at ca. 110kg or higher.
- (4)**Gilts (IKB) (ID 100195)**: Female pigs destined for breeding purposes from a weight of 25 kilos or an age of 10 weeks to the first mating/insemination at an age of ca. 7 to 8 months.
- (5)**Suckling Piglets (IKB) (ID 100193)**: Pigs nursed by a lactating sow up to the age of 28 days or longer, (organic raised pigs may have a nursing period of 42 days).
- (6)**Weaned Piglets (IKB) (ID 100198)**: Pigs distracted from suckling up to the age of 10 weeks or weight of 25 kilos.

## 6. GLOBALG.A.P. INSPECTOR/AUDITOR IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (GAIN)

*Previously communicated: 4 January 2021*

Last year, GLOBALG.A.P. launched the Certification Body Administration Tool (CB-AT) to manage the approval and qualification of all CB inspectors and auditors. You can find more details in the [Technical News issue 4/2020](#). CBs have until **31 July 2021** to finish registering and uploading the records for all their inspectors and auditors. In the meantime, we have been working to extend the functionality of the system with the long-term goal of handling CB and inspector/auditor approval fully digitally through CB-AT. We are now in the stages of final testing and will soon implement a new feature: (re)approval of inspectors/auditors. Each inspector/auditor, even if they have already been approved and signed-off by the CB, will undergo a (re-)review and (re)approval decision by GLOBALG.A.P. Approved inspectors/auditors will then receive a unique GLOBALG.A.P. Auditor Identification Number (GAIN). This number works similarly to the GGN and is used to identify a single person and save information on their approval status even if they work for multiple CBs.

The first time an inspector/auditor is registered in the CB-AT, they will receive the GAIN. Inspectors/auditors shall then share this GAIN with all CBs they work with. Before registering a new inspector/auditor in CB-AT, the CB shall consult the inspector/auditor whether they already have a GAIN and shall enter this GAIN during the registration. Entering the GAIN number in CB-AT for an already approved by GLOBALG.A.P. inspector/auditor will allow to synchronize their approval status for all applicable standards, scopes, sub-scopes, and add-ons.

An inspector/auditor **shall not** have more than one GAIN. During the first year of implementation (until the end of 2021) GLOBALG.A.P. will only monitor and advise CBs on where inspector/auditor is detected to use more than one GAIN. However, after this trial and learning phase, GLOBALG.A.P. will start to strictly enforce this rule.

Once the approval of inspectors/auditors and the GAIN are finalized and deployed to the CB-AT system, GLOBALG.A.P. will send out an additional communication with a detailed guide on how to enter and use the GAIN in the CB-AT.

In the future, the GAIN will be used to link inspector/auditor approval in all GLOBALG.A.P. systems: CB-AT, AOH, Validation Service, and possibly the database. This will reduce duplication for CBs, which will need to register inspectors/auditors only in the CB-AT system, and through the GAIN, the registration and approval of the inspector/auditor will automatically be transferred into other relevant systems.

## 7. ADDITIONAL UPDATES

### 7.1. OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE MARKET EXPOSURE FOR GLOBALG.A.P. CERTIFIED AQUACULTURE COMPANIES (NEW)

GLOBALG.A.P. would like to ask for the assistance of CBs in communicating the following opportunity to client companies producing aquaculture products under the GLOBALG.A.P. CoC or GLOBALG.A.P. IFA standard. CBs may share the notice below with their clients:

#### ***Feature Your GLOBALG.A.P. Certified Supply on FishChoice.com for Free!***

*In a new partnership to promote sustainability in the worldwide seafood industry, GLOBALG.A.P. has joined FishChoice as a Seafood Sustainability Certification Partner. The partnership increases visibility of companies with GLOBALG.A.P. certification to the thousands of companies using FishChoice.com to inform and improve their seafood sourcing.*

*Launched in 2008, FishChoice.com has become one of the largest seafood industry websites, promoting seafood sourcing transparency and empowering businesses to promote their sustainability initiatives and products to staff, clients, and potential new customers. The website features search tools for sustainable seafood from FishChoice Partners, seafood buying guides, and other industry resources. Please read more about the partnership in our press release [here](#).*

*GLOBALG.A.P. now invites you to consider becoming a [FishChoice Partner](#). As a FishChoice Partner you can create a free-of-charge company profile on FishChoice.com to showcase your products and your GLOBALG.A.P. certification. Your profile on FishChoice.com assists businesses, including prospective customers, to make informed purchasing decisions in support of sustainable aquaculture.*

*FishChoice offers an easy onboarding process. To get started, we invite you to watch these [videos](#) from FishChoice and contact Tim Mullin at [tim@fishchoice.com](mailto:tim@fishchoice.com).*

### 7.2. SURVEY ON THE GLOBALG.A.P. DATABASE USER EXPERIENCE

*Previously communicated: 10 December 2020*

We kindly ask for 5 minutes of your time to complete the following [survey](#). With this survey we aim to gather feedback on your experience of the GLOBALG.A.P. database and competing database systems. As of 1 March 2021, the survey is still ongoing, and we are continuing to collect your feedback.

The results of this survey will be used for the sole purpose of improving the GLOBALG.A.P. database and informing the development process of its future replacement (the Validation Service). You can check out an early demonstration video of the Validation Service [here](#).

### 7.3. INSPECTOR/AUDITOR E-MAIL REQUIREMENTS

*Previously communicated: 4 January 2021*

Following the push of GLOBALG.A.P. to link its systems, we are working to synchronize CB and inspector/auditor registrations across the CB-AT, Audit Online Hub, Validation Service, and database. However, this also requires a unique validation point to allow us to link the inspector/auditor accounts. For this we have chosen the e-mail address. Therefore, we ask that until **31 July 2021**, CBs update the e-mail addresses for the accounts of their inspectors/auditors in the above-mentioned systems so that each inspector/auditor is

registered with a unique and active e-mail address. If a person works with multiple CBs, they must use a different e-mail address for each CB but will receive a single GAIN (see point 1 above). Please note GLOBALG.A.P. will use the e-mail addresses only for issues related to the use and maintenance of the systems. We have already implanted automatic validations in several systems that prevent registration of new users with an e-mail address already in use.

#### 7.4. UPDATES ON THE CERTIFICATION BODY ADMINISTRATION TOOL (CB-AT)

*Previously communicated: 10 February 2021*

We would like to remind you that the deadline for uploading inspector and auditor qualifications has been extended to **31 July 2021** (see chapter 12.3 in Technical News issue 5/2020).

Furthermore, some users have reported issues with documents and responses not being successfully uploaded and saved. We are investigating the problems and working on a solution that we will launch as soon as possible.

#### 7.5. INSPECTOR/AUDITOR TRAINING ON USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

*Previously communicated: 8 February 2021*

As you are aware, GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations part III, 5.4.1.1 and general regulations part I, 5.1.2.1 allow IFA audits and inspections to be divided into two modules: an off-site and an on-site module. This “on-/off-site divide” is also applicable for the IFA v5.3-GFS, IFA v5.4-GFS, PHA v1.2, and HPSS v1.2 standards.

Even though the off-site module is mainly used for document review, it could also include remote auditing/inspection elements (i.e., a remote interview with the producer/QMS manager/producer representative). Therefore, the CB shall train its inspectors and auditors, who are to perform the off-site inspection/audit, on the use of ICT.

For this GLOBALG.A.P. has developed a 30-minute recorded training that is mandatory for *all* inspectors/auditors approved for the IFA v5.3-GFS, IFA v5.4-GFS, PHA v1.2, HPSS v1.2 standards as well for those that plan to conduct IFA v5.2 inspections/audits using the GLOBALG.A.P. Remote procedure. This training is *voluntary* for other IFA v5.2 inspectors/auditors that use the off-site module but do not perform full remote inspections/audits using the GLOBALG.A.P. Remote procedure. The CB shall retain records on which inspectors/auditors watched the training recording and on what date. The training does *not* include an exam. The inspectors/auditors shall complete this training before conducting off-site/remote inspections/audits.

The recording can be watched [here](#).

#### 7.6. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE APPLICANT COMPANY SEEKING COC CERTIFICATION – UPDATE (NEW)

The following change has been made to the requirement defined in the Technical News issue 5/2020, section 10.2. Requirements for companies seeking CoC certification.

For those CoC companies previously needed to communicate to all their suppliers that CoC certification is required before January 2022, the deadline to inform their suppliers has been deleted. This requirement is updated to (changes marked in [blue](#)):

### **Temporary exception for companies seeking CoC certification – CoC section 2.1**

*This exception refers to the possibility that an already or soon-to-be CoC certified company has one or more suppliers who are not yet CoC certified as required in CoC CPCCs v6, section 2.1. The exception applies for a limited time (until 1 January 2022) and is only applicable for traders/brokers with or without physical possession of packed products. The applicant company requiring CoC certification shall provide the certification body with the following documentation, including the application for CoC certification.*

### **Requirements for the applicant company seeking CoC certification**

*a) Evidence of informing all suppliers by (e-)mail that CoC certification is required before 1 January 2022, and there shall be a communication indicating acceptance by the supplier company. This communication shall include the acceptance by the supplier of a visit/second-party CoC inspection by the company or by the company's CB any time it is considered necessary.*

The sentence "This letter/e-mail shall be sent before January 2021" has been deleted. The rest of chapter 10 remains unchanged.

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Sincerely,

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