

SUMMARY OF CHANGES IFA V5.3-GFS TO IFA V5.4-1.GFS: GENERAL REGULATIONS PARTS I, II, and III

The changes revolve around:

- ⇒ More changes to the group and multisite certification where a QMS is implemented (unannounced element, random element, time limit whereby all members need to be inspected by the CB), requirement that CB needs to verify the internal inspector and auditor competences
- ⇒ Replacement of additional (surveillance) 10% unannounced inspections (as in previous GLOBALG.A.P. Integrated Farm Assurance versions) to 10% unannounced certification inspections
- ⇒ Incorporation of IAF MD1 (multisites) and IAF MD4 (use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT))
- ⇒ New or modified requirements for scheme manager, maintenance of qualifications, deletion of Global Food Safety Initiative Knowledge Exam
- ⇒ Audit report requirements (availability and translations)
- ⇒ Removal of the allowance of a (48-hour) notice period in advance of unannounced visits

Detailed changes:

New clauses are shown in red font below.

Part I – General Rules

- 1 – clarifying language added to explain that GR are valid for IFA v5.4-GFS for Fruit and Vegetables and Aquaculture as well as the Produce Handling Assurance standard and the Harmonized Produce Safety Standard.
- 5.1.2.2 (ii) – clarifying language added about unannounced inspections. Unannounced inspections are no longer additional to the announced inspections, but 10% of Option 1 producers will receive an unannounced inspection as a certification inspection. Removal of the allowance of a (48-hour) notice period in advance of unannounced visits.
- **5.1.2.2 (iii) – new point regarding unannounced visits and re-certification window**
- Former Version 5.3-GFS section “5.1.2.3 Unannounced Reward Program” was deleted.
- 5.2 d) – table: Clarification added for high-risk products under group certification.
- 5.2.2.2 (iii) – removal of the allowance of a (48-hour) notice period in advance of unannounced visits.
- **5.2.3 d) – new point regarding unannounced inspections: 20% of the producer group members (and of the sites in the case of multisite operations with QMS) will receive unannounced inspections.**
- **5.2.3 e) – new point regarding random selection: 25% of the producer group members (and of the sites in case of multisite operation with QMS) shall be selected randomly.**
- 5.2.3 g) (i) – clarification added on unannounced inspections.
- **5.2.3 g) (ii) – new point added on unannounced inspection notification. There shall be no notification in advance of the intended visit.**

- **5.2.3 g) (iv) – new point added clarification for high-risk products.**
- Annex I.1, 2 (i), (iii), (iv) – all references to the QR code deleted (*the only non-GFSI related change*).

Part II – Group and Multisites with a QMS

- Introduction – clarifying language added to explain that GR are valid for IFA v5.4-GFS for Fruit and Vegetables and Aquaculture as well as the Produce Handling Assurance standard and the Harmonized Produce Safety Standard.
- 2.1 b) – clarification added regarding management and technical capacity.
- 2.1 d) – clarification added to first bullet point regarding the independence of the person responsible for the QMS.
- 2.2 b) – clarification added to first and second bullet point regarding review of internal inspector and auditor competence by the CB.
- 2.2 d) – clarification added.
- 2.2 e) – language removed for clarity.
- 3.2 a) – clarification added regarding quality manual.
- 11 d) – clarification for high-risk products added: There is no sampling and every member of the group shall be subject to a producer inspection by the CB.
- Annex II.1, 2.2.3 – reference to livestock removed.

Part III – CB Rules

- Introduction – clarifying language added to explain that GR are valid for IFA v5.4-GFS for Fruit and Vegetables and Aquaculture as well as the Produce Handling Assurance standard and the Harmonized Produce Safety Standard.
- **1 d) – new point added stating that CBs shall comply with GLOBALG.A.P. requirements in keeping with relevant IAF MD1 (multisite certification).**
- **3.2 a) (v) – new point added list responsibilities of the scheme manager for quality system performance reporting.**
- 5.2 (ii) – clarification for off-site inspections added referring to use of information and communication technology (ICT) under 5.7.
- 5.2 (iii) – clarification added for cases where 4 weeks between off- and on-site cannot be observed. There should be a dispensation process and the period cannot extend beyond 90 days.
- 5.2 (iv) – clarification regarding interviews added.
- 5.2 (vii) – clarification added: On-site inspection activities shall include, as a minimum, the inspection of good agricultural practices and food safety–related control points to determine compliance.
- 5.3 – deleted (Unannounced Reward Program).
- 5.3.1.1 (iii) – clarification added for cases where 4 weeks between off- and on-site cannot be observed. There should be a dispensation process and the period cannot extend beyond 90 days.
- 5.3.1.1 (iv) – clarification regarding interviews added.

- 5.3.2.1 a) – clarification added regarding high-risk product list.
- 5.3.2.1 b) – new; was part of a) in previous version. Removal of the allowance of a (48-hour) notice period in advance of unannounced visits.
- 5.3.2.1 c) – new point added regarding the unannounced sample and the notification period. Removal of the allowance of a (48-hour) notice period in advance of unannounced visits.
- 5.3.2.1 g) – new point regarding random selection: 25% of the producer group members (and of the sites in case of multisite operation with QMS) shall be selected randomly.
- 5.3.2.1 i) – new point added stating that all producer group members (and of the sites in case of multisite operation with QMS) shall be inspected by the CB within a 10-year period at minimum.
- 5.3.2.1 j) – removal of the allowance of a (48-hour) notice period in advance of unannounced visits.
- 5.4 a) – requirement on 10% unannounced inspections/audits modified.
- 5.4 i) – requirement deleted.
- 5.7 – new clause added regarding the use of information and communication technology (ICT).
- 6.1 d) – clarification added.
- 6.1 p) – new point added on inspection report requirements.
- 6.1 r) – new point added regarding translation of inspection reports on request.
- 6.2.1 – reference to unannounced inspections deleted.
- 6.3 c) – clarification added on the use of information and communication technology (ICT).
- 6.3 d) – new point added: Verification of the corrective action plan and the implementation of the corrective actions shall be carried out by a person qualified for the respective sub-scope, standard, or add-on.
- Annex III.1 – all references to livestock, compound feed manufacturing, flowers and ornamentals, hop, and plant propagation material deleted.
- Annex III.1, 3.2 d) – Global Food Safety Initiative Knowledge Exam requirement deleted.
- Annex III.1, 3.2 g) – table for crops and aquaculture adjusted, seaweed added as a sub-scope.
- Annex III.1, 3.4 d) – modification of requirements: Changed from 5 to 3 inspections.
- Annex III.1, 3.5 a) – reference deleted to other standards and modification of requirements.
- Annex III.1, 3.5 e) – new point added on witness inspection and use of information and communication technology (ICT).
- Annex III.2 – all references to livestock, flowers and ornamentals, hop, and plant propagation material deleted.
- Annex III.2, 3.2 c) – Global Food Safety Initiative Knowledge Exam requirement deleted.
- Annex III.2, 3.2 g) – table adjusted for crops and aquaculture, seaweed added as a sub-scope.

- Annex III.2, 3.4 d) – modification of requirements: Changed from 5 to 3 audits.
- Annex III.2, 3.5 f) – new point added on the use of IAF MD4 (use of information and communication technology (ICT)).