Release No. 69

Addressed to: Organizations certified by Global Standards in the GLOBALG.A.P. IFA.

Date: November 2024

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Transition from

GLOBALG.A.P. IFA v5.4-1-GFS and IFA v5.2 to IFA v6-GFS and IFA v6-Smart

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Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) version 6 for fruit and vegetables and aquaculture was published in 2022; being two parallel editions: IFA v6 SMART and IFA v6 GFS, the latter intended for producers who require a certification with GFSI recognition.

Derived from the recent GFSI recognition for IFA v6-GFS last August, a transition period has been confirmed.

Transition period:

- GFSI recognized IFA v6-GFS on August 6, 2024

- Audits conducted under IFA v5.4-1 can still be carried out until December 31, 2024.

- Certificates issued under IFA v5.4-1 remain valid for the lifecycle referenced in the certificate.

- As of January 1, 2025, all audits under IFA for aquaculture, fruits and vegetables must be carried out against IFA v6 SMART or IFA v6 GFS

- No audit under IFA v5.4-1 shall take place after January 1, 2025.

On the other hand, the audits for the sub scopes: Propagation Material and Combinable Crops shall continue being carried out under IFA v5.2. (It should be noted that a new version regarding these subscopes is under development, so this point is subject to changes until further notice)

Documents for consultation GLOBALG.A.P.

- *Summary of changes from IFA v5 to IFA v6 Smart and GFS editions,* which can be considered by certified organizations to consult the changes made between the IFA v5 edition and the v6 Smart and GFS editions, is available at the following link:
  https://documents.globalgap.org/documents/220929_Summary_of_changes_IFA_v5_to_v6_GFS-Smart_en.pdf

- *Transition tool IFA v5.4-1-GFS and IFA v5.2 to IFA v6 SMART/GFS,* is a tool to support producers to identify, according to the requirements, the changes generated for the transition and implementation of continuous improvement in their systems, it is available at the following link:
  https://www.globalgap.org/news/new-integrated-farm-assurance-version-6-transition-tools-for-seamless-certification/

Normative documents:

- *Integrated farm assurance standard - Fruits and vegetables - Smart edition.*
  https://documents.globalgap.org/documents/220929_IFA_Smart_PCs_FV_v6_0_Sep22_en.pdf

- *Integrated Farm Assurance Standard - Fruit and Vegetables - GFS edition.*
  https://documents.globalgap.org/documents/240902_IFA_GFS_PCs_FV_v6_0_Aug24_en.pdf

- *Digital generation of customized checklists based on grower and situation.*
  https://www.globalgap.org/what-we-offer/smart-checklist-builder/start/

General regulations:

- *GLOBALG.A.P. General Regulations for plant level*.

  https://documents.globalgap.org/documents/220929_GG_GR_Rules_for_plants_v6_0_Sep22_en.pdf

- *GLOBALG.A.P. General Rules for individual producers*.

  https://documents.globalgap.org/documents/240902_GG_GR_Rules_for_IP_v6_0_Aug24_en.pdf

- *GLOBALG.A.P. General Rules for Parallel Ownership*.

  https://documents.globalgap.org/documents/220929_GG_GR_Rules_for_PO_v6_0_Sep22_en.pdf

- *GLOBALG.A.P. General Regulation rules for flexible distribution*.

  https://documents.globalgap.org/documents/220929_GG_GR_Rules_for_FD_v6_0_Sep22_en.pdf

- *General Regulation GLOBALG.A.P. rules for producer groups and multi-site producers with QMS*.

  https://documents.globalgap.org/documents/240902_GG_GR_Rules_for_QMS_v6_0_Aug24_en.pdf

Global Standards information material:

Conference: GLOBALG.A.P. V6 Transition, informative video where the main changes from IFA v5.4-1-GFS to IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS are made known.

Conference: Transición GLOBALG.A.P. V6 - YouTube

Certificate Issuance:

- Certificates will be issued at the scope level; this will list the applicable product categories individually.

- Certificates issued under IFA v5.2 will remain valid until a transition period for the Propagation Material and Combinable Crops subscopes is announced.

- When an organization achieves certification in the IFA v6 Smart edition and wishes to apply the IFA v6 GFS edition in its surveillance, the validity dates already established in the initial certification period must be maintained.

- When the initial or transition (recertification) audit/inspection on version 6, either Smart or GFS edition is completed, Global Standards will issue the certificate in the new GLOBALG.A.P. IFA v6 version.

Communication with customers:

By the transition process, Global Standards considers the following forms of communication with clients:

1. Webinar (informative, lectures on the main changes).

2. Notices (sent by email to all certified customers).

3. Website (transition rules, releases, and FAQs).

To validate the effectiveness of communication, Global Standards will monitor users' frequently asked questions on the website.

All transition process requirements described in this release are based on GLOBALG.A.P. requirements; however, there may be additional requirements set by Accreditation Bodies.

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