GFSI Assessment Report

Application information

Assessment team and date

Certification programme / Standard* Name(s)	**GRMS Version 6.1**
Certification programme / Standard* owner name and address	Danish Agriculture & Food Council Axelborg, Axeltorv 3 1609 Copenhagen Denmark
Certification programme / Standard* owner name, email, contact number	GRMS General Manager: Karsten Bruun Rasmussen Email: kbr@lf.dk Contact: +45 3339 4384
Benchmark Leader name and contact details	Stephanie Lemaitre s.lemaitre.sle@gmail.com
GFSI Technical Manager name	Giovanna Ordonnez, Elisa Carlucci
Observers name	N/ A
Interpreter's name (if applicable)	N/ A
Date of this office assessment	8th and 9th June 2021
Language (e.g. English or other)	English

* Cross as appropriate

Scopes including in this application

GFSI Scopes		Scopes applied For
AI	Farming of Animals for Meat/ Milk/ Eggs/ Honey	
AII	Farming of Fish and Seafood	
BI	Farming of Plants (other than grains and pulses)	
BII	Farming of Grains and Pulses	
BIII	Pre-process Handling of plant products	
C0	Animal Conversion	X
CI	Processing of perishable animal products	X
CII	Processing of Plant Perishable Products	
CIII	Processing of Animal and Plant Perishable Products (Mixed Products)	
CIV	Processing of Ambient Stable Products	
D	Production of Feed	
E	Catering	
FI	Retail / Wholesale	
FII	Food Broker / Agent	

H	Provision of Food Safety Services	
G	Provision of Storage and Distribution Services	
I	Production of Food Packaging	
JI	Hygienic Design of Food Buildings and Processing Equipment (for building constructors and equipment manufacturers)	
JII	Hygienic Design of Food Buildings and Processing Equipment (for building and equipment users)	
K	Production of (Bio) Chemicals (Additives, Vitamins, Minerals, Bio-cultures, Flavourings, Enzymes and Processing aids)	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Executive summary

The GFSI assessment was conducted to evaluate the Certification Programmes GRMS Version 6.1, for compliance against GFSI Benchmarking Requirements version 2020.1.

The Certification Programmes had been previously benchmarked under its Version 6 against GFSI Benchmarking Requirements version 7.2.

The assessment was made up of a preliminary desktop review, completed remotely in February 2021, under the supervision of the GFSI Technical Manager. This review was based on the evidence provided by GRMS in the self-assessment Excel files for GFSI Part II and Parts III to cover the applied scopes of recognition.
All findings raised concerning the request of additional information were discussed and clarified during a “call to go through findings” on 9th March 2021.

No critical findings were raised at this step and the office assessment was scheduled and performed on-site on 8th and 9th June 2021.

Objectives of the office assessment were to check the implementation of the requirements through a review of procedures, database elements and a sample of records.
Findings were identified during the office assessment and were agreed by the three parties (GRMS, Benchmark Leader and GFSI Technical Manager). Findings are described in the below “List of findings” table.
A corrective action plan was provided in due time and all corrective actions proposed are acceptable by both the Benchmark Leader and the GFSI Technical Manager.

GRMS was also able to provide 10 accredited certificates for both scopes of recognition.

Result of the public consultation

Recommendation to the GFSI Steering Committee

RESULTS OF ASSESSMENT AND OFFICE VISIT

Time and location details

	Location	People present GFSI, consultant, CPO. Names and roles	Date and time
Self-assessment desktop review	Remote assessment	Stephanie Lemaitre	February, 2 days
Review call	Remote call	For GFSI: Stephanie Lemaitre Giovanna Ordonnez For GRMS: Karsten Bruun Rasmussen, General Manager Anne-Mette Olsen, Chief Consultant Linda Jensen, Chief Consultant	9th March 2021, 2 hours
Office visit	On-site office visit	For GFSI: Stephanie Lemaitre Marie-Claude Quentin (closing meeting) For GRMS: Karsten Bruun Rasmussen, General Manager Anne-Mette Olsen, Chief Consultant Linda Jensen, Chief Consultant	8th and 9th June 2021, 1 day

Overview

GRMS (Global Red Meat Standard) Certification Programme is owned by the Danish Agriculture Food Council and has been developed in partnership with its abattoir members and the Danish Meat Research Institute.

The aim of GRMS is to deliver transparency within animal welfare, quality, food safety and hygiene in factories that slaughter, cut, debone, process and handle meat and meat products from pork, beef, lamb/ sheep, goat and horse.

The GRMS certification is used by over 40 organisations, with certifications issued in Europe through a network of 3 licensed Certification Bodies, who are accredited by 3 Accreditation Bodies.

The GRMS Certification Programme subject to the GFSI benchmarking process covers the following GFSI scopes:

GFSI scope	GRMS Certification Programme
C0	GRMS Version 6.1 (August 2020)
CI	GRMS Version 6.1 (August 2020)

GRMS Certification Programme is also supplemented by a Technical Update (published in April 2021), which shall be implemented at the same level as the Programme. The Technical update is available on GRMS website.

GRMS Version 6.1 was not yet benchmarked against former GFSI Benchmarking Requirements (version 7.2). Main changes compared to Version 6 have focused on:

- Requiring a mandatory unannounced audit at least once every 3 years
- Requiring closure of non-conformities within 28 calendar days after the audit date
- Increasing the minimum audit duration
- Including food safety culture and environmental monitoring programme in the audit checklist.

General compliance, strengths and weaknesses

Following the office assessment, 3 findings were identified on GFSI Part II. Findings were related to the following main area:

- Accreditation of Certification Bodies: Out of 3 accredited certification bodies, one accreditation certificate only mentions "version 6", not "version 6.1".
- Initial Auditor Qualification: A new Certification Body has applied for GRMS in 2021 and has been qualifying one auditor. On 10th May 2021, GRMS confirmed that the auditor could start performing GRMS audits and required that the witness audit of this auditor (during a GRMS audit) should be performed "as soon as possible". It's not clear that this GRMS witness (sign off) audit shall be performed before the auditor is formally approved to perform GRMS audits as a Lead-auditor, as defined in GRMS and GFSI requirements.
- Audit duration: GRMS requires that Certification Bodies contact GRMS if they don't fulfil the requirements on minimum audit durations. In practice, this is not performed systematically (but audit duration is checked through integrity activities and actual durations were always considered as OK). GRMS used to provide a general agreement to one certification body for decreasing duration, for one specific company having very simple processes and a preliminary central office audit, but this dispensation has neither been updated with version 6.1 nor communicated to all Certification Bodies.

The main strengths of the Programme are:

- Long experience and expertise in the meat sector and in the management and development of a certification programme
- Detailed and transparent QMS
- Effective internal audit and management review.

A corrective action plan was provided in due time and all corrective actions proposed are acceptable by both the Benchmark Leader and the GFSI Technical Manager.

Changes made to the certification programme / Standard* following the GFSI assessment

Following the desktop review, and in order to comply with GFSI Benchmarking Requirements, GRMS has updated and created the following documents:

- Agreement with Certification Bodies (update): the new version has already been signed by all licensed Certification Bodies
- GRMS Technical Update (creation): the requirements are applicable from 1st April 2021.

List of findings

Element reference	Non-conformity	Partly / no	Corrective action	Recommendation from Benchmark leader	Decision from GFSI technical manager
Part II 2.14	Out of 3 accredited certification bodies, one accreditation certificate only mentions "version 6", not "version 6.1".	Partly	E-mail submitted to the Accreditation Body reminding them to include the full version number when refferring to GRMS in the documentation and on the web-site at next update of documnets and web-site. To be verified at next office audit at the CB. Evidence: copy of e-mail.	OK with the proposed corrective action. Effective implementation will be checked during next monitoring visit.	CAP accepted and implementation will be checked at next office visit.
Part II 4.10	A new Certification Body has applied for GRMS in 2021 and has been qualifying one auditor. On 10th May 2021, GRMS confirmed that the auditor could start performing GRMS audits and required that the witness audit of this auditor (during a GRMS audit) should be performed "as soon as possible". It's not clear that this GRMS witness (sign off) audit shall be performed before the auditor is formally approved to perform GRMS audits as a Lead-auditor, as defined in GRMS and GFSI requirements.	Partly	The auditor did an audit on 1st and 2nd of June. It has been decided to repeat the audit as a witness audit on 21st of June. DAFC will perform the witness audit. Evidence: witness audit report.	OK with the proposed corrective action.	CAP accepted and implemented.

Part II 5.9	GRMS requires that Certification Bodies contact GRMS if they don't fulfil the requirements on minimum audit durations. In practice, this is not performed systematically (but audit duration is checked through integrity activities and actual durations were always considered as OK). GRMS used to provide a general agreement to one certification body for decreasing duration, for one specific company having very simple processes and a preliminary central office audit, but this dispensation has neither been updated with version 6.1 nor communicated to all Certification Bodies.	Partly	Normally a casing facility is an integrated part of a slaughterhouse company. But in this case the casing facility is a separate company and certificates are issued for the casing facility. A great part of the GRMS requirements are audited at head-office level, and the certification body has received a dispensation to reduce audit duration on site as regards to GRMS version 6.0. A general dispensation regarding reduced audit duration for this type of casing facility as regards to GRMS version 6.1 will be issued and submitted to all GRMS approved Certification Bodies. The minimum durations will be further clarified in the next version of the standard. Evidence: dispensation letter sent to Certification Bodies.	OK with the proposed corrective action.	CAP accepted and implemented.

RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

List of findings – public stakeholder consultation

			Answer	Recommendation from Benchmark leader	Decision from GFSI technical manager