GFSI Assessment Report

Application information

Assessment team and date

Certification programme / Standard* Name(s)	**BRCGS Agents and Brokers Issue 3**
Certification programme / Standard* owner name and address	BRCGS 7 Harp Ln, Tower London EC3R 6DP United Kingdom
Certification programme / Standard* owner name, email, contact number	BRCGS Director: John Kukoly Email: enquiries@brcgs.com Contact: +44 (0)20 3931 8150
Benchmark Leader name and contact details	Stephanie Lemaitre s.lemaitre.sle@gmail.com
GFSI Technical Manager name	Marie-Claude Quentin
Observers name	N/ A
Interpreter's name (if applicable)	N/ A
Date of this office assessment	5th and 6th January 2022
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	
CI	Processing of perishable animal products	
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	X
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 BRCGS Agents and Brokers Issue 3 for compliance against GFSI Benchmarking Requirements version 2020.1.
Issue 2 of the Certification Programme had already been benchmarked in 2021 against GFSI Benchmarking Requirements version 2020.1.

The assessment was made up of a preliminary desktop review, completed remotely in November 2021 by the Benchmark Leader, under the supervision of the GFSI Technical Manager. This review was based on the evidence provided by BRCGS in the self-assessment Excel files for GFSI Part III, scope FII.
No findings were raised at this step and the office assessment was scheduled and performed remotely on 5th and 6th January 2022.
Objectives of the office assessment were to check the implementation of the requirements, especially GFSI Part II requirements, through a review of procedures, database elements and a sample of records.
No findings related to BRCGS Agents and Brokers Issue 3 Standard were identified during the office assessment.

BRCGS Agents and Brokers Issue 3 has been published in October 2021, for a mandatory implementation on 1st April 2022. Although it was not possible to have any accredited certificates at the time the office assessment occurred for this Certification Programme, it was agreed to move forward in the benchmarking process. As a result, the benchmarking process outcome for BRCGS Agents and Brokers Issue 3 will be conditioned by the release of 10 accredited certificates.

Result of the public consultation

To be completed at a later stage.

Recommendation to the GFSI Steering Committee

To be completed at a later stage.

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	November 2021 0.5 day
Review call	Remote call	N/ A	
Office visit	Remote office visit	For GFSI: Stephanie Lemaitre Marie-Claude Quentin For BRCGS: Angela O' Donovan, Head of Standards Karen Betts, Head of Compliance Ritu Bajaj, Compliance Audit Manager Monica Pretlove, Compliance Technical Manager Anna Malek Woznica, Compliance Technical Manager John Figgins, Technical Specialist - Food	5th and 6th January 2022 1 day

Overview

BRC Trading Ltd is a Certification Programme Owner providing a range of standards (BRC Global Standards) for brand and consumer protection. The aim of BRC Global standards is to guarantee the standardisation of quality, safety and operational criteria and to ensure that manufacturers fulfil their legal obligations and provide protection for the end consumer.

BRC Trading (BRCT) was formed in 2003 to provide services to support the British Retail Consortium. In 2016, BRC ownership was transferred from a sole subsidiary of the British Retail Consortium, and ownership is now comprised of British Retail Consortium, BRCT Board and LGC Group, with the latter as the majority shareholder. In 2019, a rebranding has been carried out and the BRC acronym changed to Brand Reputation through Compliance.

The BRCGS standard certifications are used by over 29,000 organisations worldwide, with certifications issued through a global network of over 74 licensed Certification Bodies, who are accredited by 14 Accreditation Bodies.

The BRCGS Standards subject to the GFSI benchmarking process covers the following GFSI scopes:

GFSI scope	BRCGS Certification Programme
BIII	BRCGS Food Issue 8 (August 2018)
C0	BRCGS Food Issue 8 (August 2018)
CI to CIV	BRCGS Food Issue 8 (August 2018)
FII	BRCGS Agents and Brokers Issue 3 (October 2021)
G	BRCGS Storage and Distribution Issue 4 (November 2020)
I	BRCGS Packaging Materials Issue 6 (August 2019)
K	BRCGS Food Issue 8 (August 2018)

Objective of this assessment was to benchmark the latest release of BRCGS Agents and Brokers standard, under Issue 3.

BRCGS Agents and Brokers Standard is also supplemented by a Position Statement, which shall be implemented and supersedes any details published within the standard. The Position Statement is available on BRCGS website; it is dynamic and may be adjusted when deemed necessary.

Main changes in BRCGS Agents and Brokers Issue 3 compared to Issue 2 are:

- Alignment with the GFSI Benchmarking requirements (e.g., for document and record management related requirements, auditor requirements, etc.)
- Update of the requirements related to food safety culture
- Update of the audit protocol (e.g., with a blended audit option)
- Update with applicable legislation (e.g., FSMA and EU Food Regulation)
- Inclusion of some sections of the Position Statement in the new Issue of the Standard.

General compliance, strengths and weaknesses

Following the office assessment, no findings were identified for BRCGS Agents and Brokers Issue 3.

The main strengths of the standard and its overall management are:

- Long experience and expertise in the management and development of certification programmes for different steps of the supply chain
- Robust review process, including all the key stakeholders
- Agile auditor database
- Detailed QMS
- Very detailed Integrity Programme, including extensive report reviews, witness audits, Certification body offices and monitoring of KPIs; with many risk-based criteria to define amount and location of Integrity actions.

BRCGS Agents and Brokers Issue 3 has been published in October 2021, for a mandatory implementation on 1st April 2022. Although it was not possible to have any accredited certificates at the time the office assessment occurred for this Certification Programme, it was agreed to move forward in the benchmarking process. As a result, the benchmarking process outcome for BRCGS Agents and Brokers Issue 3 will be conditioned by the release of 10 accredited certificates.

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

No changes were made, as no deviations were raised.

List of findings

Not applicable.

RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

To be completed at a later stage.

List of findings – public stakeholder consultation

			Answer	Recommendation from Benchmark leader	Decision from GFSI technical manager