

# GFSI Assessment Report



# Application information

## Assessment team and date

Certification programme / Standard* Name(s)	<b>BRCGS Food Issue 9</b>
Certification programme / Standard* owner name and address	BRCGS Level 2 80 Victoria Road. London SW1E 5JL UK
Certification programme / Standard* owner name, email, contact number	BRCGS Head of Compliance: Karen Betts Email: <a href="mailto:brcgs.enquiries@LGCGroup.com">brcgs.enquiries@LGCGroup.com</a> Contact: +44 (0)20 3931 8150
Date of previous application if application	N/A
Benchmark Leader name and contact details	Katharine Smithers <a href="mailto:Katharinesmithers@hotmail.com">Katharinesmithers@hotmail.com</a>
GFSI Technical Manager name	Lalaina Randriamanantsoa
Observers name	N/A
Interpreter's name (if applicable)	N/A
Date of this office assessment	1st and 2nd June 2023
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	X
CO	Animal Conversion	X
CI	Processing of perishable animal products	X
CII	Processing of Plant Perishable Products	X
CIII	Processing of Animal and Plant Perishable Products (Mixed Products)	X
CIV	Processing of Ambient Stable Products	X
D	Production of Feed	X
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)	X
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE

## Executive summary

The GFSI assessment was conducted to evaluate the updated BRCGS certification program for BRCGS FOOD Issue 9, for compliance against the GFSI Benchmarking Requirements version 2020.1

This certification programme had previously been benchmarked under version 8 to the GFSI Benchmarking Requirements version 2020.1.

The assessment included the desktop review undertaken in February 2023. This review included the BRCGS self-assessment excel files for GFSI Part II and III for all the applied scopes of recognition. The excel files demonstrate a high level of compliance and for any areas where compliance was not fully demonstrated, a 'call to go through findings' occurred on 16th February 2023.

The office assessment was scheduled and performed onsite on 1st and 2nd of July 2023. The objective of the office assessment was to check the implementation of the requirements through a review of procedures, the BRCGS register, databases and a sample of records.

The BRCGS standards continue to be owned by LCG Laboratory of Government Chemist, 73 certification bodies operate the scheme worldwide, and 4,800 certificates have been issued to version 9 of the standard, and 18,000 are currently in place for version 8 and are transitioning as their audits are due.

One finding was identified, which related to two clauses of the GFSI Part II, and was agreed by all parties and is listed under the 'List of findings' table.

A corrective action plan was provided within the required 14 days and deemed acceptable by the Benchmark Leader.

## Recommendation to the GFSI Steering Committee

Pending Stakeholder Consultation.

# RESULTS OF ASSESSMENT AND OFFICE VISIT

## Time and location details

	Location	People present GFSI, consultant, CPO. Names and roles	Date and time
Self-assessment review	Remote	Katharine Smithers	February 2023 2 days
Review calls	Remote call	For GFSI Katharine Smithers Lalaina Randriamanantsoa  For BRCGS Karen Betts, Head of Compliance Ritu Bajaj, Compliance Audit Manager	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023 0.25 days
Office visit	Onsite Office Visit	For GFSI Katharine Smithers Lalaina Randriamanantsoa  For BRCGS Amanda McCarthy, Technical Operations Director Karen Betts, Head of Compliance Ritu Bajaj, Compliance Audit Manager Angela O'Donovan, Head of Standards Richa Bedi Navik, Food Standards Manager	1 <sup>st</sup> -2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023 1.5 days

## Overview

Brand Reputation through Compliance, with the BRCGS acronym is owned by LGC Group. (Laboratory of Government Chemist) - having previously ( in 2016) been the BRC trading Ltd which had been formed and operating since 2003.

There are 22,803 certificates that have been issued for the BRCGS Food standard. 4,800 against version 9, and the remaining against version 8 that are in the process of transitioning to version 9 of the standard. There are 73 certification bodies, and the scheme is operated worldwide. BRCGS have become a member of the IAF, and this is a level 4 scheme.

The BRCGS Food standard version9 subject to the GFSI benchmarking process covers the following GFSI scopes - 8 scopes in total:

GFSI scope
BIII
C0
CI to CIV
D
K

BRCGS Standards are also supplemented with Position Statements, which are available on the BRCGS website, and are updated as required. These enable BRCGS to ensure that the standards are dynamic and reflect any emerging issues.

BRCGS operates a confidential whistleblower service through “tell BRCGS” and the developed relationship with the certification bodies over several years help to ensure that it is informed of any incidents that require further investigation.

The Integrity Program has been operating and been refined over the past 14 years and provides scores for certification bodies every 6 months on an ongoing basis.

## General compliance, strengths and weaknesses

Following the office assessment one finding was identified on the GFSI Part II requirements and no findings against GFSI Part III requirements. The finding related to how Certification Bodies make it clear and publicly available the limits and scope of their accreditation, and that those are transparent, not conflicting

and distinguished from those that are accredited or unaccredited and in the process of obtaining accreditation. This high level of compliance follows that the previous version of the standard was benchmarked.

The program continues to demonstrate many strengths, especially noteworthy is its integrity program, auditor database, TellBRCGS, follow up of incidents, detailed quality system, with an extensive management review process, and the continued long experience and expertise in the operation and development of certification programs.

A corrective action plan was provided in the required timeframe.

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

Will be reported after Public consultation.

## List of findings

Element reference	Non-conformity	Partly / no	Corrective action	Recommendation from Benchmark leader	Decision from GFSI technical manager
2.20 and 2.21	It could not be fully demonstrated how BRCGS, in the event that the range of certification services offered by a Certification Body is wider than the range of those accredited, BRCGS shall ensure that the Certification Body makes clearly and publicly available the limits and scope of their accreditation, and that those are transparent, not conflicting and distinguished from those that are accredited.	Partly	Whilst we are confident that Certification Bodies clearly communicate to clients for which activities they are accredited, we do not have a clearly documented requirement for BRCGS expectations on this topic. BRCGS will issue a position statement to Certification Bodies to ensure that their accreditation status is clear and publicly available and are clear to clients when discussing contractual details. BRCGS will check enforcement through our usual compliance activities such as office audits.	Corrective Actions acceptable KJS 16/06/23 Evidence required to close	Corrective action is deemed acceptable at this stage .  Pending production and sharing of the actual position statement with Benchmark Leader and GFSI before the benchmarking process is complete.  LR 03/07/2023




# RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

To be reported on after Public consultation.

## List of findings – public stakeholder consultation

			Answer	Recommendation from Benchmark leader	Decision from technical manager	GFSI