

FOOD SAFETY INSIGHT



Everybody eats... Everybody cares about food safety!



A Publication of Perry Johnson Registrars Food Safety, Inc.



HPSS Version Update 1.2

As of August 20th, GLOBALG.A.P. has published a version update of their Harmonized Produce Safety standard (HPSS). The update was precipitated by changes made by the United Fresh Produce Association to the Produce GAP Harmonization Initiative's Harmonized Standards (v.2.0) in September 2019. As a part of the GLOBALG.A.P. and United Fresh licensing agreement, the changes were then adopted and incorporated into the new revision of HPSS.

This new v1.2 of HPSS is obligatory as of November 20th, 2020 – therefore all audits or inspections conducted will now be on v1.2. The changes to HPSS in the new version include:



In the HPSS GR:

- Expansion of scope applicability (now including combinable crops)
- Clarification of the maintenance of competency (this now includes 5 inspections/audits against a GLOBALG.A.P. Standard)
- Adopted and included all relevant General Regulations v5.4-GFS in Parts I-III

In the HPSS CPCC:

- Several clarifications, explanations, or examples
- Moving control points to more relevant sections
- Reference to ISO 17025 for laboratory accreditation of analyses
- Verification of calibration methods available
- 8 new control points: Continuous improvement and food safety culture, site security, site response, response plan for leaks, risk assessment for post-harvest, packing materials inspection, hold, segregated, and release procedures for non-conforming product, and trash-handling (now included in both pre- and post-harvest)

If you have any questions regarding the changes to HPSS or would like to learn more about HPSS and GLOBALG.A.P. certification, contact PJRFSI at (248) 519-2325 or visit www.pjrfsi.com. ♦

Introducing Produce Handling Assurance (PHA) Standard Certification!

This newly-released standard is available to all qualified packing operations (including both open- and enclosed-shed environments) meeting the scope definition in North America, South America, Africa, Asia, and Australia. Incorporating FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) requirements, PHA certification may be combined with Integrated Farm Assurance Standard for Fruit and Vegetables (IFA FV) audits to reduce redundancy and cost. With the integration of FSMA requirements, this certification can aid operations in identifying FSMA requirements that must be addressed at the farm level.

While not currently GFSI benchmarked, GLOBALG.A.P. has designed the standard with GFSI requirements in mind and anticipates benchmarking sometime in 2021.

Wondering if PHA certification could be the right option for you? Let PJRFSI help you determine which standards can benefit your business – call us at (248) 519-2325! ♦



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Blended & Virtual Audits – What Are The Options?



With the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, many audits have been postponed or delayed – but what about audits that will have to go forward in a virtual or semi-virtual, “blended” format? PJRFSI is here to help clarify – see the overviews below or reach out to us to determine what your organization will have to do for a successful audit.

BRCGS

Available only for announced, re-certification audits, BRCGS is allowing blended audits using a remote assessment via ICT (Information & Communication Technology) followed by an on-site audit. Adherent to IAF MD4:2018, smartphones, handheld devices, video cameras, etc. will be used to conduct a remote assessment. Once the remote audit via ICT has been properly executed, an on-site audit will be conducted within 28 days in order to ensure sufficient time for closure of non-conformities. If no compatible ICTs are available to complete the remote portion, the audit will revert to a fully onsite audit.

PrimusGFS

PrimusGFS is allowing the use of remote desk reviews in advance of an on-site audit in order to reduce audit duration and reduce exposure risks during the on-site portion. Certification Bodies are authorized to reject a desk review request depending on an organization's risk. These desk reviews are to be used only for announced or pre-assessment audits.

SQFI

SQFI is permitting parts of any SQF Food Safety and Quality code certification, recertification, and surveillance audits to be conducted using remote means. The amount of the audit conducted via ICT will depend upon the feasibility of using alternate methods to sufficiently collect information for the audit to be completed.

GLOBALG.A.P.

GLOBALG.A.P. has chosen to use the offsite module approach to mitigate coronavirus risk. ◆

Meet Our New Team Member!



Justin Manker – Food Safety Commercial Business Manager

Justin studied at Illinois College with a major in Management and Organizational Leadership. He brings over eight years of experience in commercial business and project management of multiple fields ranging from Information Technology all the way to Construction and now Food and Safety in the Americas and Caribbean Islands. ◆

IFA Version 6 Update

As of December 2020, the GLOBALG.A.P. Board has decided to extend the revision phase of their Integrated Farm Assistance (IFA) Standard's new revision. The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has, unfortunately, hindered the participation of entities such as certification bodies and focus groups. Without the input and thorough consideration of these groups, the new version may not receive sufficient testing and input. By postponing the launch of IFA version 6 to April 2022, GLOBALG.A.P. hopes to better ensure that the new version will be fully tested and functional when it comes to market.

As for the timeline of release for IFA version 6, dates have changed somewhat. The launch of the new version was planned for September 2021, with obligatory implementation by September 2022. The timeline has been extended to the following dates:

- December 2020: the second draft will be available for consultation and the second round of the World Consultation Tour will begin
- May to June 2021: the field trials will take place alongside a third public consultation period
- April 2022: version 6 will be finalized and published with a one-year transition period
- April 2023: version 6 will become obligatory

If you have any questions about version 6 or GLOBALG.A.P. and the Integrated Farm Assistance Standard in general, reach out to PJRFSI at (248) 519-2325 or by emailing pjrfsi@pjrfsi.com. ♦

Career Opportunities

PJRFSI is seeking the right hardworking, articulate individual with strong interpersonal skills for a contract position (travel required) in the field Agriculture Food Safety Auditor.

The right candidate would perform 3rd party audits to GFSI schemes such as GLOBALG.A.P and PrimusGFS for our clients in North America.

Responsibilities & Duties:

- Conduct farm food safety audits and report audit reports
- Communicate audit results and nonconformities with client management
- Submit accurate and complete audit reports within specific timeline
- Attend mandatory training to maintain qualifications

Requirements:

- Undergraduate degree with coursework in agriculture, biology or food science
- Minimum of two years work experience in the agricultural sector
- HACCP and Hygiene Training
- Lead Auditor Certification
- Additional language skills - Spanish desired

Seeking candidates with experience in any of the following: GLOBALG.A.P., and PrimusGFS

Call or email resume to: lmaloney@pjrfsi.com. ♦

PJRFSI's Paul Damaren Recognized By GSAF USA

Congratulations to PJRFSI's Senior Vice President of Food Safety & Supply Chain, Paul Damaren, on his nomination to the Top 100 F&B Leaders list by GSAF USA! Candidates for the Top 100 list were judged on five parameters by the awards committee – overall reach, industry impact, future readiness, market demand, and spirit of innovation. With thousands of candidates globally this year, to be recognized in the Top 100 is a fantastic achievement! Once again, congratulations Paul – the PJRFSI team is lucky to have you! ♦



PJRFSI Welcomes Auditors To Annual Conference - Virtually!

The end of the year is often a highlight for PJRFSI, as we plan a variety of presentations from FSI management and guest speakers alike for our auditor teams. This year, we are excited to be taking the annual conference virtual on December 9-11. Presentations included overviews of our Organic, FSMA, Cannabis & Hemp programs as well as scheme owner presentations from entities such as GRMA, BRCGS, SQFI and others.

Thank you to our auditors and staff who make this annual event possible, and to everyone who helped contribute to making 2020 a successful year despite its challenges! ♦

2020 In Review - Webinars

While 2020 has been a standout year for many reasons, PJRFSI can mark it down as a stellar year for our free webinar programming! This year we hosted 27 webinars on every food safety topic imaginable, from Supply Chain Verification and SQF Edition 9 to Organic Hemp Certification and Root Cause Analysis. We were thrilled and honored to welcome industry experts like LeeAnn Chuboff of SQF and Gary Van Breda of the McDonald's Corporation as guests, and can't wait to see who we'll have on for webinars in 2021!

If you missed any of our free broadcasts (or if you just want to review some of them), you can find a full listing of all our recorded sessions on our [YouTube Channel](#)!

Have an idea for a webinar you'd like to see next year? Our suggestion box is open – email us at pjrfsi@pjrfsi.com and let us know your thoughts! ♦



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Upcoming FREE Webinars From PJRFSI

PJRFSI is hosting a series of free, educational webinars in the coming weeks and months. Check out what's coming up below! Go to our website www.pjrfsi.com now to register.

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

“BRCGS – Rules Review, Standards Launching in 2021 & the 2021 Conference”

Thursday, January 28, 2021

“Plenary Topic: Panel Discussion CBD/Cannabis GMP Standards & Closing”



In the event you cannot attend a webinar at its scheduled time, we have the recordings available to download from our website at www.pjrfsi.com/webinars/past-webinars. We currently have the following webinars available for download:

- [10/30/2020](#) - Supply Chain Resiliency Through an Effective Data Eco System
- [10/22/2020](#) - SQF Codes Edition 9, Food Safety & Quality Code Key Changes & Updates
- [10/13/2020](#) - Managing the Customer Complaint Process Effectively

Keep checking back to our website for newly added webinar dates. ♦