

# BRCGS

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is involved in the certification process?

BRCGS certification requires a combined on-site document review and facility inspection conducted in the same visit. Audit duration for the average supplier typically requires two days for the onsite visit and an additional 1/2 to 1 day for off-site report writing and corrective action management. Total audit time is determined based on employee count, number of HACCP studies, complexity of processes, and facility square footage.

### How long is the certification valid and how often will we be audited?

Audit results are graded based on the type and number of nonconformities cited. A company that achieves either an A or B grade must undergo annual audits of their system to maintain certified status. A company that achieves the minimum passing grade of a C must undergo a six month audit frequency until a higher grade is achieved. Future audits are conducted within the 28 day window prior to the six month or 12 month due date, which is based on the initial certification audit date.

### How do we get started?

We highly recommend that you initiate a relationship with your certification body prior to completing the implementation of your system. This will help you plan for the certification process in terms of budgeting and scheduling. As part of the planning process, we also highly recommend a pre-assessment, both to assess your preparedness and to increase your overall chances of passing your initial certification audit the first time.

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## BRCGS Global Standard for Packaging and Packaging Materials - Issue 6

**BRCGS** Packaging  
Materials

ISSUE 6  
PACKAGING  
MATERIALS



**Everybody Eats...  
Everybody Cares About Food Safety**



**Perry Johnson Registrars  
Food Safety, Inc.**

# BRCGS Global Standard for Packaging and Packaging Materials - Issue 6

The BRCGS Global Standard for Packaging and Packaging Materials is a standard for auditing which outlines the requirements for the manufacture of packaging materials used with food and consumer products. This range of products is incredibly wide, from food and drink to cosmetics, toiletries, and other consumer goods and materials.

Originally published in 2001 by the British Retail Consortium, this standard has been updated at regular intervals, most recently in 2019 to Issue 6. It specifies the criteria for safety, quality, and operations to be followed by manufacturers to help them comply with legal and customer requirements.

This standard is based on a hazard and risk analysis-based product safety program and a supporting quality management system. It requires a risk-based approach to product quality and safety in the manufacture of packaging and packaging materials.



To purchase copies of the BRCGS Global Standards please go to:  
[www.brcgsbookshop.com](http://www.brcgsbookshop.com)

## What does it Cover?

The packaging industry produces a wide variety of materials for use in hugely diverse industries. In general this standard covers the requirements of packaging through a risk-based approach. There may be some variation to the level of hygiene applied to “food contact materials.”

## New to Issue 6:

- Emphasis on product quality
- Product safety and quality culture
- Corrective and preventative action: fundamental clause
- Pellet, flake, and powder control in the plastic industry

## Benefits of Certification

- BRCGS is a standard recognized around the world, providing confidence in a company's product safety management system.
- Certified sites may appear on the BRCGS Directory, allowing customer recognition of achievements.
- Comprehensive in scope, covering areas of quality, hygiene, and product safety.

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