IFA V6 WEBINARS: Q&A

STANDARD EDITIONS

Is GLOBALG.A.P encouraging EU retailers to request the Smart edition instead of the GFS edition?	GLOBALG.A.P. is explaining the differences between the Smart and GFS editions and the challenges that some producers may face with the GFS edition.
Are the 10% unannounced certification body (CB) audits under the GFS edition also counted in the original number, and not as an additional 10%?	Yes. All unannounced audits (Smart and GFS editions) shall be 10% of the total number of CB audits, and not an extra 10%.
Is there a difference between the IFA v6 Smart certificate and the IFA v6 GFS certificate? Does this not raise questions in the market?	Certificates will clearly state to which edition of the standard a producer's production processes have been certified – either IFA v6 Smart of IFA v6 GFS.
We have two facilities certified to IFA v5.3. What is the timeline for implementing IFA v6 if there is no requirement for GFSI recognition?	If the facilities do not require GFSI recognition and their next audit is before January 2024, they have the choice of being audited against IFA v5.4-1-GFS or IFA v6 Smart. From January 2024 they must be audited against IFA v6 Smart.
Will IFA v6 GFS still not allow sampling in all producer groups?	The GFS edition does not allow sampling in high-risk cases. The risk profile – high-risk products as well as high-risk production processes – is explained in the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for producer groups and multisite producers with QMS.
When does IFA v6 become obligatory and when does IFA v5.2 expire? Are these the dates for all languages?	**IFA v5.2** is no longer GFSI-recognized, but continues to be available for audits until 31 December 2024. **IFA v5.4-1-GFS** is the current obligatory IFA standard version for producers who require certification with GFSI recognition. It replaces IFA v5.3-GFS. IFA v5.4-1-GFS will remain valid until IFA v6 GFS has achieved GFSI recognition. We estimate this to be in Q1-2 2023. **IFA v6 Smart** becomes obligatory on 1 January 2024 irrespective of the language. **IFA v6 GFS** becomes obligatory on 1 January 2024 if GFSI recognition has already been achieved –

otherwise it becomes obligatory three months after GFSI recognition has been achieved.

STANDARD DOCUMENTS

Regarding the IFA v6 Smart checklists, is it possible to view the parameter questions and their "consequences", e.g., what checklist results from them?	The parameter questions and "consequences" may be requested from customer_support@globalgap.org.
Will there be an option to generate customized checklists in currently unsupported languages?	The languages currently planned for IFA v6 for fruit and vegetables include German, Spanish, French, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese, and Japanese. Other languages may be considered subject to demand, although these will not be prepared until 2023. Requests can be sent to translation_support@globalgap.org. Should you require the checklist in another language earlier than this, you can organize translations on your own behalf using the English customized checklist. These translations however will not be available in Audit Online Hub (AOH). We are aiming to publish the English customized checklist late June/early July 2022.
When will the standard be ready in German?	We are aiming to have the German translation ready in July 2022.
My certificate expires in mid-May. Can the certificate be extended for one more cycle?	No, a certificate can only be extended as per the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations before the certificate expires.
When will plant propagation material and combinable crops be part of IFA v6? What happens to producers who currently have, e.g., IFA certification for flowers and ornamentals and plant propagation material?	We are working on this and will update our website with timeframe information.
Will the QMS checklist v6 be released soon?	The QMS self-assessment checklist will be available in English by the end of June/early July 2022. The QMS checklist v6 will be available in AOH at the start of October 2022.
In AOH, the checklist is issued in English, but when printed in the "translated PDF" format it still appears in English. Why?	We currently only have IFA v6 available in English in AOH. We are aiming to have Spanish ready in AOH in July 2022.

STANDARD CONTENT

When will it be possible to hold a webinar about the differences between IFA v5 and IFA v6?	The differences are significant and extensive. A "summary of changes" document has been published to explain the major differences, as well as downloadable resources on the IFA v6 web page and the IFA scope web pages. We will consider a webinar on the topic.
Continuous improvement: Are those principles and criteria all Major Musts?	Under IFA v6 GFS, the plan as well as proof of implementation are Major Must principles and criteria. Under IFA v6 Smart, the plan is a Major Must principle and criterion as it is important that the producer can show their intentions. However, at this stage, implementation is a Minor Must principle and criterion.
What is the reason for having a separate standard for hops, instead of including it in the fruit and vegetables product category?	Hops do not fall under the GLOBALG.A.P. definition of fruit and vegetables. There are also production processes that are very specific to the cultivation of hops.
Is IFA v6 more hydroponics/CEA-friendly? Our hydroponics company gave feedback for the development of the new standard, and this was our understanding.	Yes, that is correct. Several of the guidelines that have been developed specifically refer to compliance for hydroponics and CEA production.
Regarding sampling: If you are a hydroponics operation, there is always a risk of some water touching the edible part of the plants, but we do not use water per se. Are we high risk, meaning we are going to be sampled?	The risk level is not based on whether water comes into contact with a product, but whether any water that does come into contact with a product may pose a risk. Therefore, the risk assessment determines whether the water that came into contact with the product poses a risk, based on the water quality, type of product, etc. If it's a lettuce hydroponics operation where, under normal circumstances, water does not come into contact with the product, it is not high risk. In case of accidental contact with water, the risk assessment addresses whether that product shall be discarded, or kept in the harvested materials based on an analysis of the water, etc.
Is the irrigation of apples by aspersion considered a high-risk process?	Apples are never high risk. They are not on the list of high-risk crops, so regardless of how water comes into contact with them (hydrocooling), they are not considered high risk.
Have there been any changes in the methodology and checklists for Option 1 multisite producers without QMS? Is there any link and transfer of these changes	No change in method. For multisite producers without QMS, one Option 1 checklist shall be completed for all production sites. The IFA checklist is not linked to the CoC checklist.

between IFA v6 and the Chain of Custody (CoC) standard?	

ADD-ONS

GRASP is the only add-on that has been mentioned, will the FSA add-on be adapted for IFA v6?	Updates of other add-ons for compatibility with IFA v6 are scheduled to be ready by January 2024.

BENCHMARKING

Option 3 (QS-GAP in this case): How does the upload of audit reports work? Can retailers retrieve certificates and reports from AOH?	AOH is not applicable to Options 3 and 4.
Is there an equivalent standard that is accepted by GLOBALG.A.P. (i.e., EU organic etc.)?	No, there are currently no equivalent standards.
What is the process for transitioning benchmarked schemes or checklists from IFA v5.2 to IFA v6?	Transition period for current benchmarked schemes/checklists: the rebenchmarking process for recognition under IFA v6 will run from 1 October 2022 until 31 December 2023. Benchmarked IFA v5 audits after 31 December 2023 or certificates that are issued with a validity period beyond 30 April 2025 will not be recognized as equivalent.

CERTIFICATION BODIES

Do CB auditors need to attend an updated QMS training to qualify for IFA v6 audits?	Currently approved CB QMS auditors only need a QMS update training to be approved for QMS v6. New CB auditors who are not yet approved for QMS shall pass the full QMS training.
Three-year cycle: Who determines the operative part that is then audited? Is it the CB auditor or GLOBALG.A.P.?	GLOBALG.A.P. prepares the checklists for the second- and third-year audits.
Do the audit reports generated in AOH have to be shared with producers, or can CBs continue to share their own formats and reports?	Under IFA v6 Smart, it is not obligatory to share the full report. However, under IFA v6 GFS, it is obligatory. Once available, the report generated in AOH shall be used. There are 2 types of report that can be generated: one with the full checklist and answers, and a shorter one without the checklist. Under GFS the full version shall be sent.

Do inspectors approved for IFA v5.2 need to be reapproved as auditors for IFA v6 Smart? Or would an inspector who is approved for IFA v5.4-1-GFS not need reapproval for IFA v6 Smart?	The auditor training covers IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS at the same time.
Do companies that have their own audits, such as McDonald's SQMS at processing facility level, need to be audited by GLOBALG.A.P. approved CB auditors too? Since McDonald's has the GLOBALG.A.P. PLUS add-on for farms.	If the packhouse (not processing) falls under the ownership of the producer, then the IFA v6 CB audit shall include product handling.
Can two facilities certified to IFA v5.3 switch to IFA v5.4-1-GFS?	Yes, at the next CB audit, if they require certification against a standard that has been recognized by GFSI, the facility needs to switch to IFA v5.4-1-GFS until IFA v6 GFS achieves GFSI recognition (estimated Q2-3 2023). If the facility does not need to be audited against a standard that has GFSI recognition, the facility can switch to IFA v6 Smart for the next CB audit.
In order for CB auditors to qualify for IFA v6, do they have to take separate exams for each edition? One exam for GFS and another exam for Smart?	There is one exam for the IFA v6 plants scope which covers both the Smart and GFS editions. This is because a lot of the content is similar in both editions. Having one combined exam is the most user-friendly option for all CBs.
Do inspectors/auditors have to enter the audit data/checklist into the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems?	Under IFA v6, it is obligatory for CBs to use AOH to upload audit data and generate reports.
Will the certificate be generated online?	Yes – CBs shall issue certificates via Validation Service. Certificates can only be generated in Validation Service if there is corresponding audit data in Audit Online Hub, i.e., the data has been validated. This strengthens the integrity of GLOBALG.A.P. certificates since fraudulent or invalid certificates (e.g., due to missing audit data) cannot be generated.
Will the generated checklist have a justification guide, or will it no longer exist?	GLOBALG.A.P. is currently in the process of developing audit and justification guidelines for CBs. We are aiming for these to be ready for IFA v6 for fruit and vegetables by September, in English, and later this year in Spanish.
Can we apply to the accreditation bodies for the	The accreditation process can already start.

updated scopes, or do we have to wait for the final version in September?	
Is there a date for the in-house trainer training in Spanish?	Yes. Our first priority is getting the training material finalized in English, then we will translate the material into Spanish. We are currently aiming for September 2022.
Is separate accreditation required for IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS?	The two accreditations (IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS) can be gained simultaneously.
Is there a type of Smart add-on for the GFS edition? For example, if you have IFA v6 GFS accreditation, can you use add-ons to gain IFA v6 Smart accreditation as well?	The content of the Smart and GFS editions is the same except for one extra point in the GFS edition. The challenge in "merging" the editions is the different way of demonstrating compliance and the levels that are different. GLOBALG.A.P. is encouraging the accreditation bodies to do simultaneous accreditation.
Under IFA v6, if postprocessing has been certified by a GFSI standard (e.g., FSSC), does the CB auditor still have to audit the processing unit?	This is possible in accordance with the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, Rules for plants scope v6 2.3f: f) If the product handling unit (PHU) already has a post-farm gate food safety certification recognized by GFSI for scope BII "Farming of grains and pulses" and/or BIII "Preprocess handling of plant products" (www.mygfsi.com), the GLOBALG.A.P. approved CB auditor shall audit, as a minimum, segregation and traceability, as well as postharvest treatments, if applicable. In case of doubt, the CB can reaudit all other applicable principles and criteria.

If you have further questions which are not covered in this document, please see the IFA v6 overview page on our website or contact standard@globalgap.org.