

# **BRCGS**

**Building  
confidence  
in brands**



[brcgs.com](https://www.brcgs.com)

# We are BRCGS

**Around the world, brand owners are focussed on product integrity more than ever before. It's the foundation on which brand trust is built and defended. At BRCGS, we set the benchmark for best practice manufacturing, helping to provide reassurance that products and services are high quality, legal and safe.**

Powered by our parent company LGC, we've evolved from British retail experts into an established global standards leader, with a rigorous assurance programme that touches every aspect of the 21st century supply chain – from food ingredients to packaging, distribution, retail and beyond. And, as we've expanded into new markets, we've kept innovating to stay ahead of the tremendous change sweeping every sector.

**Welcome to BRCGS.**



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## Protecting brand reputation.

**Today's consumer brands face a daily barrage of challenges. The rise of consumer consciousness has transformed the way in which customers relate to brands, in areas diverse as quality, safety, sustainability, provenance, health, ethics and nutrition.**

Meanwhile, transparency, enabled by digital technology, is fundamentally altering the way in which trust is won and lost. And, as business has globalised, longer and more complex supply chains have raised the stakes higher still.

Now, more than ever, industry needs to instil confidence in its brands – to be able to compete more effectively and protect its precious brand investment.

At BRCGS, we know that product integrity is a key driver of brand trust. We can help instil consumer confidence through our credible and exacting Global Standards, enabling you to protect and grow brand reputation in the face of profound shifts in consumer behaviour, technology and supply-side complexity.

# Setting the benchmark.



We believe passionately in harnessing the power of science to create a safer world for all, anchored on the most rigorous Global Standards that set definitive benchmarks for quality, safety and consumer protection.





## Our mission.

**Here at BRCGS, we improve brand confidence through our rigorous supply chain assurance services.**

Ever since we were founded in 1996 by retailers who wanted to harmonise food safety Standards across the supply chain, we've constantly evolved – growing out from our heritage in British retail into a range of Global Standards, across two decades of immense change.

Over the years, we have created ground-breaking new Standards to meet the ever-evolving needs of our clients. Today, we're recognised across food and non-food categories and operate the most rigorous third-party certification scheme of its kind – becoming the global standard underpinning brand reputation through compliance, at over 28,000 certificated sites in 130 countries.





## Establishing the benchmark.

**When it comes to investing in your product integrity and protecting your brand reputation, it all comes down to trust. Put your trust in BRCGS and we'll work in partnership with you to establish new benchmarks, reach new standards – and put in place an enduring framework that will serve you and your brands for years to come.**

We've been at the leading edge of Standards development for over 20 years and today we're specified by more global brand owners than any other scheme. In fact, our robust and expanding compliance team helps identify and correct 185,000 non-compliances every year.

We're driven by market-leading innovation. We were first to introduce food safety culture and food fraud assessments, and the first food safety Standard to be GFSI benchmarked. Today, we're constantly innovating to create a complete eco-system of digital tools, publishing, training, certification and events, all designed to support you.

With the most respected and experienced technical team, no-one offers a more comprehensive package of technical support, all backed by a global network of delivery partners and support professionals working by your side – round the world and round the clock.



# Now, more than ever, industry needs to instil confidence in its brands.

BRCGS has built the world's most rigorous supply chain assurance programme. With a robust and expanding compliance team BRCGS has been at the forefront of standards for over 20 years.





# Setting the standard.



## Our core issue areas

**Covering core issue areas and certification themes vital to the success of modern business, our Global Standards contain prescriptive, clear and compelling information, giving you everything you need to drive up quality and achieve certification. Underpinned by robust compliance processes and a rigorous grading system, they are designed to help you deliver meaningful improvements over time.**

### **Food Safety**

Developed by food industry experts to ensure it is rigorous and detailed, yet easy to understand, the latest issue of our Food Safety Standard provides a framework for managing product safety, integrity, legality and quality in the food and food ingredient manufacturing, processing and packing industry.

### **Agents and Brokers**

The Global Standard for Agents and Brokers has been developed to provide a framework for managing product safety, quality and legality for non-manufacturing businesses in the food and packaging industries, and covers issues as diverse as senior management commitment and continual improvement, and hazard and risk assessment.

### **Storage and Distribution**

Our Global Standard for Storage and Distribution provides the essential certification link between our range of manufacturing Standards and end users such as retailers or food service companies. It ensures that product integrity is maintained during storage and distribution, and that customer confidence is maximised through audit and certification.

### **Consumer Products**

Fully revised in 2016, our Global Standard for Consumer Products covers two distinct areas: General Merchandise, and Personal Care and Household, and provides a clear framework that helps you to produce safe, quality and legal products that meet customer requirements.

### **Packaging Materials**

The Global Standard for Packaging Materials was the first packaging Standard in the world to be recognised by the GFSI benchmarking committee and, to date, 4,500 suppliers in over 80 countries have chosen to be certificated to this scheme. The Global Standard Packaging Materials can be used by any manufacturer producing packaging materials for all types of products - from food to consumer products - at all levels: primary, secondary and tertiary.

The Standard provides a robust framework for all types of packaging manufacturers to assist them in the production of safe, authentic packaging materials and to better manage product quality to meet customers' requirements, while maintaining legal compliance.

The requirements of Issue 6 evolved from previous issues with an emphasis on senior management commitment, a hazard analysis and risk assessment-based product safety and quality programme and a supporting quality management system. BRCGS' objective in updating this Standard was to direct the focus of the audits carried out towards the implementation of good manufacturing practices, within a product safety and quality culture of continual improvement, while recognising the diversity and breadth of the packaging industry, and the skills required to audit it. So, the requirements within the Standard now recognise the importance of positive attitudes, values and beliefs towards product safety and quality within the manufacturing environment.

### **Retail**

Introduced in 2016, our Global Standard for Retail provides essential certification for retailers of food products and hard lines and covers the activity of retailing, as well as commissary, sourcing and in-store production. It is designed to promote best practice in product safety, quality, compliance and consumer protection.

### Gluten-Free

The GFCP Global Standard is unique from all other GF certifications, as it certifies your business, facility and its gluten-free manufacturing controls. The GFCP Global Standard promotes the preventative controls as outlined within HACCP principles GFSI benchmark standards, the Food Safety Modernization Act, the Safe Food for Canadians Act and if managed correctly, will also align with all global gluten-free regulations.

Millions of consumers worldwide are looking for gluten-free products, but those who depend on these products for medical reasons are confused and overwhelmed by the huge number of varying gluten-free label claims in the market. They are looking for a way to identify safe, reliable gluten-free products they can trust, hence the continued development of the Gluten-Free Certification Program (GFCP).

GFCP is a set of voluntary certification Global Standards based on a preventative, science-based approach for managing the safe manufacturing and production of gluten-free products. The Gluten-Free Certification Program was established with consensus from consumer and industry associations, retailers, manufacturers, and government agencies. Through partnerships with leading celiac/

coeliac organizations, GFCP allows brand owners to connect globally with the broader and still growing, gluten-free consumer market.

### Ethical Trade and Responsible Sourcing

The Program has been developed to help suppliers to identify risks within their organization and their supply chain and to demonstrate that the goods and/or services that they sell are produced ethically and that raw materials are sourced responsibly.

The BRCGS Ethical Trade and Responsible Sourcing Standard provides a formal framework for an independent evaluation of the management system of an organisation and its capability and capacity to deliver against the principles of ethical trade and responsible sourcing.

The Risk Assessment, on the other hand, has been developed to provide a "health check" of the management system of an organization against 5 Vital Signs associated with Ethical Trade and Responsible Sourcing. It is not a Social Audit and can be done at the same time and by the same auditor as the technical audit – for example BRCGS Food Safety or Packaging. It can also be "bolted on" to any other technical audit provided the auditor has obtained and passed the relevant training.

The Risk Assessment helps sites understand their ETRS risks so that they can work on improving their performance. It also provides an independent assessment, the results of which can be shared with key customers – both existing and new or prospective.

### Plant-Based

Our Plant-Based Global Standard has been developed in response to a shift in consumer behaviour, and offers greater certainty to both industry and consumers.

Taking a comprehensive management system approach, the Standard provides a manufacturing framework for the production of plant-based food, including operational criteria to ensure that plant-based products are free of material of animal origin. When applied in a plant-based management system (PBMS), the Standard provides a high level of protection from failure and enables the rapid identification and management of risks and deviations.

The plant-based on-pack trademark empowers consumers to make more informed choices quickly and easily, and provides powerful differentiation for brands and products.





## Maintaining the standard.

### Our support services

**At BRCGS, we go further so you can. Our diverse suite of value-added services complement our Standards and enable you to develop new insights, make valuable connections and maintain and develop the Standards you've attained.**

#### **Information**

Our online store – the BRCGS Bookshop – enables you to order printed copies of our Standards, Interpretation Guidelines and a range of other publications. Meanwhile, BRCGS Participate is the most convenient and flexible way to access an array of digital content, including webinars, key publications, flipbooks, case studies, white papers, reports and more.

#### **Training**

Backed by our global network of Approved Training Partners, we are here to support your ongoing training and professional development in wide range of territories and languages. From in-house training courses that provide opportunities for trainers to examine issues specific to your business, to the BRCGS Academy, and our own global e-learning platform, we make it easy to grow your skills and knowledge – and apply and audit our Standards with success.

#### **Events**

Our top-level global events offer a unique opportunity to network with your peers, share knowledge and learn from leading industry experts. Spanning consumer protection issues, Standards reviews and training, our events are held in key locations worldwide, bringing together thought leaders in food safety, supply chain risk management and product quality.

#### **Directory**

The BRCGS Directory is the official database of all the audits conducted against our Global Standards. Updated regularly with the most recent changes to site listings, audit documents and certification data, it gives you full access to the most current audit information.



Reaching across the entire supply chain, we have over 27,000 clients in 130 countries. Our Standards are available in multiple languages, while our free downloads mean BRCGS materials can be easily accessed anywhere in the world.



Russia

Asia

Oceania



## Global reach. Global powerhouse.

Because today's supply chains are global, we are global, with a truly international footprint supporting over 28,000 sites in 130 countries worldwide. No matter where you operate, we offer leading consumer and brand protection solutions, with Standards that cover all markets, sectors and jurisdictions.

Today, we always think global - and span the entire international supply chain. With multilingual support and Standards available in multiple major languages, you can always rely on on-the-ground backup via our worldwide network of offices, audit sites and centres, and downloadable resources accessible round-the-clock.

At BRCGS, we are where you are.



## **Brand confidence starts with a conversation.**

At BRCGS, our definitive Global Standards underpin brand reputation through compliance. To instil greater confidence in your brands and manage your risks in rapidly changing times, start a rewarding conversation with us.

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