

BRCGS

Consumer Products Standard

Guide to Certification

For over 30 years, BRCGS has been at the *forefront* of standards, driven by a commitment to delivering rigorous third-party *certification* that achieves the best results for businesses, consumers and the food industry.

Eliminating barriers to trade in the global consumer market

BRCGS is the global leader in food safety certification, helping the industry protect consumers, strengthen supply chains and demonstrate trusted product integrity.

Now approaching 40,000 certificated sites across more than 130 countries, BRCGS is the preferred choice for GFSI benchmarked certification as it is recognised by brands, retailers and specifiers worldwide.

The BRCGS Consumer Products Standard is suitable for global retailers and manufacturers of non-food raw materials and finished products.

It offers a holistic global solution, rooted in risk mitigation and best practice.

**Learn with the experts
at the BRCGS Academy.**

Over 65 interactive courses
available all delivered
by experts worldwide
in a range of languages.

Why choose BRCGS Consumer Products?

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- **Recognition from leading global brands and retailers reduces audit burden as there is less need for second-party audits.**
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- **Acceptance for cross-border trade increases market access and opens up commercial opportunities in new markets.**
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- **Trusted global certification to protect your company reputation, brand and image.**
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- **Compatible with ISO9001 and cGMP as it covers all requirements, and goes deeper with additional requirements in product risk assessment and process risk assessment (FMEA, HACCP, HARA).**
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- **Greater visibility of your business through use of the BRCGS certificated site logo and your listing on the BRCGS Directory; the tool that brands and retailers use for supplier selection.**
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- **Less quality/safety related customer complaints, product withdrawals, returns, and recalls through improved regulatory and product compliance.**

The standard can be accessed *free* of charge via the BRCGS Store.

More than certification—the proven economic benefits

Independent Research carried out by the University of Birkbeck found that sites certificated to a BRCGS Standard see benefits that go beyond compliance.

Commercial benefits

50%

Benefit from domestic growth

60%

Benefit from export growth

28%

Benefit from greater profitability

47%

Benefit from fewer customer audits

7.5%

Average sales growth

6%

Average increase in profitability

Operational efficiencies and improvements in productivity

70%

Have achieved efficiencies and greater productivity

30%

Have benefited from product innovation

63%

Reported production improvements

40%

Reduction in food recalls

Steps to certification

01

Getting started

Read the standard and Interpretation Guideline publications thoroughly to familiarise yourself with the standard and its requirements. Contact your chosen BRCGS-approved certification body to discuss your application.

02

Learn

Attend training with the BRCGS Academy to gain a practical understanding of implementing the requirements.

03

Review

Perform a self-assessment gap analysis with the standard (gap-analysis tool available on the BRCGS website). Assemble and train a team for implementation. Obtain consultancy if needed.

04

Prepare

Use the outputs of the self-assessment to develop an action plan to implement the standard requirements in your operation. Carry out risk assessments where needed and establish necessary control points. Prepare your procedures and undertake internal audits.

05

Plan audit

Contact your chosen certification body to arrange an audit. Make sure you plan ahead so that staff are available and preparations are made.

06

On-site audit

The audit will assess the practical implementation of the standard requirements. Observation of procedures and processes, review of documentation, and staff interviews will all take place.

07

Non-conformities and corrective action

If non-conformities are identified, you will need to carry out any corrective action, root cause analysis and plan preventive action. These will be closed out within 28 days following the audit.

08

Certification

Your certification body will review the non-conformities and finalise the audit report to determine whether certification will be awarded. If certification is achieved, the certification body will issue your certificate within 42 calendar days from the first day of your audit.

Training for sites preparing for certification

Kick-start your preparation by attending a BRCGS training course, which will provide you with the essential knowledge and insights required for a successful certification audit.

Sites training course (2 days)

By the end of this course you will:

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- **Understand the scope of the standard requirements.**
 - **Have practical knowledge of the standard requirements and be able to identify what is needed to comply with each requirement.**
 - **Know how to prepare for an audit and what the audit process entails – scope, duration, corrective actions and non-conformities.**
 - **Be familiar with how an audit will be reported and how companies will be certificated.**
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Find out *more* and
book *your place* at
[brcgs.com](https://www.brcgs.com)



The added value of BRCGS certification

Once certificated, your business will be listed in the BRCGS Directory which is a tool used by brands and retailers for supplier selection.

In addition, you have:

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- **Use of the globally recognised BRCGS certified site logo to boost your competitive edge.**
 - **Access to Directory Pro, where you can track certification, download PDF certificates and share audit reports.**
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All certificated sites feature in the BRCGS Directory, the ‘shop window’ *for brands and retailers looking for trusted suppliers.*



BRCGS *certification* audits are delivered by a *global* network of approved certification bodies.

Find a
certification
body at
[brcgs.com](https://www.brcgs.com)



With over 2,500 auditors worldwide, BRCGS *certification* is accessible no matter where you are located.

Tip for best success

Use the Interpretation Guideline alongside the standard when implementing the requirements. It will help you to understand each requirement and ways to comply.

Benefits

01—Trusted certification

02—Credibility built over decades

03—Brand protection

04—Truly global footprint

Impacting
over
\$800bn
in annual
retail sales

BRCGS

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