

BRCGS

Agents & Brokers Standard

Guide to Certification

For over 30 years, BRCGS has been at the *forefront* of standards, and at the heart of *our* work is a mission to deliver the most rigorous third-party *certification* schemes for the best results possible.

Instilling trust in the movement and trade of products

BRCGS is the global leader in certification helping the food 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.

BRCGS Agents & Brokers certification is suitable for:

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- **Brokers:** Companies that purchase products for resale to manufacturers, other brokers, retailers or food service companies, but not to the consumer.
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- **Agents or non-manufacturing service providers:** Companies that trade between a manufacturer or broker and their customers, but do not own the goods.
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- **Importers/Exporters:** Companies that facilitate the movement of products across national boundaries, satisfying legal and customs requirements. Importers and exporters may also be agents and/or brokers.

Why choose BRCGS Agents & Brokers?

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- **Widely accepted and specified by many retailers, manufacturers, ingredients companies, food service organisations and raw material processors worldwide.**
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- **Compliance with a standard that is GFSI benchmarked, accredited and internationally recognised through Global ACI.**
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- **Global applicability and assists companies and their customers in meeting legislative requirements for product safety.**
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- **Enables operators to develop robust systems for product security (food defence) and product authenticity in the supply chain.**
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- **Addresses consumer assurance demands and demonstrates the adoption of industry best practice by encouraging the development of a product safety culture.**
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- **Reduced costs of failure and fewer quality/safety related customer complaints.**
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- **Trusted global certification to protect your company's reputation, brand and image.**
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- **Greater visibility of your business through your listing on the BRCGS Directory; the tool that brands and retailers use for supplier selection.**

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 (1 day)

By the end of this course you will:

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- **Understand the scope of the standard requirements and what products are applicable.**

 - **Have practical knowledge of the implementation of 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.**

Find out *more* and book *your place* at [brcgs.com](https://www.brcgs.com)



Learn with the experts at the BRCGS Academy.

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

The added value of BRCGS certification

Once certificated, you will have exclusive access to the BRCGS Service Package. This features a range of tools to help sites continuously improve and maintain compliance, providing added value outside of the audit process.

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- **Access to Participate, an online library of all BRCGS standards, best practice guidance and supporting materials.**

 - **Unlimited enrolments for BRCGS Professional, a globally recognised learning and development programme to build skills and knowledge within your business.**

 - **Ethical appraisal tools to help you to respond to increasing market requirements around ethical operations and sustainability.**

 - **A taster of our culture measurement and analysis tool, FSCE Basic, to drive culture improvements in your business.**

 - **Valuable insights into your audit performance through BRCGS Horizon.**

All certificated sites feature in the BRCGS Directory, the ‘shop window’ *for brands and retailers looking for trusted suppliers.*

In addition to the Service Package, all Audit Owners get access to Directory Pro, without additional charge. This allows you to track certification, download PDF certificates and share audit reports.

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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