

BRCGS

# Food Safety 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.

## Leading the way in global food safety

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 Food Safety Standard is applicable to food manufacturing organisations:

It specifies the safety, quality and operational criteria required to be in place within a food manufacturing organisation to fulfil obligations regarding legal compliance and protection of the consumer.

**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 Food Safety?

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- The most widely accepted and specified by many retailers, manufacturers, ingredients companies, food service organisations and raw material processors worldwide.
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- The most established and trusted global certification to protect your company's reputation, brand and image.
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- Compliance with a standard that has been established for 25 years, is GFSI benchmarked, accredited and internationally recognised through IAF.
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- It addresses consumer assurance demands and demonstrates the adoption of industry best practice by encouraging the development of a food safety culture.
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- Reduced costs of failure and fewer quality/safety related customer complaints.
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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.
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- With the widest range of additional modules, BRCGS provides a certification solution that truly meets your business needs and reduces audit burden.

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.

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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.

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## 02

### Learn

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

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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 food safety 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 what is required to comply with and practically implement the standard requirements.**

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  - **Be able to describe the scope of companies and products covered by the standard.**

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  - **Know how to prepare for an audit and what to expect during the audit.**

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  - **Know how to use the BRCGS resources and tools available to support compliance.**

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



# 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.**

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

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

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

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  - **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

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01—Trusted certification

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02—Credibility built over decades

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03—Brand protection

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04—Truly global footprint

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Impacting  
over  
\$800bn  
*in annual*  
retail sales

# BRCGS

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