

BRCGS

Storage & Distribution 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.

Safeguarding product safety and integrity at every stage of the supply chain journey

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.

The BRCGS Storage and Distribution Standard applies to logistics operations dealing with food, packaging, and consumer products.

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- **Businesses can implement the full scope, or a scope relevant to their operation e.g. storage only, distribution only, transport only.**
 - **Can be applied to storage and/or distribution operations at any point in the distribution chain from primary production to retail.**
 - **Additional modules covering e-commerce, cross-docking, wholesale, contracted packing, inspection and waste management can be included where required for greater supply chain assurance.**

Why choose BRCGS Storage and Distribution?

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- **Customise the scope of your audit through additional modules to tailor your certification solution to your business needs.**
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- **Protect your brand and reputation by reducing the risk and potential liabilities associated with common challenges in storage and transports of goods such as contamination and temperature control.**
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- **Compliance with a standard that has been established for 20 years, is GFSI benchmarked, accredited and internationally recognised through Global ACl.**
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- **Improves regulatory compliance, increases operational efficiency and reduces costs of failure, resulting in fewer quality/safety related customer complaints.**
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- **See ongoing business improvements as a result of enhanced root cause analysis, robust internal audits, and improved product safety culture.**

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.**

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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