

BRCGS

Gluten-Free 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.

Driving global confidence through trusted trademarks

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 Gluten-Free Standard is applicable to businesses involved in the manufacture, processing and packing of:

- **Processed foods (own brand and customer-branded).**
- **Ingredients for use by food service companies, catering companies and/or food manufacturers.**
- **Pet foods.**
- **Cosmetics.**
- **Natural health products.**

It uses a systems-based approach to preventing gluten contamination that could endanger public health. When implemented effectively, it safeguards against failures and allows quick identification and management of risks or deviations.

Why choose BRCGS Gluten-Free?

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- Endorsed by leading celiac associations around the world covering Europe, the USA, Canada and Mexico.
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- Use of trusted and recognised consumer-facing on-pack trademarks relevant to your market to build brand reputation.
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- Fast track access to a competitive global market that is growing exponentially and presenting many opportunities.
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- Reducing the risk of product recalls by using a preventative, risk-based control system throughout the manufacturing process, which is more effective than relying on end-product testing alone.
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- Established and trusted global certification which will elevate your company's reputation, brand and image through assurance of product integrity.
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- Increase operational efficiency and reduce costs with the option of combining audits with other BRCGS standards.
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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.

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

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

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.

02

Learn

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

03

Registration and licence agreement

Inform BRCGS of your intention to proceed with an audit. Complete and submit the relevant Licence Agreement and Schedule A document and pay any associated fees prior to your audit.

04

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.

05

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.

06

Plan audit

BRCGS certification audits are delivered by our network of approved certification bodies. A list is available in the BRCGS Directory. Contact your chosen or existing certification body to arrange an audit. Make sure you plan ahead so that staff are available and preparations are made.

07

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.

08

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.

09

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 what is required to comply with the requirements of the standard, the expectation of the auditors and the evidence to be provided to support compliance.**

 - **Be able to identify different gluten controls that must be implemented as part of a gluten-free management system.**

 - **Know how to determine suitable gluten-free monitoring, deviation, validation and verification procedures.**

 - **Be familiar with the audit protocol and understand the certification process.**

E-learning module (4-6 hours)

Learn at your own pace and convenience with the e-learning module for Gluten-Free Standard. This e-learning training course has been designed to provide an understanding of the standard requirements and to provide guidance on implementing a preventative, risk-based Gluten-Free Management System. It also explains the process to become certificated to the standard.

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

Trusted trademarks and worldwide association endorsement

The rigour of BRCGS gluten-free certification has won the endorsement of a broad network of national and regional associations in the USA, Canada, and Mexico. This allows certificated sites to use the onpack association trademarks with the highest consumer recognition in their market, such as the Beyond Celiac trademark in the USA, the Celiac Canada trademark in Canada, the Acelmex gluten-free trademark in Mexico and Latin America, and the Association of European Coeliac Societies (AOECS) crossed grain symbol in Europe.

The strategic partnership between BRCGS and AOECS resulted in the collaborative development of Section 8 of the BRCGS Gluten-Free Standard. This optional section incorporates additional AOECS requirements into the certification process, specifically for sites looking to market their products in Europe and neighbouring economies. This streamlines the process for certificated sites and brands that feature the respected and trusted AOECS Crossed Grain symbol on their packaging.



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



Fast track access to a rapidly expanding market using the world’s most trusted and recognised consumer trademarks.

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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