



GLOBALG.A.P.

INTEGRATED FARM ASSURANCE (IFA) VERSION 6

What's new?





INTRODUCING IFA V6



IFA v6 is **GLOBALG.A.P.**'s flagship standard in a new and improved format. It has a simplified structure and language, extended criteria on key issues such as sustainability and animal welfare, and – for the first time – continuous improvement at producer level. Overall, it's a smarter standard, fit for the future.

Elmé Coetzer-Boersma
Managing Director





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – WHAT IS IFA V6?

IFA v6 is the **latest revision of GLOBALG.A.P.'s flagship standard, IFA.**

It takes a **holistic approach** to farm assurance through the following topics:



FOOD
SAFETY



LEGAL, MANAGEMENT,
TRACEABILITY



PRODUCTION
PROCESSES



ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY



ANIMAL HEALTH
AND WELFARE



WORKERS'
WELL-BEING



RESPONSIBLE FARMING PRACTICES



EXPECTED LAUNCH DATES

Scopes, product categories, and languages

26 April 2022:

Launch of IFA v6 (interim version)

Publication of **English**-language documents for

- fruit and vegetables
- flowers and ornamentals
- hops
- aquaculture

Q2 2022:

Launch of IFA v6 (final version)

Publication of **English**-language documents

September 2022:

Launch of IFA v6 (final version) in further languages

- Fruit and vegetables – German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch, French, Japanese
- Flowers and ornamentals – German, Dutch, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, French
- Aquaculture – German, Spanish, Norwegian, French, Turkish

Q4 2022:

Launch of IFA v6 (interim version) in further languages

- Fruit and vegetables – German and Spanish
- Flowers and ornamentals – German and Dutch
- Aquaculture – German and Spanish

Date TBC

Launch of further scopes/product categories TBC



THE MAIN CHANGES

Compared to version 5

- Certificates **issued at scope level**
- Some key changes to the **GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations**
- Transition from a prescriptive to an **outcome-oriented approach**
- Streamlined, **customized checklists**
- Stronger focus on **environmental/sustainability issues** and **animal welfare**
- Introduction of a **continuous improvement plan** for producers
- **Two IFA v6 editions**: one adapted for GFSI recognition



SCOPES AND PRODUCT CATEGORIES

An explanation

- IFA v6 is available for **multiple scopes and product categories**.
- Each product category has its own **checklist**.
- The crops scope now called **plants**.
- Sub-scopes are now called **product categories**.
- IFA v6 was published 26 April 2022 for the **following scopes and product categories**:



Fruit and
vegetables
(plants scope)



Hops
(plants scope)



Flowers and
ornamentals
(plants scope)



Finfish, crustaceans,
molluscs and
seaweed
(aquaculture scope)



SCOPES AND PRODUCT CATEGORIES

Changes to certificates and accreditation

- For IFA v6, certificates are issued at **scope level**.

For example, if a producer gets certified for both fruit and vegetables (FV) and flowers and ornamentals (FO), they will receive **one certificate for plants** – with **FV and FO listed as product categories**.

- Certification bodies will need to get **accreditation on scope level**.

There will be one bigger training and exam per scope, and **no product category (sub-scope) limitation later**. There is no registration, approval, witness, maintenance of competency, or minimum number of audits per product category (sub-scope).

Product categories that are not part of the initial launch in April 2022 will not form a part of the expanded training and will therefore have to be completed at a later date when the relevant product category becomes available.



IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE GLOBALG.A.P. GENERAL REGULATIONS

- Self-assessment contains **comments for all non-applicable and non-compliant Major and Minor Must criteria** (i.e., no comment for all Recommendations and complied Major/Minor Musts).
- 10% of audits by certification bodies must be **unannounced**. This 10% is no longer counted as additional audits, but rather included in the original number of certification audits.
- **Three-year cycle rule** (with annual on-site audit) further reduces the content of the checklist to the applicable points and shortens the on-site audit duration.
 - Initial audit (for v6): All requirements are included in the **applicable checklists** (QMS and farm).
 - Subsequent 2 (operational items, as identified in the checklist).
 - Subsequent 3 (operational items, as identified in the checklist).



OUTCOME-ORIENTED APPROACH

What is it?

The IFA v6 approach focuses on the **outcomes achieved, rather than the specific measures**. This provides greater flexibility as it allows producers to demonstrate compliance in a way that is most appropriate for their production practices.

“Control points” and “compliance criteria” from IFA v5 are therefore replaced by “**principles**” and “**criteria**” in IFA v6.

Principles

- **Rules** that set the foundation of a GLOBALG.A.P. requirement.
- **Statement** instead of question form.
- Describe the **outcome** to achieve.

Criteria

- **Methods** that producers can use to demonstrate a principle to be true.
- Compliance can be evidenced by **data**, a **procedure**, a **record**, etc.



STREAMLINED, CUSTOMIZED CHECKLISTS

How is this achieved?

- **Reduced number** of principles and criteria in IFA v6 compared to IFA v5.

Fruit and vegetables (Smart)

Level	V5	V6
Major Must	93	103
Minor Must	114	67
Recommendation	15	20
TOTAL	222	190

-32

Flowers and ornamentals

Level	V5	V6
Major Must	64	67
Minor Must	116	77
Recommendation	17	14
TOTAL	197	158

-39

Aquaculture

Level	V5	V6
Major Must	182	204
Minor Must	46	18
Recommendation	9	5
TOTAL	237	227

-10

- Principles and criteria which are not applicable due to the **producer's risk assessment of the production practices** will already be labeled as N/A in the checklist. This means that the **checklists are now customized** to some extent, according to a producer's specific situation.



CUSTOMIZED PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA IN PRACTICE

An example

Risk

Irrigation system on farm

Accompanying principles and criteria

E.g., “Tools are routinely used to calculate and optimize crop irrigation” and “Restrictions indicated in water/permits are complied with.”

Reason for being non-applicable

The producer only uses rainwater on their farm and no irrigation system.

Solution

Principles and criteria related to irrigation systems are marked as non applicable on the checklist for this producer.



A STRONGER FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY

How?

Environmental sustainability is a major focus of IFA v6.

While some principles and criteria have been developed based on the control points and compliance criteria from IFA v5, some topics are **new or more rigorous**.

New sustainability topics in IFA v6:

- Greenhouse gases and climate change
- Ecosystem restoration
- Food waste management
- Plastics management
- Carbon neutrality
- Deforestation prevention
- Animal welfare
- The farm as an agricultural ecosystem
- Continuous improvement

Updated sustainability topics in IFA v6:

- Biodiversity
- Integrated pest management
- Soil management and conservation
- Water management
- Energy efficiency
- Waste management
- Fertilizers
- Plant protection products



A STRONGER FOCUS ON ANIMAL WELFARE

In the aquaculture scope



- **Stricter humane slaughter practices.** If technology is available for a particular species and proven to be effective, this shall be used.
- Animal welfare parameters are established by the farmer during **transport**. This also avoids mortality.
- **Hatchery and grow-out** with higher and extended standards on animal health and welfare.
- Introduction of **environmental enrichment** concept.
- Extended staff **training requirements** on animal welfare for workers at all stages of production.
- From no later than April 2024, larvae may only be sourced from shrimp females which have not suffered **eye ablation** (or any other type of physically invasive method for inducing breeding).



CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AT FARM LEVEL

New for IFA v6

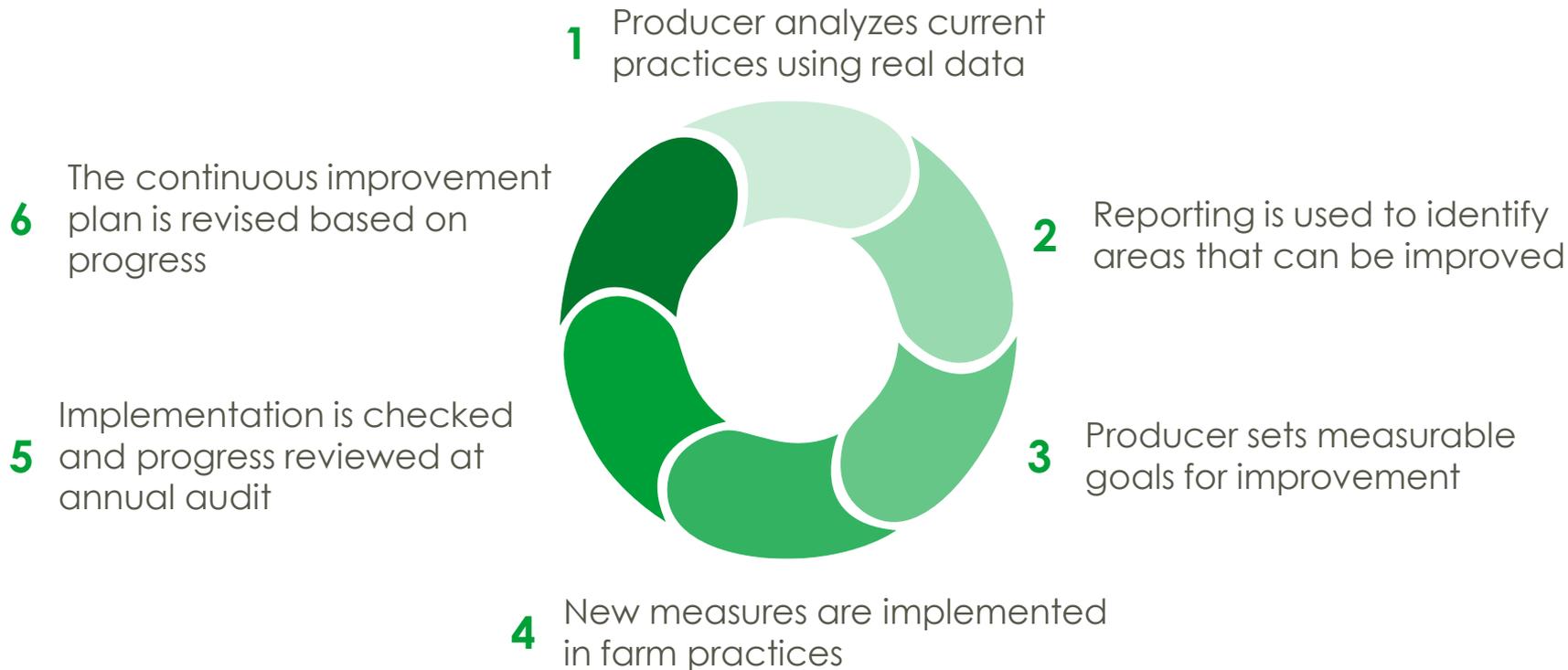
“Continuous improvement” used to mean updating farm assurance standards regularly to get better and better. In IFA v6, for the first time, continuous improvement will be relevant on an **individual producer level**.

- Producers are required to implement a plan to **analyze current practices**.
- They then **identify “hot spots”** and **set clear, measurable goals** for improvement in this area, e.g., improve energy efficiency, reduce use of X plant protection product.
- Year on year, producers demonstrate their efforts towards improving sustainability, food safety, or workers’ well-being.



CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AT FARM LEVEL

New for IFA v6

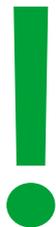




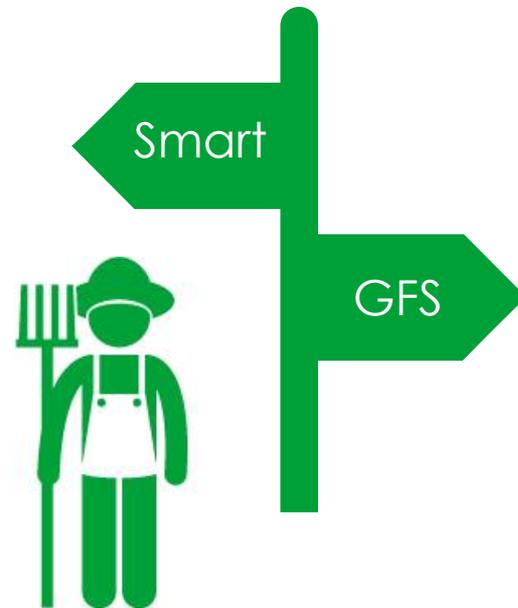
TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

An explanation

- IFA v6 will be available in **two editions**:
IFA v6 Smart and **IFA v6 GFS**
- They are available **in parallel** and are **equally valid**.



When referring to IFA v6:
If an edition is not specified
by name (Smart/GFS),
both IFA v6 editions
are meant.





TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

Why?

- Until now, all IFA versions have been **GFSI recognized** (for FV and AQ).
- GFSI has requirements that are **not relevant for all producers**, and which change more frequently. The requirements restrict the ways in which GLOBALG.A.P. standards can be written and implemented.
- It is not possible to offer IFA v6 checklists that are **simplified, outcome-oriented, and customized** and which also fulfill GFSI requirements perfectly.
- Feedback from stakeholders in the public consultation – including producer and retailer members in the GLOBALG.A.P. technical committees – showed a preference for **flexible IFA options**, rather than reducing v6 ambitions to retain GFSI recognition.
- To continue providing options for all producers, GLOBALG.A.P. is offering two IFA v6 editions. **IFA v6 Smart** will not be submitted to GFSI benchmarking. This flagship edition is appropriate for most producers. The second edition (**IFA v6 GFS**) has been adapted for GFS requirements.



TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

An overview

IFA v6 Smart



Flagship edition,
broadly applicable



By stakeholders,
for stakeholders



Six topics for
responsible farming
practices



100% outcome-
oriented, customized
checklists

Why Smart?

The name resulted from a need to differentiate between the two different editions. “Smart” is a commercial name. Since this edition fully embodies our vision of GLOBALG.A.P. smart solutions for the coming years*, using “Smart” as the name for our flagship edition felt like the natural choice! The other edition is distinguished by the GFSI elements and should be identified with the “GFS” tag.

*See our vision for the future in the download entitled “Smart farm assurance solutions”



TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

An overview

IFA v6 GFS



Applicable for smaller number of producers



Driven largely by US markets



Six topics for responsible farming practices



Adapted for GFSI recognition (not 100% outcome-oriented)



The application for **GFSI benchmarking** for IFA v6 GFS will take place in mid 2022.



TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

Scopes and product categories



IFA v6
Smart

- All **flowers and ornamentals** growers
- All **hops** producers
- **Fruit and vegetables** producers who do not require certification with GFSI recognition
- **Aquaculture** producers who do not require certification with GFSI recognition (both Smart and GFS will have GSSI recognition)

IFA v6
GFS



- **Fruit and vegetables** producers who require certification with GFSI recognition (mostly US markets)
- **Aquaculture** producers who require certification with GFSI recognition



TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

A comparison

Similarities	Differences
Both have evolved from IFA v5 with full support from GLOBALG.A.P. technical committees.	V6 Smart is intended for the majority of producers, v6 GFS is specifically adapted for GFSI .
Same six topics , same holistic approach.	General regulations for GFS edition have a few extra requirements.
The topics of environmental sustainability, animal health and welfare, and workers' well-being are covered in the same way in both editions.	The principles and criteria (P&Cs) relating to the topics of legal, management and traceability, food safety, and production processes are more prescriptive to accommodate GFSI benchmarking.
Content and user experience have been aligned as closely as possible.	Less than 15% of the P&Cs in the GFS and Smart editions differ from each other. There is one extra P&C in the GFS edition for FV (190 vs. 191 total).
Both editions are accepted for BRC and IFS certified post-farm gate product handling facilities	Compliance levels: GFS edition has 15 more P&Cs graded as Major Musts, while the corresponding points in v6 Smart are Minor Musts.
	Recertification audit: Remote audit (fully remote) is included as an emergency procedure for the Smart edition only. Initial certification based on a fully remote audit is not possible.



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Streamlined, customized checklists

Outcome-oriented approach

Digital, data-driven certification

Certificates issued at scope level

Flexibility with choice of two editions

Higher level of integrity behind
GLOBALG.A.P. certificates

Stronger focus on sustainability
and animal welfare

Continuous improvement plan



IFA V6 AND SMART FARM ASSURANCE SOLUTIONS

Benefits for producers

- **Streamlined, customized checklists**
Removal of irrelevant and duplicated principles and criteria reduces audit burden. Simpler, more efficient, and customized for the producer – reduced audit time.
- **Transition from a prescriptive to an outcome-oriented approach**
Focus on outcomes over measures means flexibility in demonstrating compliance. Enhanced standards and sustainability criteria are more attractive to buyers.
- **Introduction of a continuous improvement plan**
Aids identification of target areas to improve by analyzing practices. Improves farming practices holistically and reduces environmental impact.
- **Choose the IFA v6 edition that best suits your needs**
Two parallel editions with the option of GFSI recognition for producers who require it.



IFA V6 AND SMART FARM ASSURANCE SOLUTIONS

Benefits for supply chain stakeholders

- **Stronger focus on sustainability issues**
New and updated criteria on topics such as plastics, waste, carbon neutrality, etc.
Reduced environmental impact increasingly important to consumers.
- **Stronger animal welfare criteria**
Stricter humane slaughter practices.
Prohibition of eye ablation of shrimp females for reproduction by 2024.
Introduction of environmental enrichment concept.
- **Simplified benchmarking for clarity in the market**
Only equivalent approved modified checklists or benchmarked schemes.
Removal of “resembling” option.
- **Better integrity**
Uniform certificates are generated in a closed system and validated online.
You can be surer than ever that a GLOBALG.A.P. certificate is legitimate.



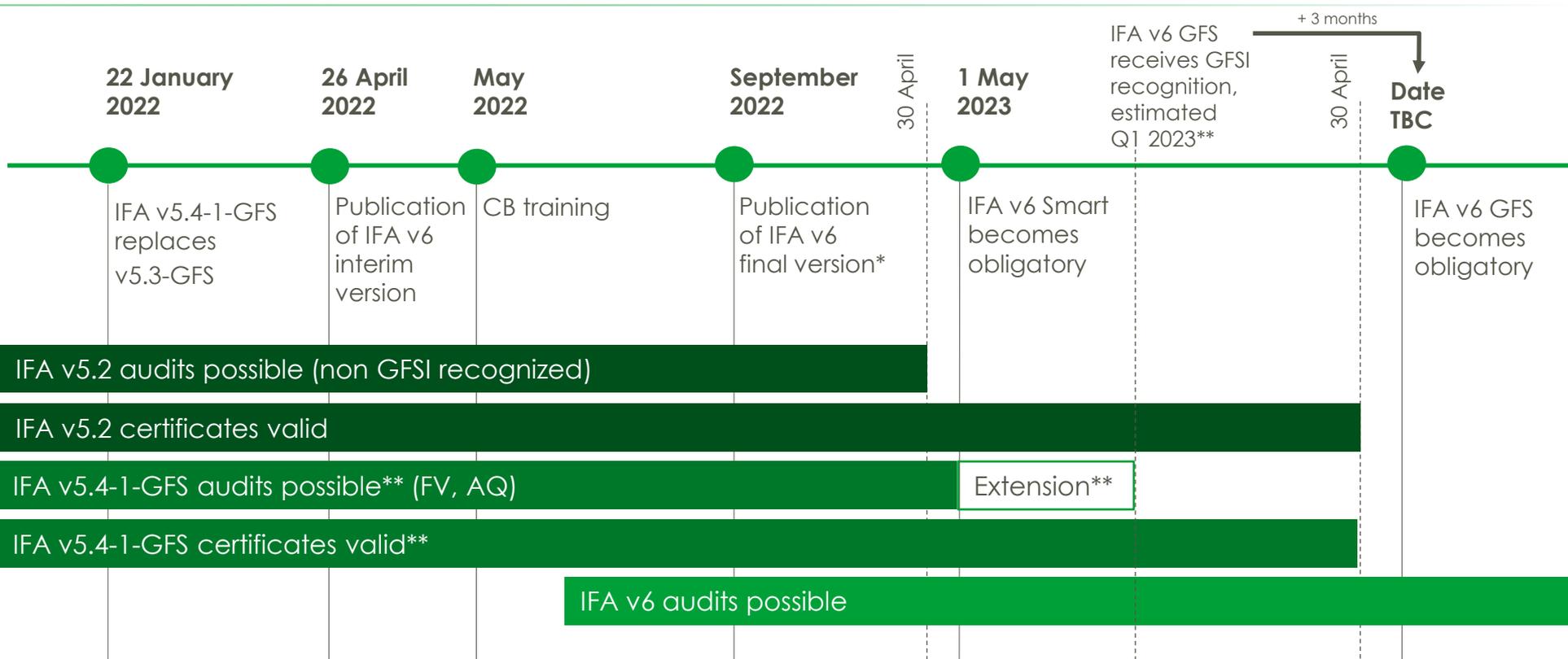
IFA V6 AND SMART FARM ASSURANCE SOLUTIONS

Benefits for certification bodies

- **A more digital, data-driven certification experience**
Use of Audit Online Hub to upload audit data and generate reports.
Electronically issued certificates through Validation Service.
Reduced audit time and environmental impact from less paper use.
- **Certificates issued at scope level**
Streamlined process with listed product categories rather than multiple certificates.
Stronger integrity of certificates through Validation Service.
- **Easier accreditation and auditor qualification**
Expanded initial training and exam without product category limitation later.
Removal of minimum number of audits per product category (product categories are merged into scopes)



WHAT IS THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM IFA V5 to V6



*IFA v6 final version will be published in English in September 2022. All other languages will follow by the end of 2022.

V5.4-1-GFS remains valid until **three months after IFA v6 GFS receives GFSI recognition. The exact date for this is still unknown.



TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

Differences in GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations for producers

Additional rules for *individual producers* in IFA v6 GFS:

- Zero hours advance warning for unannounced audits
- Four months certificate extension is only possible with additional conditions



TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

Differences in GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations for producers

Additional rules for *producer groups and multisite producers with QMS in IFA v6 GFS:*

- Four months certificate extension is only possible with additional conditions
- Zero hours advance warning for the 10% QMS unannounced audits
- No sampling for producer groups/multisite producers/PHU with members/sites/PHUs classified as high-risk
 - High-risk products include fresh herbs, leafy greens, berries, cantaloupe melons
 - High-risk processes include post-harvest use of water/ice/steam, preharvest and/or harvest activities where water touches the edible part of the product, preharvest use of raw organic manure applied less than 60 days before harvest
- The internal QMS auditor, the internal farm auditors, and the QMS manager must be independent from the members/sites



TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

Differences in GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations for producers

- Annual management review and food safety policy declaration
- At least 25% of the audit sample shall be random
- Minimum 20% of members/sites that shall be audited during the certification cycle shall be audited unannounced
- The certification body may additionally issue GLOBALG.A.P. certificates to producer group members if those producers were audited as part of the sample



TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

Which is right for me as a producer?

How does a producer know which edition to use?

What role do buyer requirements play in the decision?

- Customer requirements normally determine the standard or edition that a producer will implement. Therefore, communication between the producer and their customer(s) is key. If a producer is not clear on customer requirements, the best approach would be to directly ask the customer regarding topics such as which edition is required, which standard, which version, etc.

Can a producer obtain certification for Smart and GFS editions for different products?

- Yes, it is possible to have IFA v6 Smart for one product, and IFA v6 GFS for another. This can be done in one audit.

Is switching between the two editions possible?

- Yes, switching between the IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS editions is possible.



TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

Differences in GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations for certification bodies

Additional rules for *certification bodies* in v6 GFS:

- **Additional requirements for initial training** (before sign-off) and **maintenance of competency** by the certification body.
- Certification bodies must **provide the final CB audit report to the producer**, including the completed audit checklist generated by Audit Online Hub if requested by the producer, within 5 working days of its completion.
- Additional rules for **defining high-risk products and high-risk processes** for producer group members.
- At least 25% of the square root sample of the actual number of members/sites shall be **randomly selected**.



TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

Consequences for certification bodies

Have the requirements changed?

- There are **no new requirements** for certification bodies/auditors to be qualified for the **IFA v6 GFS** edition in comparison with **IFA v5.4-1-GFS**.

When certification bodies apply for accreditation, are they accredited for both editions?

- The two accreditations (IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS) can be gained **simultaneously**.