



GLOBALG.A.P.

INTEGRATED FARM ASSURANCE (IFA) VERSION 6

Smart and GFS editions





TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

An overview

- The two IFA v6 **editions** are available in parallel and are **equally valid**: IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS.
- Why? **GFSI** has requirements that are not relevant for all producers, and which change frequently. Feedback from stakeholders showed a preference for **flexible IFA options**.
- IFA v6 Smart is the flagship edition, whereas IFA v6 GFS has been adapted to meet GFSI requirements.
- The estimated timeframe for IFA v6 GFS to receive **GFSI recognition** is Q2–3 2023.
- IFA v6 Smart becomes obligatory from 1 January 2024. IFA v6 GFS becomes obligatory once GFSI recognition is achieved. Until then, IFA v5.4-1-GFS remains an option for producers needing certification with GFSI recognition.



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

An overview



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

An overview

IFA v6 Smart



Flagship edition for the majority



By stakeholders, for stakeholders



Six topics for responsible farming practices



100% outcome-oriented, customizable checklists

IFA v6 GFS



For those who need certification with GFSI recognition



Driven largely by US markets



Six topics for responsible farming practices



Adapted for GFSI recognition (not 100% outcome oriented)



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 to meet GFSI requirements.
Same six topics, same holistic approach.	GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations for the 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 in the GFS edition to accommodate GFSI recognition.
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 fruit and vegetables (190 vs. 191 total).
Both editions are accepted for BRC and IFS certified post-farm gate product handling facilities.	Compliance levels: The GFS edition has 15 more P&Cs graded as Major Must P&Cs, while the corresponding points in the Smart edition are Minor Must P&Cs.
	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.
	The system participation fee for IFA v6 GFS is higher due to the administrative efforts of GFSI benchmarking.



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 certification body (CB) audits
- Four months certificate validity extension is only possible with additional conditions

Additional rules for *producer groups and multisite producers with a quality management system (QMS)* in IFA v6 GFS:

- Four months certificate validity extension is only possible with additional conditions
- Zero hours advance warning for the 10% unannounced CB QMS audits
- No sampling for producer group members/multisite producers/product handling units classified as high risk
 - High-risk products include fresh herbs, leafy greens, berries, cantaloupe melons
 - High-risk processes include postharvest 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 producer group members/production sites



TWO IFA V6 EDITIONS

Which is right for me as a producer?

Which edition should I use?

- 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 is to ask the customer directly regarding topics such as which edition is required, which standard, which version, etc.

Can I achieve certification to the Smart and GFS editions for the production processes for different products?

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

Is switching between the two editions possible?

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