




**BRCGS** | Plant-Based

# **BRCGS Global Standard Plant-Based**

Guide to certification



**Remain  
competitive in an  
increasingly  
crowded market.**

**For more than  
25 years, BRCGS  
has been at the  
forefront of  
standards**

**With over 2,500  
auditors worldwide,  
BRCGS certification is  
accessible no matter  
where you are located.**

## INSPIRING TRUST AND TRANSPARENCY IN A COMPETITIVE GLOBAL MARKET

For more than 25 years, BRCGS has been at the forefront of standards, and at the heart of our work is a mission to deliver the most rigorous third-party certification schemes for the best results possible. BRCGS certification provides vital assurance and confidence in the supply chain, and ensures high levels of safety and quality to guarantee consumer protection. As the most established global market leader across both food and non-food categories, BRCGS is the most recognised certification of its type and is accepted globally by brands, retailers and specifiers.

With over 35,000 certificated sites in more than 130 countries, BRCGS certification delivers trusted results and assurance of product integrity, which is why it is often the preferred choice when it comes to GFSI benchmarked certification.

### THE BRCGS PLANT-BASED GLOBAL STANDARD CAN BE USED BY FOOD MANUFACTURERS PRODUCING VEGETARIAN AND VEGAN PRODUCTS.

**It applies only to the control of animal inputs in plant-based products, in the manufacture, processing and packing of:**

- Processed foods, both own brand and customer branded.
- Ingredients for use by food service companies, catering companies, and food manufacturers.
- Pet foods (GFSI benchmarked schemes only).
- Natural health products.



**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 THE BRCGS GLOBAL STANDARD PLANT-BASED?



- A systems-based approach founded upon proven, globally recognised, science-based claim management protocols designed to prevent failure.
- Significantly reduces the risk of relying solely on end-product animal input testing.

- Increases access to a rapidly growing global market with certification that is recognised by retailers and specifiers.
- Builds consumer trust in your brand through use of a recognised on-pack trademark.
- Enabling informed consumer product choices through the on-pack trademark ensures your brand stands out in a competitive market.
- Increase operational efficiency and reduce costs with the option of combining audits with other BRCGS Global Standards.
- 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.**

## 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

1

### GETTING STARTED

Read the Standard and Interpretation Guideline publications thoroughly to familiarise yourself with the Standard and its requirements.



2

### LEARN

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



3

### SUBMIT LICENCE AGREEMENT AND SCHEDULE A

Complete a License Agreement and the Schedule A document (both available on the BRCGS website) and submit these to BRCGS. This provides a list of recognised products eligible to display the plant-based trademark after certification has been granted. This must be approved by BRCGS prior to any third-party audit.



4

### 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.



5

### 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.



6

### PLAN AUDIT

BRCGS certification audits are delivered by our network of approved certification bodies. 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.



7

### 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.



8

### 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.



9

### CERTIFICATION

Your certification body will review the non-conformities and finalise the audit report to determine whether certification 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 PLANT-BASED 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:

- Understand the principles of plant-based product integrity.
- Have a practical knowledge of how to interpret the Standard requirements and how to implement a preventative, risk-based plant-based management system.
- Be familiar with BRCGS audit methodology, the preparation required and post-audit activities.

### SITES E-LEARNING MODULE (4-6 hours)

Learn at your own pace and convenience with the e-learning module for Global Standard Plant-Based. This covers:

- Understanding the requirements and audit protocol for audits to the Standard.
- The importance of identifying materials of animal origin and understanding plant-based product manufacture.
- The concept of cross contact and its potential in a food production process.
- The key requirements of plant-based product management.
- The controls that must be implemented as part of a plant-based management system.
- The importance of prerequisite programs in safeguarding a plant-based site.

Find out more and book your place at [www.brcgs.com/training/overview](http://www.brcgs.com/training/overview)

## ON-PACK PLANT-BASED TRADEMARK

The on-pack trademark empowers consumers to make informed choices about products quickly and easily. It plays a vital role in building brand trust with consumers as it validates any plant-based claims and reinforces product integrity.

The on-pack trademark allows brands and products to differentiate themselves and remain competitive in an increasingly crowded market.



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bodies**





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To learn more about BRCGS and certification,  
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To access or purchase a BRCGS Global Standard or to book training,  
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To find a BRCGS-approved certification body,  
please visit **[directory.brcgs.com](https://www.brcgs.com/directory)**.