Summary of Review

Requirements - Part II

Introduction

Issue 7 has undergone a significant review given the timescale since the launch of Issue 6 in 2019.

Many clauses have been updated and all reviewed and the list below identifies other areas where the most significant changes have been made.

During the review, consideration was given to the order of the clauses and the logical placement of clauses and general updating of the content to comply with the most recent GFSI benchmarking as well as industry developments and changes. Consistency of terminology used throughout the Standard was reviewed to assist uniform understanding.

The scope of the Global Standard was extended to include products other than packaging materials which are manufactured using similar technologies, typically single-use items, such as disposable tableware, drinking straws, disposable cutlery etc. These would ordinarily be considered within the Consumer Products Standard however are considered in scope if they require GFSI-benchmarked certification. Associated with inclusion of these products, some additional clauses have been added including quantity control and sample retention.

A Key Changes document will be published to accompany the launch of Issue 7 of the Standard that will highlight all the changes that have been made.

Summary of changes in each section
Section 1

Updated detail on Product Safety and Quality Culture to improve understanding and effective implementation of this aspect, introduced in Issue 6.
The sites responsibility to ensure that audits are undertaken on time regarding the new requirements for unannounced (1 in 3) is clearly described.

Section 2
A significant update has been made in line with the GFSI-benchmarking requirement associated with a globally recognised hazard and risk assessment system. The industry' most widely system is that of Codex Alimentarius and requirements have been amended to reflect the principles supporting this system more clearly.

Section 3
Reorganisation of several of the clauses has been undertaken to form a logical order of similar requirements, such as those associated with Corrective and Preventive action, Control of non-conforming materials and Complaint handling.
Supplier approval requirements have been updated to address the challenges experienced with those defined in Issue 6.
Clarification of outsourced processes and associated controls assisting understanding and ensuring effective compliance.

Section 4
Largely the same, although additional clauses have been added covering purchase and commissioning of equipment.
Allergen management controls have now been introduced into the Standard and some review of other foreign body hazards from elsewhere in the Standard merged into a specific section under Product Contamination Controls.

Section 5
Minor relocation of clauses and improvement to the logical flow of the requirements.

Section 6
Removal of references specific to direct contact with food or other hygiene sensitive products and replacement with risk assessment depending on the proposed intended use of the finished product.

Section 7
Introduction of hazard and risk assessment of traded products and brought approval requirements for traded product suppliers in line with the requirements within the Standard for the sites own suppliers.

Protocol - Part III

Introduction

The Protocol has been updated in line with current Position Statements and general updated in-line with BRCGS requirements.

Changes include:

Three different audit options:

- Announced on site audit
- Blended, announced audit
- Unannounced on-site audit
- Unannounced audit protocol for non-audit days and re-audit dates –nominating 10 non-audit days allowed.
- Duration of a typical audit 1.5-3 days – an audit day is typically 8-9 hours but cannot exceed 10 hours.
- Details on non-conformities, corrective actions, root cause analysis and preventive actions.
- Requirements for revisits, remote auditing for documentary evidence review.
- Confidentiality, security, and data protection for remote auditing activities.
- Changing the certification body for a re-audit.
- Sites may not change certification body in the 4-month audit window.