



GLOBALG.A.P. Residue Monitoring System Platform

General Rules

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1 INTRODUCTION

Producers with a GLOBALG.A.P. certificate for Integrated Farm Assurance (scope plants, product categories fruit and vegetables, combinable crops, hops, and tea) shall conduct residue testing on their products to demonstrate compliance with the applicable maximum residue limits (MRLs) for plant protection products (PPPs) in the country of production and country of destination.

For this purpose, producers can take part in residue monitoring systems (RMSs) to demonstrate compliance with MRLs. An RMS can be operated by an Option 2 producer group as a service for its members or by an independent service provider. An RMS is annually audited by a certification body (CB) using the IFA RMS checklist.

To increase stakeholder confidence in the GLOBALG.A.P. certification process, GLOBALG.A.P. has created an IT platform, GLOBALG.A.P. RMS (GG-RMS) platform, to register RMS operators, their participants (producers), the participants' products, and the MRL test results of the products. Producers and products are publicly visible as participants in a GLOBALG.A.P. recognized RMS in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems.

This document describes the operational and recognition rules for any company operating an RMS that is to become a GLOBALG.A.P. recognized RMS. In addition, this document describes the operational and recognition rules for individual producers wanting to use the GG-RMS platform.

The GG-RMS platform is designed as an additional service for GLOBALG.A.P. certification. It is not a mandatory part of the certification process, but participating in the GG-RMS provides producers the ability to publicly demonstrate their participation in a GLOBALG.A.P. recognized RMS, including sharing the MRL test results with GLOBALG.A.P.

The GG-RMS platform is hosted on a web-based platform that enables users to interact by uploading product sample data. The RMS platform is secured, and access is password-protected. The information security management system of the platform provider operates under ISO 27000 certification and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).

Prior to the participation in and/or the recognition under the GG-RMS platform, the applicant must sign a license agreement with FoodPLUS GmbH. These general rules apply in conjunction with the license agreement.

The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat may use the provided data for internal purposes (e.g., conducting further analyses and aggregating data for statistical purposes, handling complaints, etc.) and for the creation of reports with aggregated data to be shared with RMS operators and/or third parties.

2 RMS MODELS – DEFINITIONS

There are five models: four RMS models and one model for individual producers not taking part in an RMS. For the requirements of the models, see section 3.1. Each recognized RMS shall be categorized into one of these four RMS models. The RMS of the applicant RMS operator will be classified and displayed according to the model they follow. The goal of the recognition process is to be transparent about the classification of an RMS in terms of laboratories used, sample taking, reporting, risk assessment, and independence. The recognition process will be managed by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat.

The RMS models are based on the following key pillars:

- **Laboratories:** Samples are taken to laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025, unless defined otherwise, depending on the RMS model.

- **Sampling regime:** Samples may be taken at origin, at final destination country, or at any intermediate point. If the samples are not taken at origin, GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody (CoC) certification is required for every product owner in the supply chain to ensure the traceability of the products at all stages. The RMS may be based on third-party independent sampling, second-party sampling, or first-party sampling. Note: First-party sampling is not allowed for an RMS that is used for a producer's IFA certification.
- **Reporting to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat:** Samples are registered in the RMS platform. This allows exchanging information at the level of RMS operator, laboratories, RMS participants, individual producers (model E), and the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat. The level of independence (classified as RMS models A, B, C, and D) is added by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat as a result of the recognition and evaluation process. Model E is for individual producers not taking part in an RMS. Participation of an individual producer or producer group is made visible in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems (including the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems' public search site www.globalgap.org/search) at the level of products. This information is public.
- **Risk assessment:** Sampling frequency is defined based on a documented risk assessment. For an RMS that is used for a producer's IFA certification, the minimum number of samples, as indicated in the IFA RMS checklist, applies.

3 RMS MODELS – REQUIREMENTS

	RMS model A	RMS model B	RMS model C	RMS model D	Individual producer model E
3.1 Laboratory requirements					
The accreditation body is a signatory of ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC-MRA)	Required	Required	Not required	Not required	Required
Multi-method accreditation including GC-MS/MS ¹ and LC-MS/MS ²	Required; tests shall not be subcontracted	Required; tests can be subcontracted	Not required; tests shall not be subcontracted	Not required; tests can be subcontracted	Required; tests can be subcontracted
Accreditation of any single method as per crop risk assessment	Required	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required
Participation in at least three multi-method international ring tests annually (e.g., FAPAS, BIPEA)	Required	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required

¹GC-MS/MS: Gas chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry

²LC-MS/MS: Liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry

	RMS model A	RMS model B	RMS model C	RMS model D	Individual producer model E
3.2 Sampling regime					
First-, second-, or third-party sampling	Third-party sampling only	Second- and/or third-party sampling	Second- and/or third-party sampling	First- and/or second- and/or third-party sampling	Second- and/or third-party sampling
3.3 Reporting to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat					
Registration of all participating producers (GGN), supply chain actors (CoC Number), and their products ³	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required (GGN of the individual producer)
Amount of time after sampling (before analysis) to upload sample details	<24 hrs	<48 hrs	Update sample details quarterly	Update sample details quarterly	<48 hrs
Transfer of sample details before results	Required	Required	Not required	Not required	Required

³All users on the RMS platform will be automatically registered in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems. The following information is shared in the public view:

- GLOBALG.A.P. Number (GGN) or CoC Number and name of the producer/CoC company
- Products registered by the producer or by the CoC company
- RMS name
- RMS model

	RMS model A	RMS model B	RMS model C	RMS model D	Individual producer model E
Amount of time to upload analysis results after publication of the results by the laboratory	≤5 working days	≤5 working days	Not required, if no MRL exceedance observed	Not required, if no MRL exceedance observed	≤5 working days
Amount of time to upload analysis results in a case of MRL exceedance after publication of the results by the laboratory	<24 hrs	<24 hrs	≤10 working days	≤10 working days	<24 hrs
Data transfer according to	Section 3.3	Section 3.3	Section 3.3	Section 3.3	Section 3.3
3.4 Risk assessment and minimum number of samples					
According to IFA RMS checklist	Required	Required	Required	Required	Not applicable (risk assessment according to IFA standard)

4 SAMPLING REGIME

Third-party sampling

Third-party sampling: The RMS operator that takes the product sample is not involved in the production, distribution, purchase, or ownership of the sampled products (e.g., an independent service provider, an inspection body, a CB, or a laboratory with accredited sampling services). The RMS operator shall demonstrate that they do not have common ownership with the sampled producer or with the sampled trader, nor common ownership appointees on the boards (or equivalent) of the organizations, does not directly report to the same higher level of management, and does not have contractual arrangements, informal understandings, or other means that may allow the sampled entity to influence the outcome of the sampling.

Second-party sampling

Second-party sampling: The RMS operator takes the product sample and is part of an organization that is involved in the production, distribution, purchase, or ownership of the sampled products (e.g., an Option 2 producer group operates an RMS for its members, or a trader operates an RMS for their suppliers).

First-party sampling

First-party sampling: The Option 1 individual producer or Option 2 producer group member takes the product sample from their own production. For IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS certification, first-party sampling (self-sampling) is acceptable (see IFA RMS checklist, “Definitions”). If RMSs are used for a producer’s IFA certification, second-party or third-party sampling is required.

Notes:

- If the RMS operator, being part of an organization that is involved in the production, distribution, purchase, or ownership of the sampled products, has outsourced the sample-taking and lab delivery to an independent third party, the sampling is classified as third-party sampling.
- If the first buyer or handler (not being the individual producer or producer group) is a company with CoC certification, the RMS operator may sample the products at the facilities of the company with CoC certification. The first buyer or handler may operate their own RMS (second-party sampling).
- If an RMS uses different combinations of sampling, it shall be classified according to the lowest level used (e.g., if an RMS is using partly second- and partly third-party sampling, it shall be classified as a second-party sampling RMS).

5 REPORTING TO THE GLOBALG.A.P. SECRETARIAT

Reporting to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat is done in two upload steps:

- a) First upload, sample details:
 - i) RMS name (models A, B, C, or D)/individual participant name (model E)
 - ii) Model (A, B, C, D, or E)
 - iii) Sampling site (farm site or CoC company site)
 - iv) Supplier GGN (if the sample is taken in the supply chain)
 - v) Producer GGN (if the sample is taken at the farm)
 - vi) Sample ID
 - vii) Sample location (geographical coordinates)

- viii) Product
 - ix) Batch number
 - x) Country of origin
 - xi) Country of MRL (country of destination)
 - xii) Sample date
 - xiii) Laboratory
 - xiv) Expected date of test results
 - xv) Turnaround time (time from sample reception until publication of the test result by the laboratory)
 - xvi) Laboratory analysis profile name (a list of active ingredients included in the test)
- b) Second upload, MRL test result:
- i) Report number
 - ii) Report entry date of results
 - iii) Result (nothing detected/something detected)
 - iv) Active ingredient(s) detected
 - v) Method of analysis
 - vi) Below limit of quantification? (true/false)
 - vii) MRL value (of selected country of destination)

6 RECOGNITION PROCESS

6.1 Application

6.1.1 Conditions for RMS operators (models A, B, C or D)

For models A, B, C, and D, the applicant RMS operator shall:

- a) Submit an application including the model applied for, the geographic scope, the list of laboratories used including their accreditation status, the number of RMS participants, a set of documents listed under section 6.4.1.
- b) Submit a completed RMS checklist based on the IFA v5.2 CPCCs for Crops Base, Annex CB 5 B), "Mandatory minimum criteria of a residue monitoring system" or based on the IFA v6 RMS checklist (both published on the GLOBALG.A.P. website).
- c) Submit the letter of conformance if the RMS is audited by a GLOBALG.A.P. approved CB.
- d) Be a legal entity with a clearly defined organizational structure, activities, and responsibilities. To determine long-term viability, the organization shall describe its ownership, organizational structure, activities, and financing.
- e) Have sufficient provisions in place to cover any liability that might originate from its activity. The company that operates the RMS (or a company that the RMS operator belongs to) shall show proof of having liability insurance that includes the RMS within the scope of activity.

- f) Not carry out or participate in any activities that could entail conflicts of interest or bring itself, FoodPLUS GmbH, the GG-RMS platform, and/or the RMS's recognition into disrepute.
- g) Sign the license agreement with FoodPLUS GmbH and comply with the agreement at all times.
- h) Agree to data sharing in accordance with these general rules and the corresponding RMS model's recognition.
- i) Ensure that all data are registered in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems. The transferred data shall only refer to those products that are produced by a producer registered in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems for a GLOBALG.A.P. standard or add-on (e.g., IFA, localg.a.p., CoC). The required data shall be transferred via an interface to the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems following the interface specification provided by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat.
- j) Inform the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat in the event of any changes in the organization that could affect the status of the recognition.
- k) Ensure that the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat is notified of any relevant change in the RMS ownership and management in a timely manner, and if applicable, agree with the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat on any action necessary to guarantee impartiality and independence in the activities including confirmation that the current RMS model is still applicable.
- l) Inform the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat prior to any changes to the RMS documents (see section 6.7).
- m) Make no claims regarding recognition other than in relation to the RMS model for which recognition has been granted, and only in accordance with the applicable general rules.
- n) Not use GLOBALG.A.P. recognition in such a manner as to bring GLOBALG.A.P. and/or the GG-RMS platform into disrepute, and not make any statements regarding its status which the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat may consider misleading or unauthorized.
- o) Inform the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat in a timely manner of any circumstances that could result in such disrepute and take adequate preventive measures.
- p) Not allow services to be advertised or promoted in a way that could discredit the safety of other products on the market or reliability of official controls.
- q) Ensure that no GLOBALG.A.P. trademarks or claims referring to GLOBALG.A.P. appear on the product, consumer packaging of the product, or at the point of sale.
- r) Cease the use of all claims and marketing elements that contain reference to GLOBALG.A.P. (e.g., logos, trademarks) and withdraw them if necessary, as soon as RMS recognition is suspended or terminated.
- s) Ensure that contractual agreements are in place with any laboratory and sample taker approved by the RMS operator to operate its system, and ensure that the laboratory and sample taker comply with the requirements of the RMS's documents.
- t) Ensure that sampling procedures are strictly followed as per contractual requirements, which includes both sampling procedures and the adequate GLOBALG.A.P. Number (GGN) traceability check where/when feasible.
- u) Ensure that all laboratories used are accredited by an accreditation body that is a signatory of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC-MRA), if required for the model the RMS operator has applied for.

- v) Ensure that the accreditation document issued by the accreditation body clearly states the scope of accreditation: multi-method, including GC-MS/MS and LC-MS/MS, and/or all necessary single methods.
- w) Ensure that – when the RMS model requires it – the participating laboratories are monitored through internationally recognized ring tests (e.g., FAPAS). The RMS shall verify that there are no excessive deviations in the results of the ring test for any of the relevant matrices, that adverse results from the ring test are duly followed up on, and that corrective actions are implemented.
- x) In the event of the suspension or withdrawal of accreditation of any of the RMS operator's contracted laboratories, ensure that the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat is informed of this action together with the circumstances that motivated the sanction.
- y) Ensure that an agreement is in place with the RMS participants and that the GLOBALG.A.P. approved CB is informed of any MRL exceedance above legal limits and when known, any food safety prosecution, significant regulatory food safety non-conformity, or product recall/withdrawal relating to food safety or legal non-compliance.
- z) Ensure that the RMS participants receive evidence of participation in the RMS, that an agreement (between the RMS operator and the RMS participant) is in place, and that participation is publicly displayed in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems.

6.1.2 Conditions for producers (model E)

For model E, the applicant producer shall:

- a) Submit an application including the company name, its GGN, the products for registration in the GG-RMS platform, the geographic scope, a list of laboratories used including their accreditation status, and a sampling procedure including evidence of the independence (first-, second-, or third-party status) of the sample taker.
- b) Have a valid IFA or CoC certificate for the plants scope.
- c) Not carry out or participate in any activities that could entail conflicts of interest or bring itself, FoodPLUS GmbH, the GG-RMS platform and/or the RMS's recognition into disrepute.
- d) Sign the license agreement with FoodPLUS GmbH and comply with the agreement at all times.
- e) Agree to data sharing in accordance with these general rules and the corresponding RMS model's recognition.
- f) Make no claims regarding recognition other than in relation to model E for which recognition has been granted, and only in accordance with the applicable general rules.
- g) Not use GLOBALG.A.P. recognition in such a manner as to bring GLOBALG.A.P. and/or the GG-RMS platform into disrepute, and not make any statements regarding its status which the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat may consider misleading or unauthorized.
- h) Not allow services to be advertised or promoted in a way that could discredit the safety of other products on the market or reliability of official controls.
- i) Ensure that no GLOBALG.A.P. trademarks or claims referring to GLOBALG.A.P. appear on the product, consumer packaging of the product, or at the point of sale.
- j) Ensure that all laboratories used are accredited by an accreditation body that is a signatory of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC-MRA).

- k) Ensure that the accreditation document issued by the accreditation body clearly states the scope of accreditation: multi-method, including GC-MS/MS and LC-MS/MS, and/or all necessary single methods.

6.2 Requirements for sampling

The requirements for sampling are stated in section 3, “RMS models – requirements”.

6.3 Application fee

See the fee table in Annex 1.

6.4 Evaluation

6.4.1 Evaluation of the RMS operator application (models A, B, C or D)

The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat manages the evaluation of the RMS operator application and reviews the submitted dossier. This is to ensure that the applicant provides the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat with all the necessary information and documents to prove compliance with the requirements of this document. The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat shall ensure that the evaluation is implemented under the principles of independence, impartiality, technical competence, and transparency.

If any amendment is requested by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat, the applicant shall submit further supporting information/documents to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat. Once the application evaluation has been successfully completed, the evaluation process will continue with the independent technical evaluation by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat.

The submitted dossier shall consist of documents that include at least:

- Evidence to show compliance with the requirements in section 6.1.1
- A risk assessment procedure and operational records to determine the sampling frequency
- A sampling procedure including evidence for the independence (first-, second-, or third-party status) of the sample taker; a procedure to ensure independence of the sample taker, surveillance, and monitoring of the sample taker; and a procedure for training the sample taker
- A data collection and data handling procedure
- A laboratory approval and monitoring procedure

This dossier shall:

- Have sufficient provisions to ensure that ownership of documents is protected.
- Be clear and precise in its wording and structure, so as to facilitate accurate and consistent interpretation.
- Be kept updated regarding technical changes or any change implemented by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat. The time frames for implementation of these changes shall normally not exceed three months unless otherwise agreed with the RMS operator, depending on the changes to be introduced.

Change of the RMS model is possible at any time, but subject to a new evaluation.

As the result of the evaluation, the applicant RMS operator may gain recognition for a different model than the one applied for originally.

The estimated timeline for initial applications is approximately eight weeks. The duration may vary depending on factors like the completeness of the submitted application and the extent of the discussions during the evaluation process.

The official language used throughout the whole process shall be English. All the documents, including the GLOBALG.A.P. RMS checklist, shall be in English and may additionally be in the working language of the RMS operator, where applicable.

If the documents of the original dossier are not in English, the applicant shall demonstrate that a competent translator has translated the documents. If there are justified doubts concerning the accuracy of the English translation, the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat reserves the right to engage the services of a professional translator to validate the translation provided by the applicant. The applicant shall cover the costs of this validation.

The evaluation findings are submitted to the applicant in a written report.

The applicant shall submit clarifications for or propose corrective actions to deviations from the requirements in this document in a timely manner.

The evaluation may take place at the office of the applicant RMS operator, online, or a combination of both.

6.4.2 Evaluation of the producer application (model E)

The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat manages the evaluation of the application and reviews the submitted dossier. This is to ensure that the applicant provides the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat with all the necessary information and documents to prove compliance with the requirements of this document. The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat shall ensure that the evaluation is implemented under the principles of independence, impartiality, technical competence, and transparency.

If any amendment is requested, the applicant shall submit further supporting information/documents to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat. Once the application evaluation has been successfully completed, the evaluation process will continue with the independent technical evaluation by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat.

The applicant dossier shall consist of documents that include at least the items listed in section 6.1.2.

The estimated timeline for initial applications is approximately four weeks. The duration may vary depending on factors like the completeness of the submitted application and the extent of the discussions during the evaluation process.

The official language used throughout the whole process shall be English. All the documents shall be in English and may additionally be in the producer's working language, where applicable.

6.5 Recognition

The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat manages the recognition process.

GLOBALG.A.P. recognition is granted to RMS operators or individual producers (model E) that have successfully completed the evaluation process and signed the license agreement with FoodPLUS GmbH. The recognition is valid for 12 months (further details for the term and termination of the RMS recognition are determined in the contract with FoodPLUS GmbH). Recognized producers (model E) and operators of recognized RMSs will be displayed on the GLOBALG.A.P. website and through the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems with their corresponding model. The recognized producers (model E) and operators of recognized RMSs are then granted access to the GG-RMS platform.

In the event that an RMS operator operates more than one RMS in parallel (e.g., one model is recognized by GLOBALG.A.P., while another model has not been submitted to GLOBALG.A.P. for evaluation the different RMSs shall be identified in a manner that clearly distinguishes them so that confusion in the market is avoided.

Recognized producers (model E) and operators of recognized RMSs shall not use any corporate designs to suggest, offer any of their services in such a way as to suggest, or otherwise suggest that they are a part of the GLOBALG.A.P. system.

6.6 Maintenance of recognition (models A, B, C, or D)

At least once per year, the RMS operator shall carry out reviews of the operation of their RMS and take any necessary action to ensure compliance with GLOBALG.A.P. requirements. These reviews shall be communicated to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat in order to ensure that the basic data are kept up to date.

While the recognition is valid, the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat shall conduct onsite or offsite office assessments to verify implementation of the RMS. During the office assessments, the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat verifies the operational records of the implementation of the RMS. This assessment process shall normally be completed within two months.

Each RMS operator shall cooperate with the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat during this assessment and grant access to genuine data.

6.7 Modifications by the RMS operator (models A, B, C, or D)

The RMS operator shall inform the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat of any change to the documents before the change is implemented. The proposed changes shall be communicated to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat in writing.

The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat shall assess the changes and evaluate whether they affect the recognition level. Reasonable reevaluation fees may apply based on the time necessary for the review as agreed between the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat and the RMS operator.

The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat shall communicate in writing to the RMS operator whether the proposed changes affect the recognition.

If the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat decides that some of the proposed changes impede continued recognition:

- a) The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat shall communicate this in writing to the RMS operator, justifying the decision.
- b) The RMS operator shall choose between the following options within two weeks of receiving the official communication:
 - i) Amend or delete the proposed changes to their documents
 - ii) Appeal the decision
 - iii) Terminate its contract with FoodPLUS GmbH without notice and thus renounce the RMS recognition
- c) If an appeal is not granted, the following applies:
 - i) The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat shall communicate the decision to the operator of a recognized RMS in writing with clear justifications.
 - ii) Recognition shall be suspended until the RMS operator proposes new clarifications or implements those amendments that have the approval of the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat.

- iii) In the event that the RMS operator refuses to make any amendment or the cause of suspension is not resolved within six months after the suspension was issued, FoodPLUS GmbH shall have an extraordinary right to terminate the license agreement with the RMS operator without notice, if FoodPLUS GmbH cannot reasonably be expected to continue the contractual relationship with the RMS operator until the agreed end of the license agreement or until the expiry of an (additional) notice period.
- d) If an appeal process reaches the decision that the RMS operator can maintain their current recognition level, this shall be communicated to them in writing.

In the event that the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat is not informed in writing before the implementation of changes in the recognized RMS, the recognition status shall be suspended until the process described above is completed. The suspension shall be communicated to the RMS operator in writing, including the reason for the suspension. A suspension of recognition of an RMS and the description of the reason that led to that decision will be communicated to all RMS participants affected by this decision.

6.8 Modifications or updates to GLOBALG.A.P. normative documents

The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat shall communicate in writing all official changes of relevant GLOBALG.A.P. normative documents to all recognized producers (model E) and operators of recognized RMSs.

Official changes made to relevant GLOBALG.A.P. normative documents shall be appropriately included in the dossier of the RMS operator and producer (model E) in a time frame that shall not normally exceed three months, unless otherwise agreed by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat and the RMS operator and producer (model E).

These general rules shall be reviewed by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat, supported by the RMS Expert Group, during the first two years after its initial publication, unless decided otherwise by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat.

The recognized producer (model E) or operator of a recognized RMS is responsible for supplying the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat with written evidence demonstrating the adequate implementation of the modification of the GLOBALG.A.P. normative documents.

7 CERTIFICATION INTEGRITY PROGRAM (MODELS A, B, C, OR D)

Any recognized RMS shall be subject to periodical surveillance under the Certification Integrity Program (CIPRO).

RMS operators shall ensure that they, their contracted laboratories and sample takers, and RMS participants cooperate with CIPRO.

The activities of CIPRO may include RMS operator office audits, resampling of products, review of monitoring results, witnessing of sample takers, verifying the independence of the sample takers, and conducting traceability verification.

These audits shall focus on the RMS operator's continued recognition, on verifying that the RMS' own requirements are followed, and on the performance of approved sample takers.

If the activities of CIPRO detect technical, administrative, or formal non-compliances against these general rules, these findings shall be discussed with the RMS operator in order to obtain clarifications and to agree on the corrective actions and timeline for their implementation.

The frequency and the number of CIPRO audits to be conducted shall be decided by the CIPRO team leader after a risk assessment and with consideration given to the recommendations of the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat.

The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat shall follow the CIPRO audit process as described in this section and inform the operator of a recognized RMS if:

- a) The RMS operator does not cooperate with the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat in a transparent way as required by CIPRO.
- b) The RMS operator does not respect the agreed timeframes to respond to the non-compliances detected during the CIPRO audit.
- c) The corrective actions taken by the RMS operator are insufficient to eliminate any non-compliances (including the risk of bringing the RMS operator or the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat into disrepute).

8 CONTRACTUAL INFRINGEMENTS

8.1 Contractual infringements by an RMS operator (models A, B, C, or D)

If an RMS operator has been found infringing or not following these general rules or the license agreement with FoodPLUS GmbH, the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat shall start the following communication and conciliatory process with the RMS operator before initiating the process for the termination of the license agreement. Terms of termination described in the license agreement between the RMS operator and FoodPLUS GmbH remain binding.

For the purpose of the conciliatory process, the following definitions shall apply:

- a) “**Minor infringements**” are those contractual infringements that do not fall in the category of “major infringements” as defined below.
- b) “**Major infringements**” are those contractual infringements that, based on verifiable facts and from the perspective of an objective independent observer with industry knowledge, threaten the integrity of the GLOBALG.A.P. system or could bring the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat into disrepute. Such disrepute or threats to integrity may, e.g., be caused by significant violations of the following nature, always based on a case-by-case assessment:
 - Severe lack of cooperation with CIPRO
 - Severe lack of follow-up on the results of CIPRO
 - Severe lack of follow-up on complaints about the performance of the recognized RMS
 - Neglecting to pay the annual fees (after a payment reminder)

Multiple co-occurring minor infringements can also amount to a major infringement.

GLOBALG.A.P. shall decide on the classification of infringements as minor or major, taking into account all circumstances of the individual case and the legitimate interests of the RMS operator.

First meeting: In the event of minor infringements, the RMS operator shall be requested to attend a meeting in the GLOBALG.A.P. offices or to participate in an online meeting in order to agree on a solution to the infringement. This meeting shall take place within 10 working days after either party has raised a request.

The outcome of this meeting shall be to determine the corrective actions that the RMS operator shall enforce. Implementation of agreed-upon corrective actions shall be proved within a maximum period of 28 calendar days. Failure to do so shall lead to the calling of a second meeting for consideration of suspension of the awarded recognition.

Second meeting: In the event of major infringements or failure to implement the corrective actions agreed upon during the first meeting, the RMS operator shall be requested to attend a second meeting in the GLOBALG.A.P. offices or to participate in an online meeting, which shall be moderated by a senior manager or senior expert of GLOBALG.A.P. This shall be done within 10 working days.

The outcome of this meeting shall be one or the other of the following:

- a) The agreement on corrective actions that the RMS operator shall implement
- b) Additional measures that the RMS operator shall take to implement the corrective actions agreed upon in the first meeting

In both cases, the RMS operator shall implement the respective corrective actions within 28 days.

Any failure to comply with the agreements made and/or to implement the corrective actions within the time period set in the second meeting, shall result in the following:

- a) A suspension of the approved RMS until the agreed corrective actions have been fully implemented
- b) The extraordinary right of FoodPLUS GmbH to terminate the license agreement with the RMS operator without notice, but only if FoodPLUS GmbH cannot reasonably be expected to continue the contractual relationship with the RMS operator until the agreed end of the license agreement or until the expiry of an (additional) notice period

In the event of termination of the agreement between the RMS operator and FoodPLUS GmbH, the RMS operator shall inform its RMS participants in writing.

Suspension of the RMS operator's recognition and the description of the reason that led to that decision will be communicated to all RMS participants affected by this decision.

8.2 Contractual infringements by a producer (model E)

If an individual producer (model E) has been found infringing or not following these general rules or the license agreement with FoodPLUS GmbH, the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat shall start the following communication and conciliatory process with the producer before initiating the termination of the license agreement. Terms of termination described in the license agreement between the producer and FoodPLUS GmbH remain binding. The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat shall inform the producer of the discovered infringement/violation in writing. Within 28 days, the producer shall either refute the infringement or take corrective action to resolve the infringement. The time period for implementing corrective action shall not exceed three months.

Any failure to implement the corrective actions within the time period of three months shall result in the following:

- a) A suspension of the producer until the corrective actions have been fully implemented
- b) The extraordinary right of FoodPLUS GmbH to terminate the license agreement with the producer without notice, but only if FoodPLUS GmbH cannot reasonably be expected to continue the contractual relationship with the producer until the agreed end of the license agreement or until the expiry of an (additional) notice period

9 APPEAL PROCEDURE

The RMS operator or producer (model E) has the right to appeal the decisions made regarding the recognition process outlined in section 6 of these general rules.

In the event that the RMS operator or producer (model E) wants to appeal any decision made by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat regarding the recognition process:

- a) Within two weeks after the decision has been communicated, the RMS operator or producer (model E) shall submit a written appeal to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat detailing the reasons for the appeal.
- b) The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat shall request that the Integrity Surveillance Committee (ISC) conduct an impartial investigation of the circumstances that led to the appeal.
- c) The results of the evaluation by the ISC shall be forwarded to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat, which will reach a final decision taking into account the ISC evaluation, the specific circumstances of the case, and the interests of the appealing RMS operator or producer (model E). The final decision shall be communicated within two weeks in writing to the RMS operator or producer (model E), including the reasons for the decision.
- d) In the event that the appeal is rejected, the RMS operator or producer (model E) shall cover the reasonable costs arising from the appeal procedure.

The out-of-court appeal procedure described in this chapter shall in no way limit the rights of the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat or the RMS operator or producer (model E) to resort to competent state courts, nor shall the process be considered a precondition for resorting to the competent state court system.

10 DATA SECURITY AND DATA PROTECTION

All processes and the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems have been developed to be in compliance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).

The RMS operators and producers (model E) shall submit data to the GG-RMS platform according to their recognition model. The GG-RMS platform will hold or link to datasets from the different RMS operators and producers (model E) according to the respectively applicable model. These datasets will be fully accessible to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat.

GLOBALG.A.P. will not share any individual RMS participant's data obtained from recognized RMSs or individual producer's data (model E) with third parties (e.g., retailers), regardless of the RMS model, unless such sharing is explicitly authorized by the data owner (subcontractors of the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat shall not be considered third parties).

Suspension/Termination of the RMS recognition and the description of the reason that led to that decision will be communicated to the RMS operator and their participants/to the producer (model E) concerned.

ANNEX I FEE TABLE

Fee structure for individual producers not using an RMS (model E):

Number of analyses per year	Fees per sample (excl. tax)
<10	€20
11–50	€15
51–100	€10

Fee structure for RMS operators (models A, B, C, or D):

Number of analyses per year	Fees per year (excl. tax)
1–100	€1,000
101–500	€2,000
501–1000	€2,500
1001–2000	€2,750
>2000	€3,000

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