GLOBALG.A.P.

Integrity
Report

2023

GLOBALG.A.P.

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What is the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program?

Maintaining trust in the GLOBALG.A.P. certification system

The GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program is designed to ensure the consistent delivery and implementation of GLOBALG.A.P. standards and add-ons around the world. **It monitors and assesses the key aspects of the third-party certification process,** acting as a feedback mechanism that serves the continuous improvement of the entire certification system.

Which activities are included?

1

Certification body (CB) approval and training
Ensuring the competence and quality of the worldwide network of GLOBALG.A.P. approved CBs

2

Certification integrity assessments
Conducting integrity assessments to monitor CB performance and consistency in applying GLOBALG.A.P. solutions

3

Complaint management
Enabling a fast and thorough response system to complaints, investigating maximum residue limit (MRL) exceedances, and protecting the GLOBALG.A.P. brand in the market

4

Customer support
Providing timely and accurate information to stakeholders, from the certification process to the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems

Why do we have an integrity program?

With almost 200,000 producers with certified production processes around the world, the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat is determined to uphold the levels of excellence and transparency that are at the heart of what we do. The oversight provided by the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program highlights our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement and accountability.

→ **For producers,** the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program contributes to a fair audit process by monitoring and evaluating CB competence in the field. It ensures that CBs conduct their audits in line with GLOBALG.A.P. normative documents and verifies that the same criteria and quality standards are used consistently and impartially.

→ **For retailers,** the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program builds trust in the GLOBALG.A.P. certification system and mitigates reputational risk by monitoring certification claims, investigating complaints, and providing transparency on certificate validity. For quality assurance, both targeted and random CB office and producer assessments are conducted each year.

→ **For CBs,** the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program monitors an entire range of processes, from registration to certification, including the consistent implementation of GLOBALG.A.P. standards and add-ons at farm level. Comprehensive support also provides a straightforward point of contact for the clarification of questions on GLOBALG.A.P. solutions and the auditing process.

The most robust in the sector

The GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program was founded in 2008 as the first of its kind in food certification. The program has been dedicated to the monitoring and strengthening of the certification process for the last 15 years and is still one of the most robust in the sector, going beyond comparable integrity mechanisms which rely primarily on desk assessments. The GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program oversees **more than 300 days of on-site integrity assessments** conducted every year by a dedicated team of integrity assessors.

The scope of the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program

With standards audited by **194 approved CBs in 137 countries on six continents,** the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program is essential for safeguarding the reliability and consistency of GLOBALG.A.P. certification and maintaining stakeholder trust.

700+ products

produced under GLOBALG.A.P. certified production processes in more than 130 countries

2000+ auditors

from more than 190 GLOBALG.A.P. approved CBs monitored and assessed

64,000+ certificates

awarded by independent, third-party CBs for GLOBALG.A.P. core solutions

700+ participants from CBs

taking part in GLOBALG.A.P. Academy trainings annually

8 GLOBALG.A.P. experts

monitoring CB performance through annual integrity assessments

10,000+ requests

resolved by the GLOBALG.A.P. Customer Support team in 13 different languages annually

1000+ retailers and supply chain companies

supported on certificate validation, GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems, and more

Who is involved in the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program?

1 | GLOBALG.A.P. teams:

- **CB Integrity team**
  for integrity assessments and complaint investigation

- **CB Administration team and GLOBALG.A.P. Academy**
  for CB approval and training

- **Customer Support team**
  for complaint management and customer service

2 | Integrity Surveillance Committee

The **Integrity Surveillance Committee (ISC)** is an independent and impartial body that plays a key role in maintaining certification integrity by making decisions on performance-related sanctions for CBs. ISC members are industry experts who work independently, meet at least twice a year, and are not CB stakeholders.

ISC members
- One chairperson
- One retailer representative
- One substitute retailer representative
- One producer/supplier representative

3 | GLOBALG.A.P. Advisory Board

The GLOBALG.A.P. Advisory Board follows up and provides guidance to the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program.

Foreword from the Chief Integrity Officer

| "Upholding the highest standards of integrity"

Dear stakeholders,

It is my privilege to present to you the Integrity Report 2023, a comprehensive overview of our ongoing efforts to uphold the highest standards of integrity within the GLOBALG.A.P. certification system.

The GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program takes a multi-faceted approach, combining various activities aimed at instilling confidence in the certification system and trust in the integrity of GLOBALG.A.P. solutions. From providing clarity on system operations through certification body (CB) training to approving new CBs, monitoring their overall performance, and investigating complaints, we work tirelessly to safeguard the GLOBALG.A.P. brand.

Our integrity assessments are one of the most important aspects of the program: By assessing the certification processes of a selection of certification bodies each year, we gain an objective overview of whether the GLOBALG.A.P. certification system is functioning as intended.

In 2023, we conducted **integrity assessments on an unprecedented scale,** conducting more than 480 assessment days and surpassing pre-pandemic levels, as per our target. Once again, we focused largely on regions with the highest number of producers with GLOBALG.A.P. certified production processes, including Spain and Italy, but we also targeted other countries such as Mexico, China, and Vietnam, **assessing a total of 132 out of 194 approved CBs worldwide.**

The results are encouraging: 59% of producer performance was deemed good or excellent, with only 7% requiring serious improvement. While 43% of assessed CBs fell into class 3 (requiring some improvement), 42% demonstrated good or excellent performance. Overall, we maintain confidence in the integrity of our CBs and producers.

We received 422 complaints in 2023, with investigations involving 320 producers in 67 countries — just 0.2% of all producers under certification globally. Brand integrity issues also decreased by 22%.

As we continue to refine our Integrity Program, we are committed to enhancing the robustness of the GLOBALG.A.P. certification system. We invite you to explore our report, presented in a new format, and trust that you will find it insightful and informative.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in GLOBALG.A.P. solutions.

Sincerely,

A. Fekete

Andras Fekete

Chief Integrity Officer / Vice President
GLOBALG.A.P. c/o FoodPLUS GmbH

The year in **numbers**
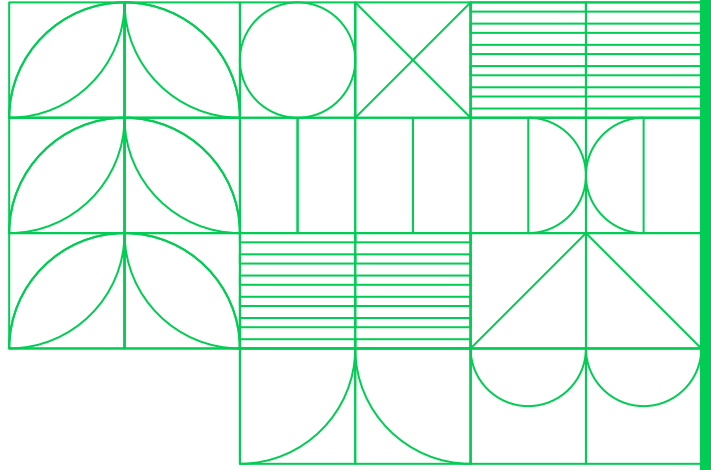
480.5
days
of integrity assessments
performed in 44 countries

132
certification
bodies assessed
(of 194 total approved certification bodies)

116
trainings
for 1,230 participants

422
complaints
investigated in 67 countries

172
brand
integrity
incidents

13,497
customer
support tickets

supporting 1,400+ stakeholders

Warnings **issued:**

3 first warnings

7 second warnings

7 yellow cards

2 red cards

1 contract cancellation

82
investigations on
maximum residue
limit complaints

from **22 different countries**
affecting 18 different crops

Integrity assessment **locations 2023**
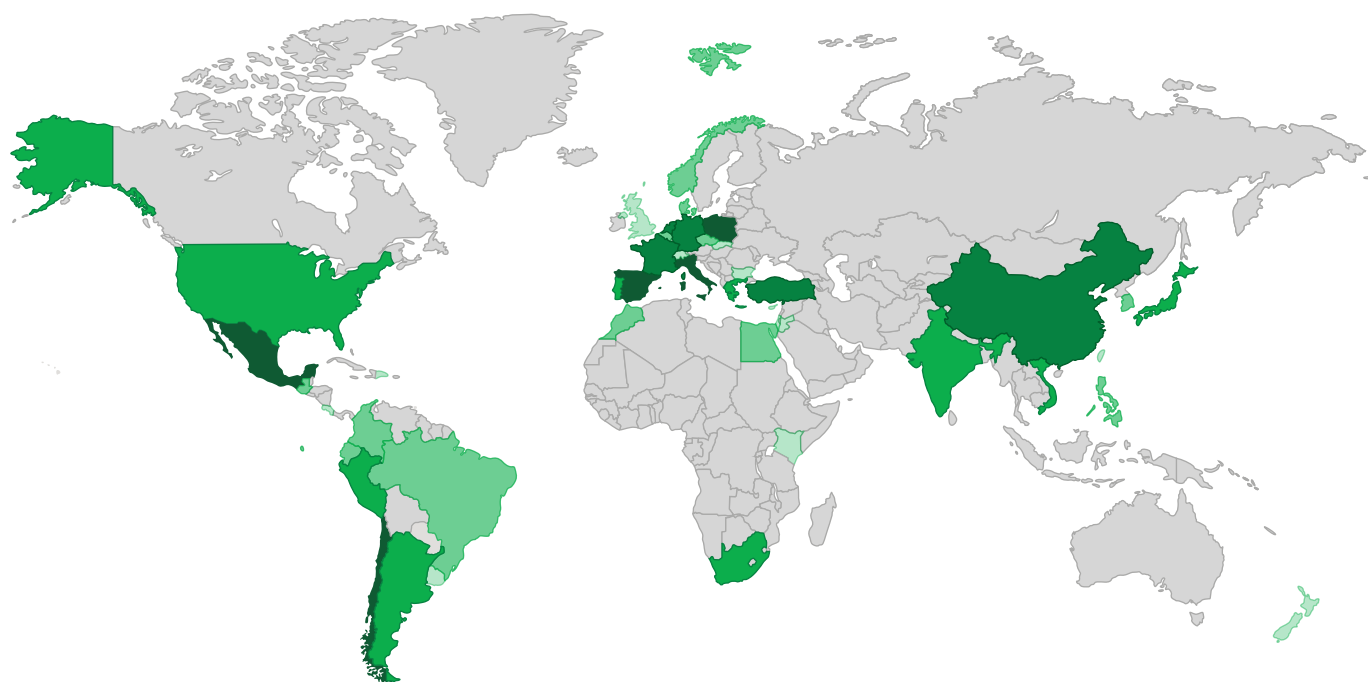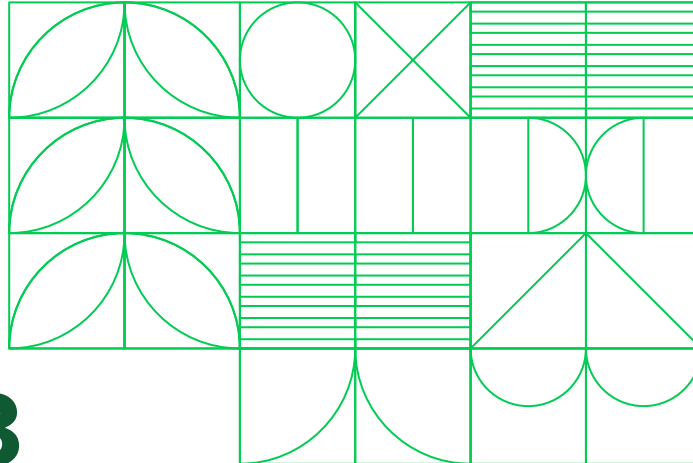
Key: ◯ <5 days ◯ 5 to 10 days ◯ 10 to 15 days ◯ 15 to 20 days ◯ 20+ days

Country	Number of days	Country	Number of days	Country	Number of days
Argentina	14.5	Greece	12	South Africa	10
Austria	7	Guatemala	5	Spain	58
Belgium	7	India	11.5	Switzerland	2
Brazil	8	Israel	4	Turkey	17
Bulgaria	4	Italy	39.5	United Kingdom of Great Britain and N.I.	2
Chile	25.5	Japan	10		
China	17.5	Jordan	1.5	Uruguay	5
Colombia	7	Kenya	2	USA	10
Costa Rica	3	Korea (the Republic of)	5.5	Viet Nam	12
Cyprus	5	Mexico	20	Philippines (the)	8
Czech Republic	3.5	Morocco	9	Taiwan (Province of China)	5
Denmark	5	Netherlands	16		
Dominican Republic (the)	5	New Zealand	3		
Ecuador	7.5	Norway	6.5		
Egypt	7.5	Peru	13		
France	18	Poland	20	**Total**	**480.5**
Germany	18	Portugal	10		

About certification body approval

194 approved certification bodies are responsible for conducting audits and issuing certificates worldwide (2023)

GLOBALG.A.P. certificates are issued by our network of approved certification bodies (CBs) around the world. As accredited and independent third-party entities, they mark our smart farm assurance solutions as some of the most robust on the market. Only the CBs that successfully pass the approval process may sign license and certification agreements with GLOBALG.A.P. Conducting the approval process and verifying the competence of applicant CBs is a core part of the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program.

What are the requirements for becoming a GLOBALG.A.P. approved certification body?

- **Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17065** for the relevant scope or standard.

- **For Option 1 audits** (individual producers): At least one farm auditor who can perform the audits and one quality management system (QMS) auditor who have both completed all applicable qualification requirements.

- **For Option 2 audits** (producer groups): At least one QMS auditor for QMS audits and at least one other QMS auditor for the CB decision-making committee who have both completed all applicable qualification requirements.

- A nominated **scheme manager.**

- A nominated **in-house trainer.**

What are the responsibilities of a GLOBALG.A.P. approved certification body?

- **Conducting** both announced and unannounced farm audits and assessments to check compliance with certification requirements

- **Registering** and updating audit, assessment, and certification data in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems, ensuring the accuracy of producer information

- **Informing** producers and supply chain stakeholders about certification deadlines and annual audit/assessment requirements

- **Supporting** the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program in resolving complaints or irregularities

- **Fulfilling** the accreditation requirements of the GLOBALG.A.P. certification system and working to uphold integrity and transparency obligations

- **Continuously training** and maintaining the competency of staff, from in-house trainers (IHTs) and scheme managers to farm and QMS auditors.

Good to know:

A full and detailed list of requirements and expectations for GLOBALG.A.P. approved CBs can be found in the **GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for certification bodies.**

The route to GLOBALG.A.P. approval
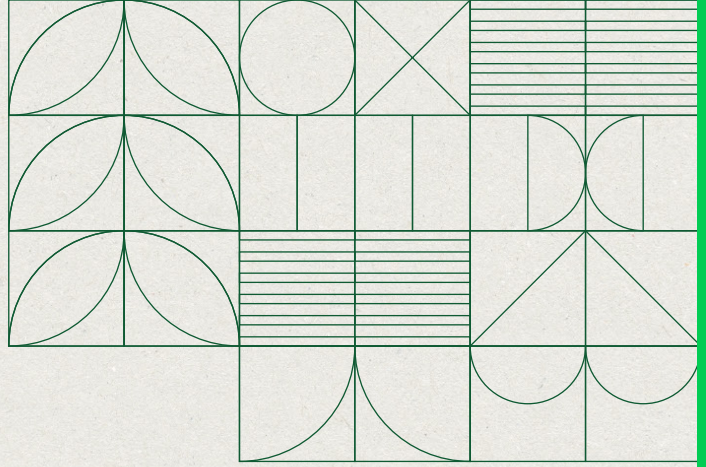
1
Registration
CBs must register in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems and submit the completed application form.

2
Accreditation
GLOBALG.A.P. approved CBs must be accredited to ISO/IEC 17065 for the relevant scope or standard through an accreditation body that is a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and signatory of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement on Product Certification.

3
Internal approval process
GLOBALG.A.P. evaluates the application. If all requirements are met, then license and certification agreements are signed and the CB is provisionally approved.

4
Provisional approval
When CBs achieve "provisionally approved" status, they are added to the list of approved CBs on the GLOBALG.A.P. website, have access to the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems, and are able to issue nonaccredited certificates to a limited number of producers. Farm and QMS auditors must be registered in our Certification Body Administration Tool (CB-AT), including uploading evidence of auditor qualifications, and pay the auditor registration fee. CBs then have six months to provide the accreditation certificate and nominate an in-house trainer (IHT) to participate in an IHT training.

5
Final approval
After the IHT has passed the IHT exam and the application has been finally approved, the status in the list of approved CBs will become "approved". Limits on issuing certificates under "provisionally approved" status are then removed.

GLOBALG.A.P. approved certification bodies **around the world**

The number of GLOBALG.A.P. approved CBs remains steady, providing producers around the world with a choice of accredited and approved CBs to conduct their audit.

For a full list of the GLOBALG.A.P. approved CBs, please see **page 53**.

GLOBALG.A.P. APPROVED CERTIFICATION BODIES (2019–2023)

190 approved CBs	**172** approved CBs*	**189** approved CBs	**190** approved CBs	**194** approved CBs
2019	2020	2021	2022	2023

***In 2020,** some CBs were acquired and absorbed by other approved CBs, and others may have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

Standard/Add-on		Number of approved CBs
GLOBALG.A.P. core solutions	Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) for plants	162
	IFA for aquaculture	17
	IFA for livestock	14
	GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody (CoC)	105
	Compound Feed Manufacturing (CFM)	17
	Crops for Processing (CfP)	13
	Harmonized Produce Safety Standard (HPSS)	8
	Produce Handling Assurance (PHA)	8
GLOBALG.A.P. add-ons to core solutions	GRASP	146
	SPRING	74
	Impact-Driven Approach to Sustainability (IDA)	10
	Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR) add-on	48
	TR4 Biosecurity Add-on for Bananas	21
	NON-GM/"Ohne Gentechnik" Module 1	7
	NON-GM/"Ohne Gentechnik" Module 2	5
	NON-GM/"Ohne Gentechnik" Module 3	5
GLOBALG.A.P. primary solutions	localg.a.p. customized programs	8
	Primary Farm Assurance (PFA)	12
Other party private solutions	Unique CBs approved to audit to one or more other party private solutions	92

Headquarter locations of GLOBALG.A.P. approved certification bodies

In addition to annual supervision by their own accreditation bodies according to the international rules for product certification (ISO/IEC 17065), all GLOBALG.A.P. approved CBs are monitored by GLOBALG.A.P.'s own dedicated team of expert integrity assessors who conduct integrity assessments.
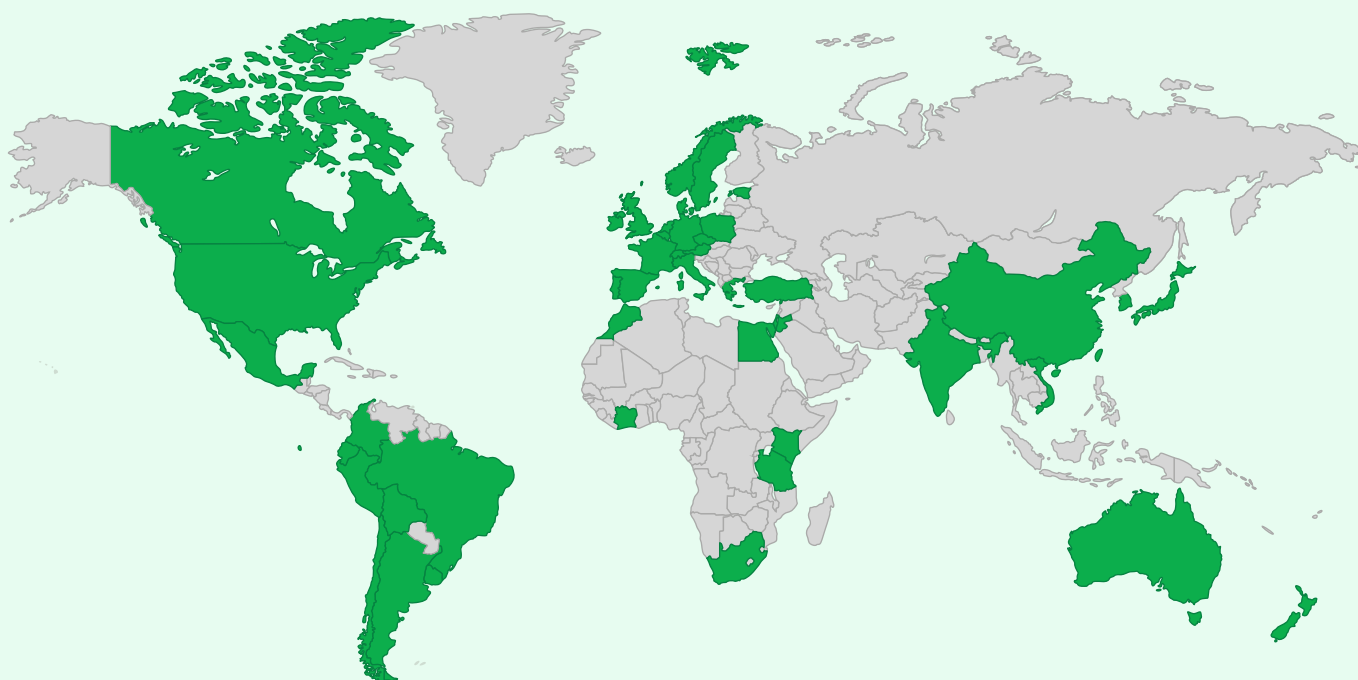
United States and Canada

Canada	**1**
USA	**14**

Latin America (Mexico, Central and South America, and the Carribean)

Argentina	**5**
Bolivia	**1**
Brazil	**5**
Chile	**3**
Colombia	**3**
Ecuador	**1**
Mexico	**10**
Peru	**2**
Uruguay	**1**

Europe

Austria	**5**
Belgium	**3**
Czech Republic	**2**
Denmark	**2**
Estonia	**1**
France	**5**
Germany	**19**
Greece	**8**
Ireland	**1**
Italy	**14**
Netherlands	**5**
Norway	**2**
Poland	**6**
Portugal	**5**
Spain	**20**
Sweden	**1**
Switzerland	**1**
United Kingdom	**4**

Africa

Côte d'Ivoire	**2**
Egypt	**3**
Kenya	**3**
Morocco	**2**
South Africa	**4**
Tanzania	**1**

Asia and Oceania

Australia	**1**
China	**3**
India	**3**
Israel	**1**
Japan	**2**
Jordan	**1**
New Zealand	**1**
South Korea	**2**
Taiwan	**1**
Türkiye	**9**
Vietnam	**5**

Please note that CBs may also operate internationally outside the country in which their headquarters are located.

New certification bodies **approved** in 2023

Asociación Mexicana de Evaluadores de la Normatividad A.C.
Mexico

Synfaring AS
Norway

Control Union Gözetim ve Belgelendirme Ltd. Şti
Türkiye

Merieux NutriSciences Certification (Shanghai) Co., Ltd
China

Bureau Veritas Ecuador S.A.
Ecuador

Infinity Cert International ICI
Egypt

Global Inspection and Certification Network (Cglobal) Joint Stock Company
Vietnam

Agri-Canaan LTD
Zimbabwe

Partner Africa
South Africa

Maintaining quality
in the delivery of our solutions

What are the training requirements for GLOBALG.A.P. approved certification bodies?

We conduct regular training courses for certification bodies (CBs) to maintain excellence in the delivery of our solutions. Training courses are designed for farm auditors, quality management system (QMS) auditors, in-house trainers (IHTs), and scheme managers, who must all fulfill specific qualification requirements to work on the certification process of GLOBALG.A.P. standards and add-ons.

→ All farm auditors are required to pass the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. online tests (dependent on the scope to be audited) before they may conduct audits.

→ All QMS auditors must attend a GLOBALG.A.P. QMS auditor training.

→ The designated scheme manager must take part in an annual scheme manager update (SMU) training.

→ The designated IHT must take part in the relevant compulsory CB training (dependent on the scope to be audited).

Good to know:

All GLOBALG.A.P. IHT exams are proctored. This means that the identity of the examinee is verified before the exam can begin, and the examinee is monitored for the entire duration of the test via computer desktop, webcam video, and audio.

Certification body training courses in 2023

In 2023 there were **116 trainings** for **1,215 participants.**

This included 6 in-person trainings and 110 conducted online. In addition, we offered 3 self-paced/pre-recorded training courses. This is up from 105 trainings for 1,057 participants in 2022.

The latest version of the **Integrated Farm Assurance standard (IFA v6) was published in September 2022.**

2023 was therefore an intensive year for CB training, ensuring CBs are adequately prepared to audit to IFA v6 once it replaced the previous v5.2 as of 1 January 2024.

This meant that the overwhelming majority of CB training was conducted for IFA (and the new GRASP version (v2) which is to be combined with IFA v6), instead of for a broader variety of standards and add-ons, as is usually the case in other years.

Breakdown of CB training courses per type in 2023

- ● Scheme manager update training
- ● QMS auditor training (including update trainings)
- ● IHT training (various standards)

13; **11%**

51; **44%**

52; **45%**
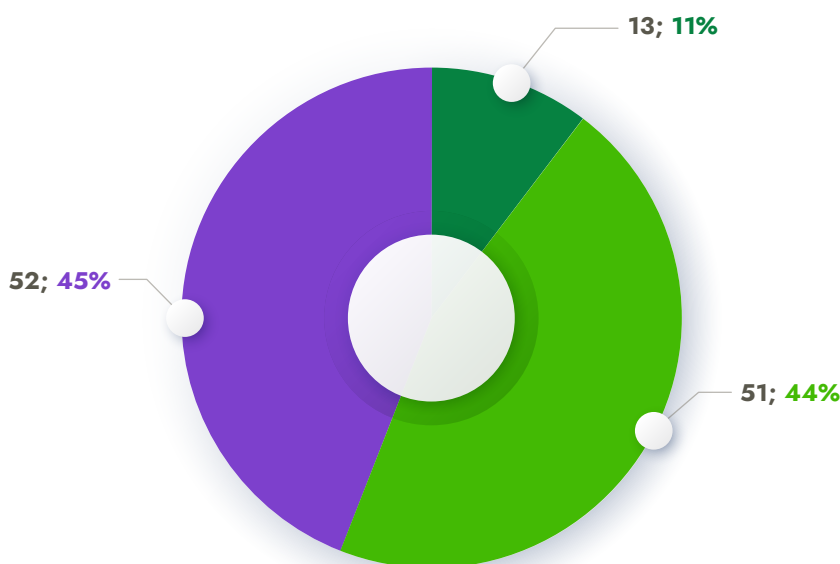
See the annex for a full breakdown of all CB training courses in 2023.

Good to know:

Scheme manager update training focuses on CB operational issues and updates for scheme managers. It also provides an opportunity to clarify technical questions and is neither scope- nor standard-specific.

QMS auditor training trains auditors of GLOBALG.A.P. approved CBs to audit the quality management systems of producer groups.

IHT training qualifies auditors and inspectors working for GLOBALG.A.P. approved CBs to become in-house trainers.

What are integrity assessments?

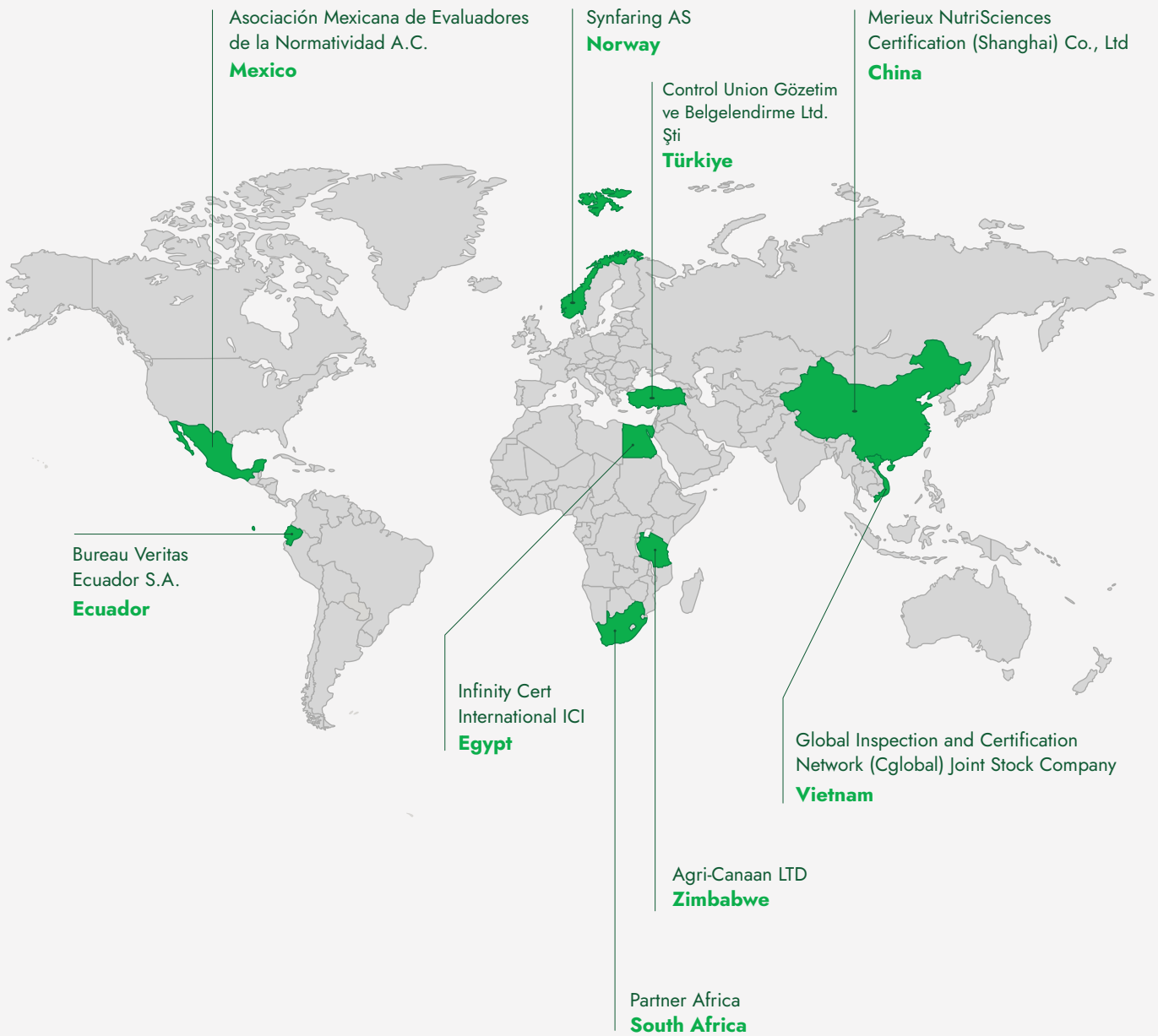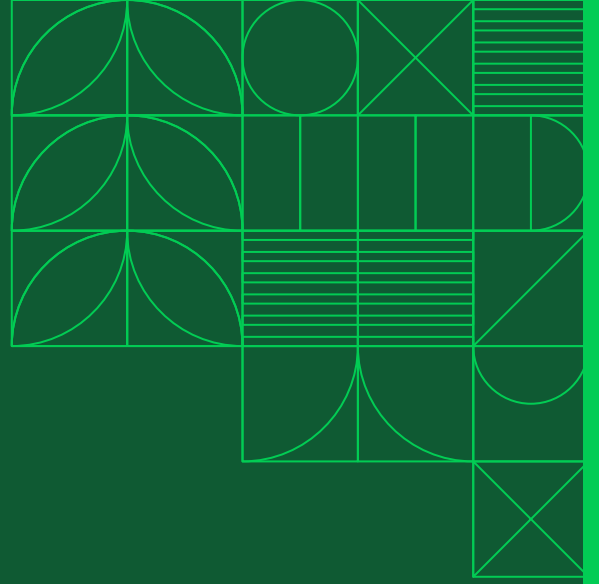**Periodic audits to determine** whether certification bodies are conducting the certification process correctly

In addition to annual supervision by their own accreditation bodies according to the international rules for product certification (ISO/IEC 17065), **all GLOBALG.A.P. approved certification bodies (CBs)** are monitored by GLOBALG.A.P.'s own dedicated team of expert integrity assessors who conduct integrity assessments.

Integrity assessments monitor whether CBs are conducting their certification processes in line with GLOBALG.A.P. normative documents, including the signed license and certification agreement. This improves the consistency of the criteria and quality standards applied by the approved CBs.

What kind of assessments are carried out?

- On-site assessment of CB offices

- Off-site assessment of CB offices (remote)

- On-site assessment of producers under certification

- Off-site assessment of producers under certification (remote)

- Off-site assessment of add-on checklists (document checks)

- Witnessing CB audits of registered producers or producers with certified production processes

- Assessment of businesses with Chain of Custody (CoC) certification (on-site and off-site)

How do we determine where to conduct integrity assessments?

Our dedicated team of expert integrity assessors conducts both on-site and off-site (remote) integrity assessments that are either **targeted** (as a result of a complaint investigation or risk assessment), **random** (to ensure that a wide range of CBs are checked), or **based on the referral of the Integrity Surveillance Committee (ISC).**

In general, CB offices are assessed approximately every three years.

How do Integrity Surveillance Committee evaluations work?

1 **If evidence from one or more integrity assessment** reports shows that a CB has demonstrated inadequate performance or has failed to demonstrate improvement following previous assessments, the CB Integrity team proposes the case for ISC review.

2 **The CB will be informed** about the decision to forward their case to the ISC and will be invited to respond with a written statement within 14 days of notification.

3 **Integrity assessment reports and CB responses are anonymized** before delivery to the ISC and do not include any identifiable information such as the producer's/CB's name, GLOBALG.A.P. identification numbers (e.g., GLOBALG.A.P. Number), or country. This ensures an impartial evaluation.

4 **The ISC reviews each case** and proposes sanctions for the CB Integrity team to enforce.

5 **CBs have the opportunity to appeal** within five working days of being notified of the ISC decision.

6 **The ISC evaluates all possible appeals** during two dedicated virtual meetings. In the event of a second appeal against the confirmation of a sanction by the ISC, an arbitration procedure is followed as outlined in the license and certification agreement. Sanctions by the ISC cannot be lifted until after the case has been re-evaluated by ISC members.
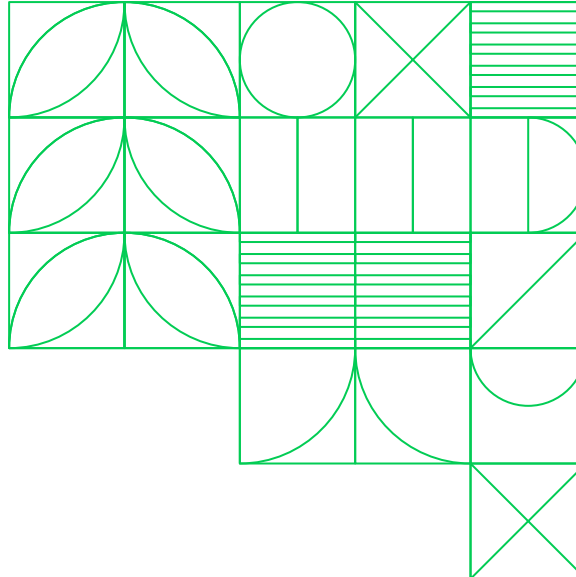
In 2023, the **ISC reviewed 24 cases** and requested 33 CB office and 70 producer re-assessment days. Throughout the year, 36 CB office and 63 producer re-assessment days were performed, according to prior ISC requests.

Good to know:

Potential sanctions for administrative issues are listed in the **GLOBALG.A.P. CB sanction catalog** and potential sanctions for integrity assessments are listed in the **Rules for certification bodies.**

Which solutions are covered by integrity assessments?

Standards

Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA)

IFA IFA for **fruit and vegetables**

IFA IFA for **aquaculture**

IFA IFA for **flowers and ornamentals**

IFA IFA for **hops**

IFA IFA for **combinable crops**

IFA IFA for **plant propagation material**

IFA IFA for **tea**

COC GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody (CoC)

CFM Compound Feed Manufacturing (CFM)

PHA Produce Handling Assurance (PHA)

HPSS Harmonized Produce Safety Standard (HPSS)

Add-ons

GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment on Social Practice (GRASP)

Sustainable Program for Irrigation and Groundwater Use (SPRING)

Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule add-on (FSMA PSR add-on)

NON-GM/"Ohne Gentechnik"

+ Selected integrity assessments into **other party private solutions** as agreed.

Integrity assessments of **benchmarked schemes** are also carried out intermittently to ensure the schemes are implemented as intended and are operating at equivalent levels of integrity.

Choosing the certification bodies

In 2023, **132 CBs** were assessed by the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program in a total of **333 different assessments**

41% of **CB offices** assessed in 2023 were chosen at random

21%
38%
41%

● Targeted   ● Integrity Surveillance Committee   ● Random
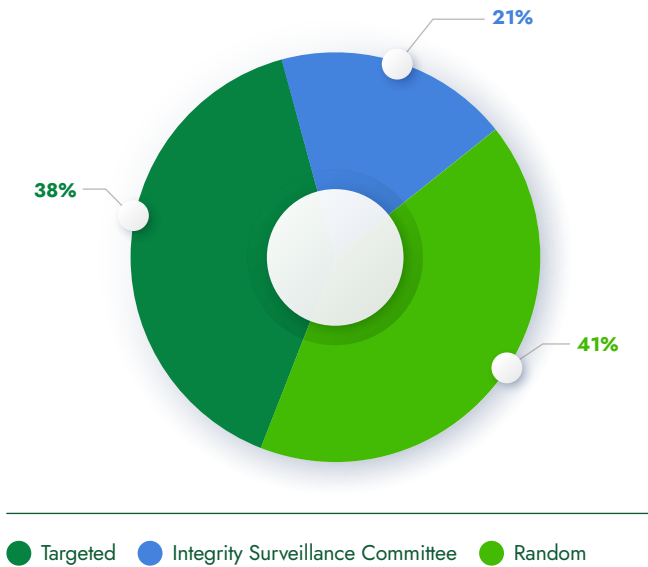
61% of the **producers** assessed in 2023 were chosen for risk-based or complaint reasons (targeted)

18%
21%
61%

● Targeted   ● Integrity Surveillance Committee   ● Random
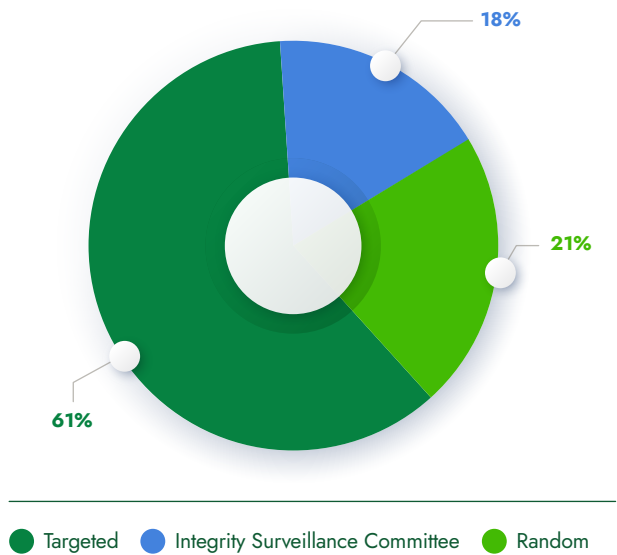
Activity	Number of CBs assessed per activity
On-site assessment of CB offices	54
Off-site assessment of CB offices (remote)	14
On-site assessment of producers under certification	105
Off-site assessment of producers under certification (remote)	1
Off-site assessment of add-on checklist (document checks)	9
Witnessing CB audits of registered producers or producers with certified production processes	2
Assessment of businesses with Chain of Custody (CoC) certification (on-site and off-site)	19
Total	**204***

*Some CBs received more than one type of assessment.

Integrity assessments by standard and assessment type

Most integrity assessments (290 of 333) were related to **Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA)** as the most widely implemented GLOBALG.A.P. standard.

202 assessments were related to GRASP (as well as IFA) as the most widely implemented GLOBALG.A.P. add-on.

In 2023, the 333 different integrity assessments resulted in 480.5 assessment days. More than 300 of these days were spent assessing producers and CoC companies on site.

Activity	Total number of assessment days	Scheme/standard	Number of assessments	Including GRASP / another add-on
On-site assessment of CB offices	114.5	IFA	54	
		GRASP		46
		Other party private solution		18
Off-site assessment of CB offices (remote)	30.5	IFA	14	
		GRASP		8
On-site assessment of producers under certification	288.5	IFA	218	
		CFM	3	
		IFA + GRASP		140
		IFA + other party private solution		26
		Benchmarked schemes (AMAGAP + MPS-GAP)	8	
Off-site assessment of producers under certification (remote)	3.5	IFA	2	
		IFA + GRASP		1
Off-site assessment of add-on checklists (document checks)	16.5	GRASP	7	7
		Other party private solution	2	2
Assessment of businesses with Chain of Custody (CoC) certification (on-site and off-site)	23	Chain of Custody (CoC)	23	
Witnessing CB audits of registered producers or producers with certified production processes	4	IFA	2	
Total	**480.5**		**333**	**248**

Breakdown of integrity assessment days in 2023

In 2023, the number of days of integrity assessments carried out reached an all-time high, surpassing the number of integrity assessment days conducted prior to the outbreak of COVID-19.

DAYS SPENT ON INTEGRITY ASSESSMENTS (2019—2023)

427 days in **43 countries**	**307.8** days in **30 countries***	**358.5** days in **29 countries**	**420** days in **44 countries**	**480.5** days in **44 countries**
2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
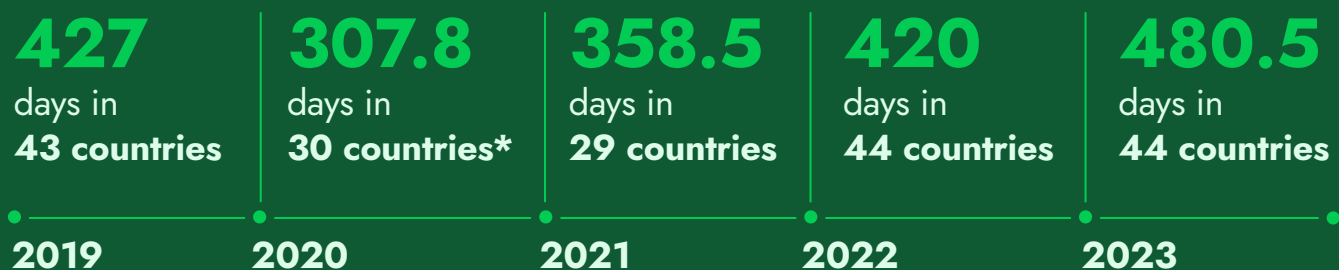
*The COVID-19 pandemic outbreak caused a reduction in assessment days in 2020. Since then, the number of integrity assessment days gradually increased as travel restrictions eased.

The majority of integrity assessment days were spent **visiting producers on site**

1%
Witnessing CB audits of registered producers or producers with certified production processes; **4 days**

1%
Off-site assessment of producers under certification (remote); **3.5 days**

3%
Off-site assessment of add-on checklists (document checks); **16.5 days**

5%
Assessment of businesses with Chain of Custody (CoC) certification (onsite and off-site); **23 days**

24%
On-site assessment of CB offices; **114.5 days**

60%
On-site assessment of producers under certification; **288.5 days**

6%
Off-site assessment of CB offices (remote); **30.5 days**

The number of integrity assessment days **is relative to the number of certification bodies**

● Number of approved CBs   ● Days of integrity assessments
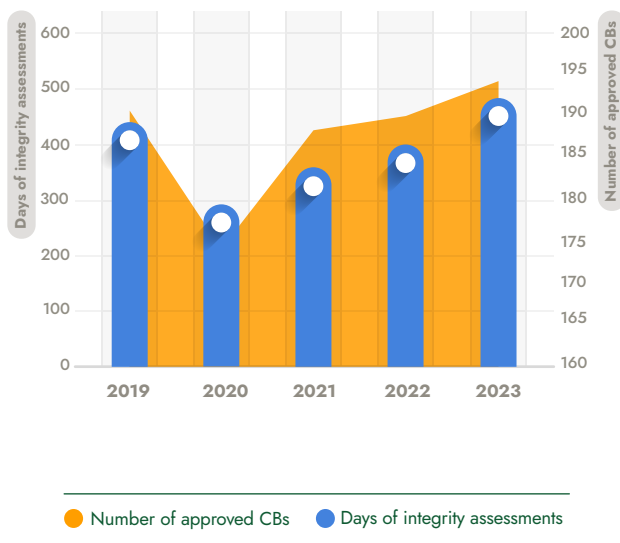
Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) **Producer integrity assessments by Option** (on-site, off-site, and witness audits)

Option 1 assessments target one producer
Option 2 assessments target producer groups

● Number of assessment days
● Number of assessments
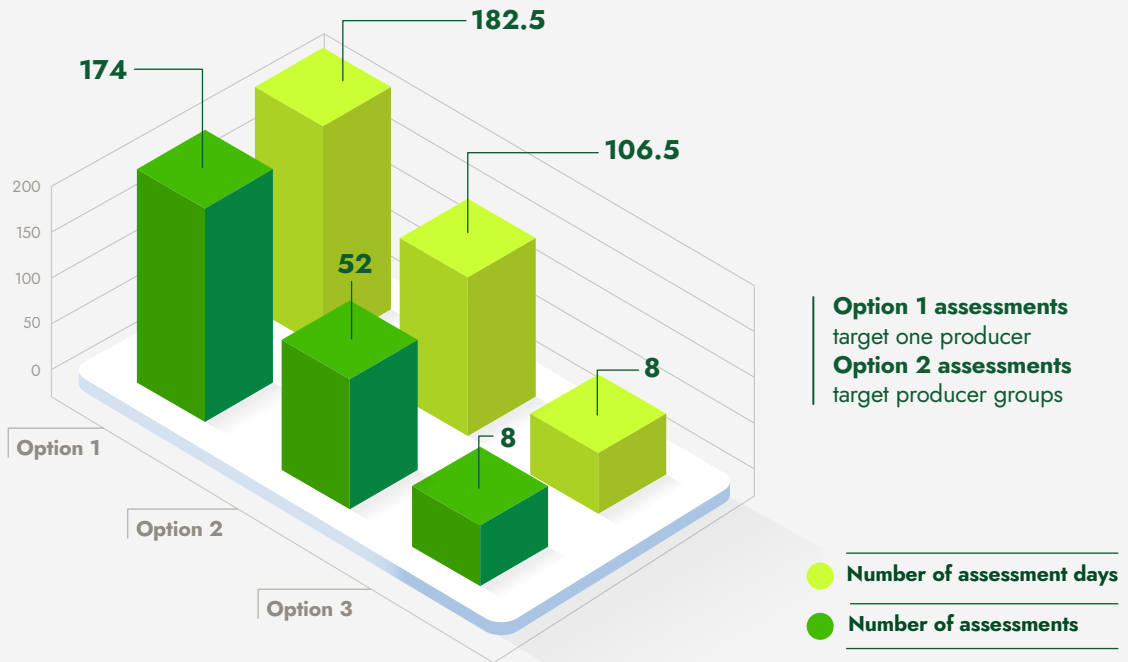
Good to know:

Option 1 certification is for individual producers with a single site or multiple sites that do not function as separate legal entities.

Option 2 certification is for producer groups (cooperatives, etc.) where the legal entity of the group is the certificate holder once certified. The group must implement a quality management system (QMS).

Option 3 is equivalent to Option 1 (individual producers) but for benchmarked schemes.

On-site integrity assessments of producers and businesses broken down by product category

Most producer/business integrity assessments were for **IFA for fruit and vegetables, as our biggest product category.**

215
IFA for fruit and vegetables;
85%

3
CFM; **1%**

7
CoC for aquaculture; **3%**

3
CoC for flowers and ornamentals; **1%**

13
CoC for fruit and vegetables; **5%**

6
IFA for aquaculture; **2.5%**

6
IFA for flowers and ornamentals; **2.5%**
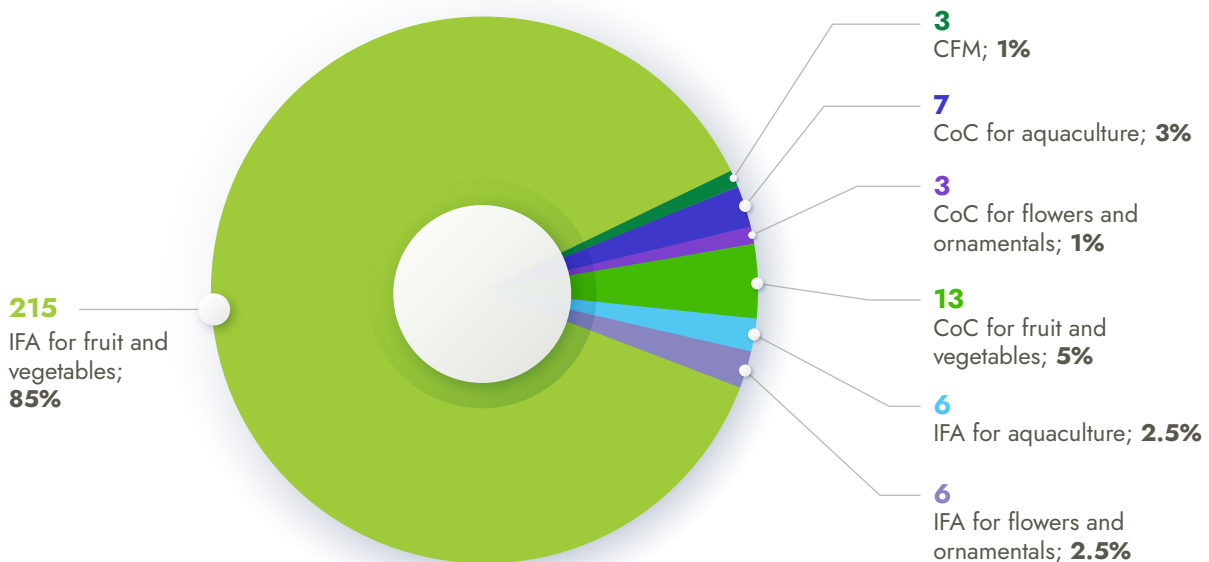
Integrity assessments **locations in 2023**

Key:
- <5 days
- 5 to 10 days
- 10 to 15 days
- 15 to 20 days
- 20+ days
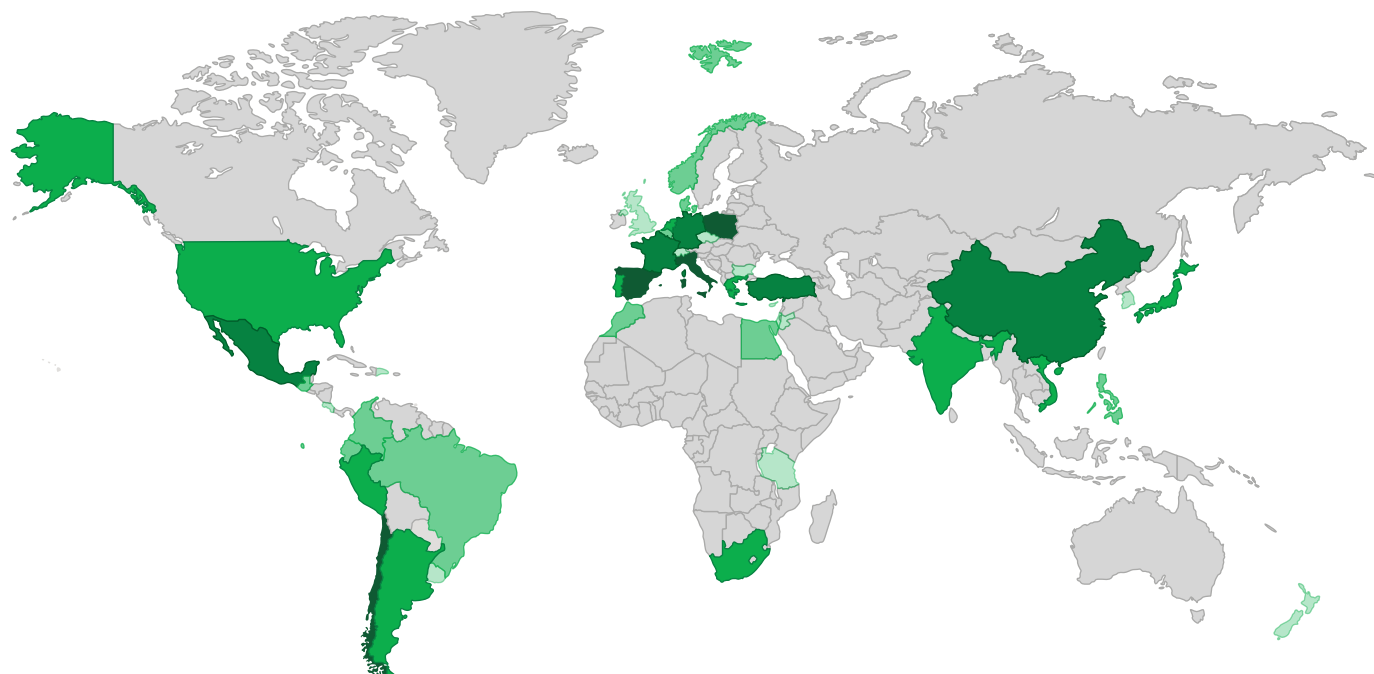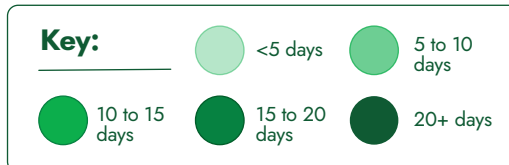
Country	Number of days
Argentina	14.5
Austria	7
Belgium	7
Brazil	8
Bulgaria	4
Chile	25.5
China	17.5
Colombia	7
Costa Rica	3
Cyprus	5
Czech Republic	3.5
Denmark	5
Dominican Republic (the)	5
Ecuador	7.5
Egypt	7.5
France	18
Germany	18
Greece	12
Guatemala	5
India	11.5
Israel	4
Italy	39.5
Japan	10
Jordan	1.5

Country	Number of days
Kenya	2
Korea (the Republic of)	5.5
Mexico	20
Morocco	9
Netherlands	16
New Zealand	3
Norway	6.5
Peru	13
Poland	20
Portugal	10
South Africa	10
Spain	58
Switzerland	2
Turkey	17
United Kingdom of Great Britain and N.I.	2
Uruguay	5
USA	10
Viet Nam	12
Philippines (the)	8
Taiwan (Province of China)	5
Total	**480.5**

Top 15 countries by number of producers under GLOBALG.A.P. certification

1. Spain
2. Italy
3. Greece
4. India
5. Germany
6. France
7. Peru
8. Kenya
9. Netherlands
10. Chile
11. Poland
12. Türkiye
13. Portugal
14. Austria
15. Colombia

Comparing the locations of integrity **assessments** to the countries with the most producers under GLOBALG.A.P. certification

The most integrity assessment days were spent in Spain (58 days). Spain is also the country with the highest number of producers under GLOBALG.A.P. certification in the world (45,423 as of 31/12/2023).

The countries with the next highest number of integrity assessment days **(Italy, Chile, and Poland)** are also in the top 15 countries by number of producers under GLOBALG.A.P. certification.

China, Argentina, and Vietnam are the only countries assessed in 2023 which do not fall in the top 15 countries worldwide by number of producers under certification.

Top 15 countries by number of producers under GLOBALG.A.P. certification

1.	Spain	**6.**	France	**11.**	Poland
2.	Italy	**7.**	Peru	**12.**	Türkiye
3.	Greece	**8.**	Kenya	**13.**	Portugal
4.	India	**9.**	Netherlands	**14.**	Austria
5.	Germany	**10.**	Chile	**15.**	Colombia

Integrity assessments days

India 11.5 · Greece 12 · Vietnam 12 · Peru 13 · Argentina 14.5 · Netherlands 16 · Türkiye 17 · China 17.5 · France 18 · Germany 18 · Mexico 20 · Poland 20 · Chile 25.5 · Italy 39.5 · Spain 58
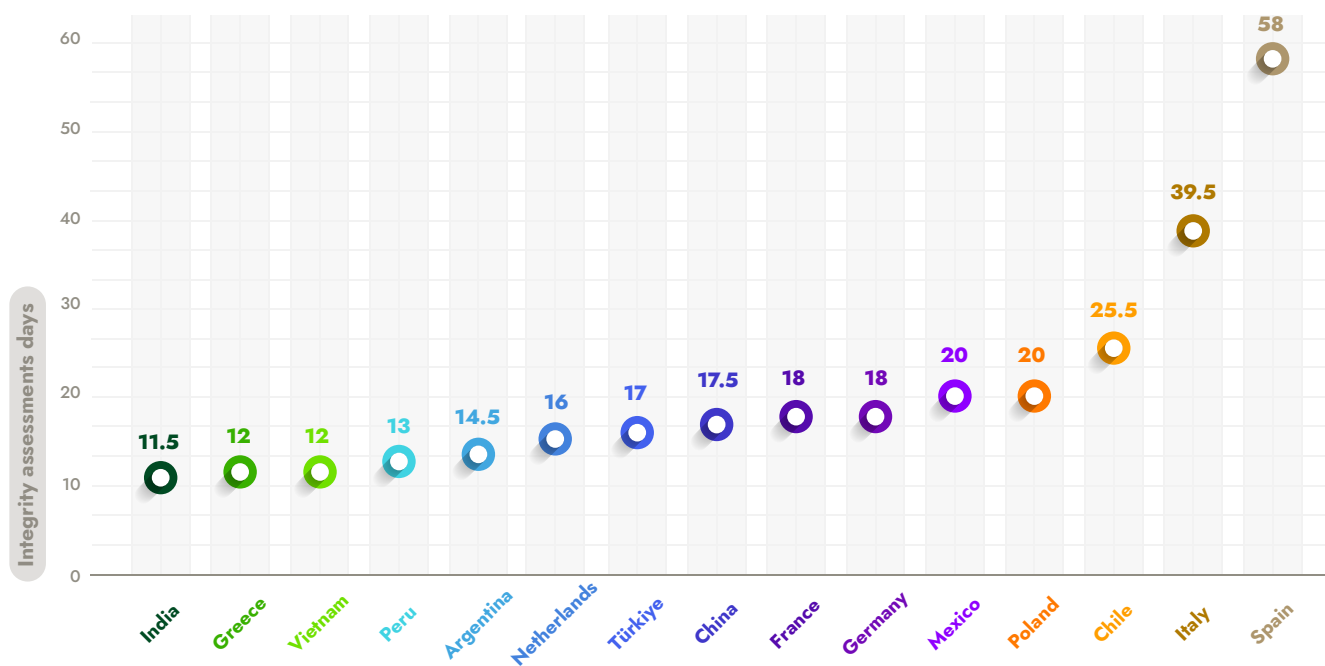
How are integrity assessment results categorized?

Integrity assessments are classified into one of five classes. These results are later used to form part of the performance rating system for GLOBALG.A.P. approved CBs, known as key performance indicators (KPIs).

Integrity assessment results in 2023

1.50%
41.00%
51,00%
4.50%
1.50%

10.00%
49.00%
34.00%
6.6%
0.4%

CB office assessments | Producer assessments

● Class 1   ● Class 2   ● Class 3   ● Class 4   ● Class 5
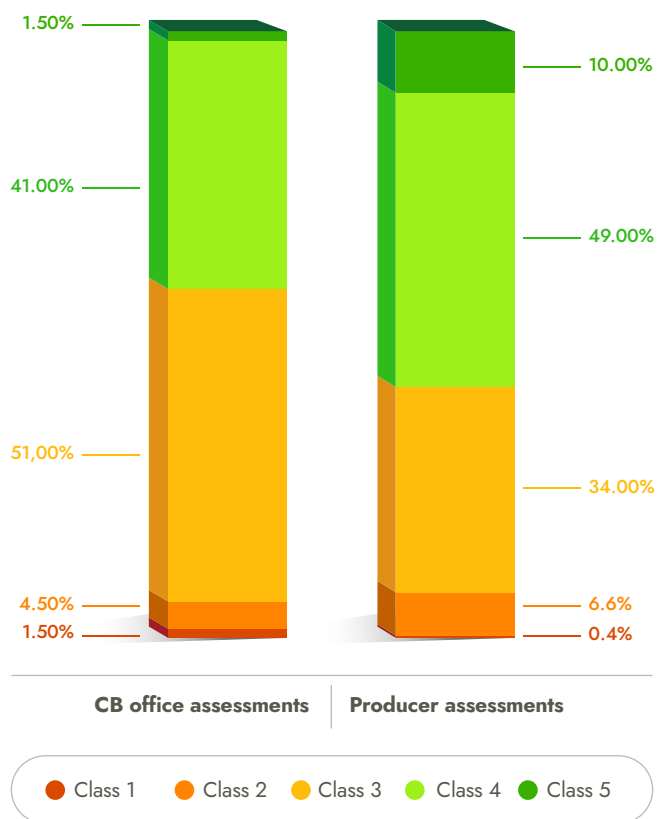
Integrity results categories:

Class 5

Excellent performance. No incidents detected. The CB shows a high level of implementation of the GLOBALG.A.P. requirements.

Class 4

Good performance. No systematic and serious non-conformances found.

Class 3

Improvement is required.

Class 2

Poor performance. The CB requires immediate and significant improvement.

Class 1

Unacceptable performance which calls the CB's overall competency in question.

Good to know:

Class 1 usually results in a red card, meaning the CB is restricted to conducting subsequent audits only; they cannot register new clients. The restrictions are in place until further investigation through integrity re-assessments provide evidence of improvement. If there is no improvement, the contract with the CB is cancelled.

Evolution of assessment outcomes **(2008–2023)**

All-time trend for the outcomes of **CB office assessments**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
● Class 5	2%	2%	0%	0%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	7%	6%	9%	9%	9%	1.5%
● Class 4	15%	11%	14%	6%	20%	37%	46%	56%	33%	50%	42%	52%	68%	61%	47%	41%
● Class 3	53%	59%	45%	75%	73%	60%	50%	41%	67%	40%	42%	37%	23%	30%	39%	51.5%
● Class 2	28%	26%	41%	19%	0%	3%	4%	3%	0%	5%	9%	5%	0%	0%	5%	4.5%
● Class 1	2%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.5%
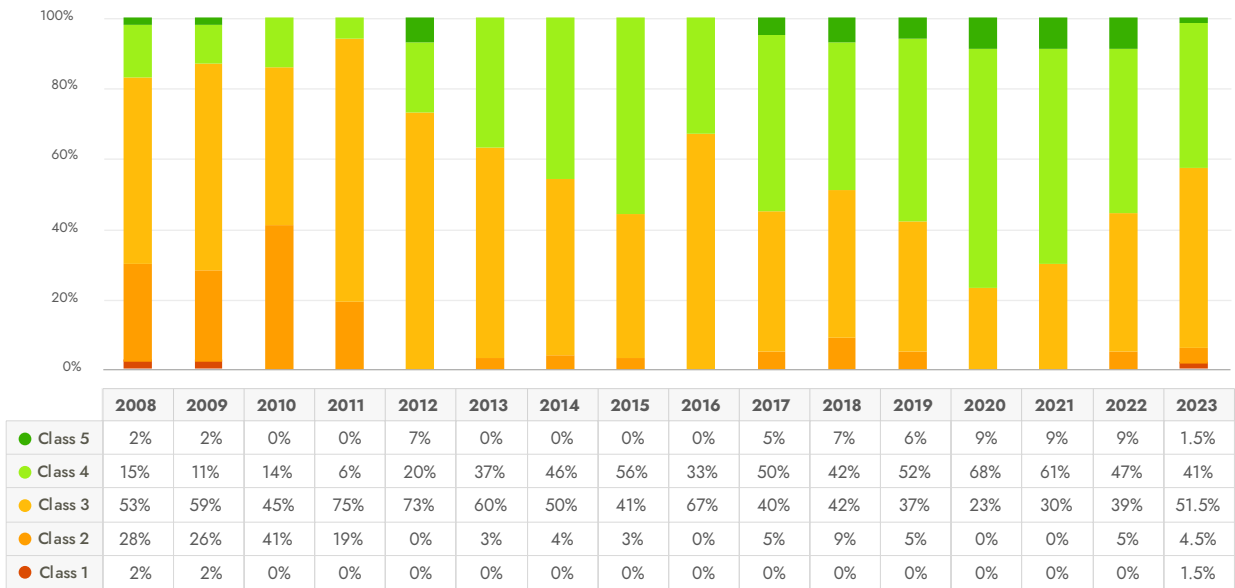
All-time trend for the outcomes of **producer assessments**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
● Class 5	1%	1%	0%	0%	2%	4%	4%	1%	4%	6%	3%	16%	19%	15%	8%	10%
● Class 4	11%	25%	16%	19%	18%	38%	48%	55%	45%	56%	41%	63%	63%	56%	53%	49%
● Class 3	56%	46%	57%	55%	74%	55%	45%	39%	47%	36%	50%	19%	13%	26%	35%	34%
● Class 2	25%	25%	26%	26%	6%	3%	3%	5%	4%	2%	6%	2%	5%	3%	4%	6.6%
● Class 1	7%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.4%
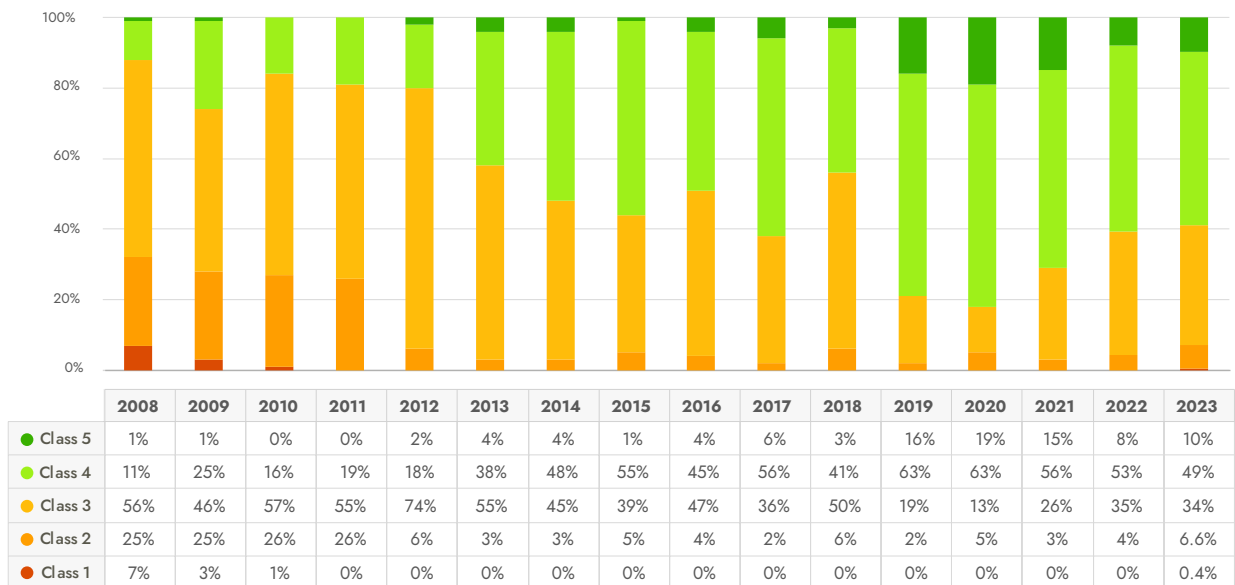
Good to know:

Different CBs and producers are assessed each year. These results therefore only provide a snapshot representation of worldwide CB performance over the years and do not show a comparison of results from the same CBs over the years.

How is **unsatisfactory performance** in integrity assessments addressed?
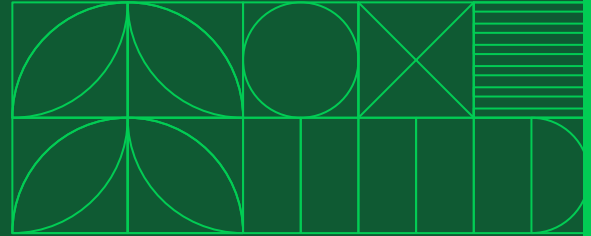
CBs with a low score which fail to demonstrate improvements or corrective actions based on integrity assessments may be sanctioned.

Certification body sanctions applied **(2022—2023)**

● 2022   ● 2023

In 2023
The contract with the single CB which received a Class 1 score in their integrity assessment was cancelled.

CB sanctions for non conformances detected in integrity assessments

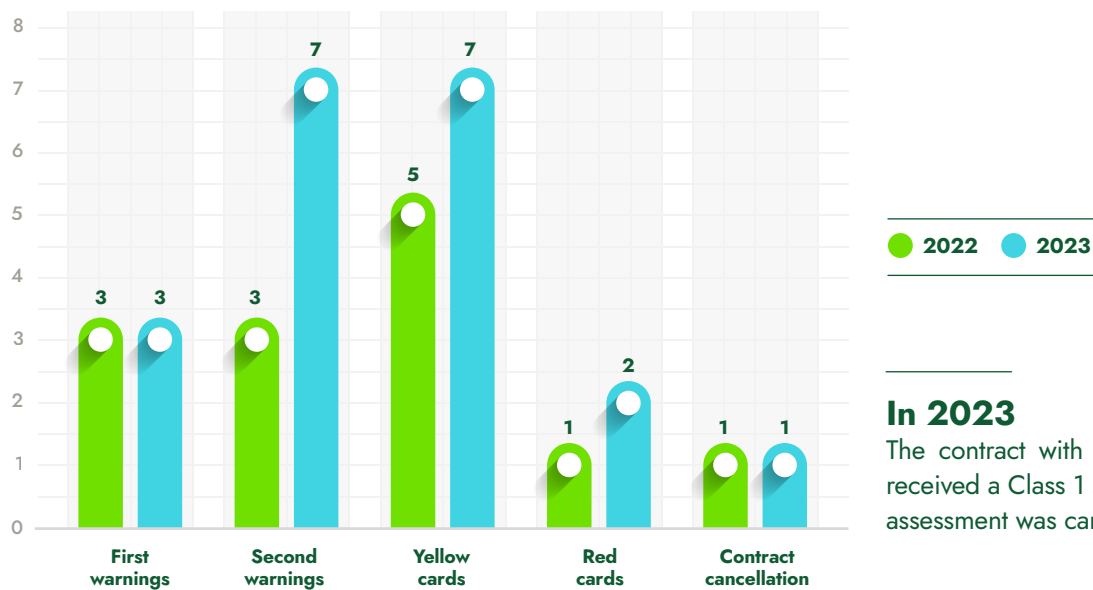**1** **First warning —** The CB and its accreditation body are informed of the need for improvement. Potential improvements are checked by further reassessments.

2 **Second warning —** The CB and its accreditation body are informed of the need for further improvement. Potential improvements are checked by further reassessments.

3 **Yellow card —** The CB has received two warnings and has failed to demonstrate sufficient improvement as detailed in the GLOBALG.A.P. CB sanction catalog. The Integrity Surveillance Committee (ISC) will rule on the next steps for reassessment. The CB and its accreditation body are informed. The sanction is published on the GLOBALG.A.P. website.

4 **Red card —** The CB and its accreditation body are informed. The sanction is published on the GLOBALG.A.P. website. The CB is not allowed to issue new certificates. The ISC cannot lift this sanction until confidence in the CB's operation is restored following re-assessment.

5 **Contract cancellation —** The CB and its accreditation body are informed. The sanction is published on the GLOBALG.A.P. website. The license and certification agreements are cancelled.

Good to know:
Sanctioning steps are not necessarily consecutive. In the case of demonstrated fraud or severe breach of normative requirements, the highest sanctions may be applied immediately.

How do we rate overall certification body performance?

Key performance indicators (KPIs) measure the performance of approved certification bodies (CBs) and present the information to the public in a simple format. The KPIs were developed together with the CBs and include scores from:
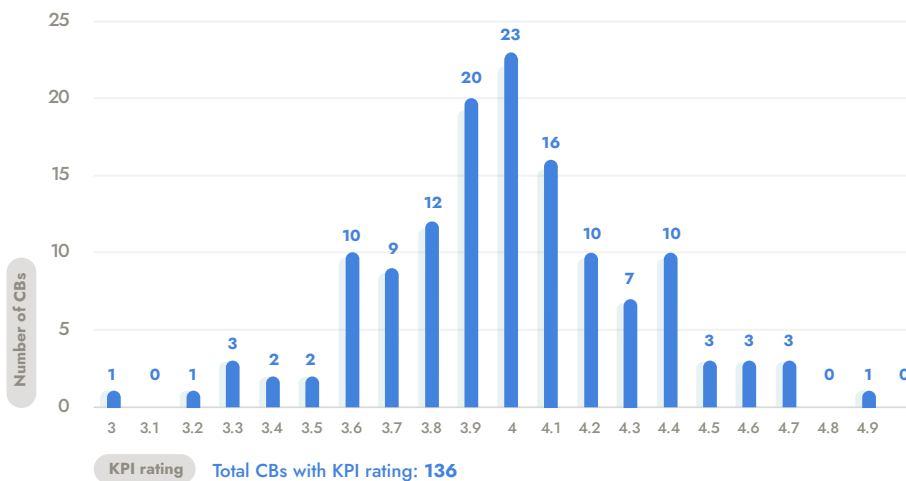
→ **Integrity assessment results:** Uses the classifications (1 to 5) received in integrity assessments in the last three years. This includes head-office performance, auditing quality, and reporting quality.

→ **Operational rating:** Includes criteria on audit processing time, audit timing, database management, complaint management, administrative management, and commitment.

These criteria are reflected in a five-star rating system, with one star for poorest performance and five stars for best performance. The KPI ratings are published on the GLOBALG.A.P. website and are updated every six months.

55.8% of CBs with a KPI rating are rated 4 stars and above as of 31 December 2023.

The majority of CBs had a **KPI rating between 3.9 and 4.1 in 2023**

Please note, traditional rounding rules (to the nearest decimal point) have been applied.

Number of CBs

KPI rating	3	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	4	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.9
Number of CBs	1	0	1	3	2	2	10	9	12	20	23	16	10	7	10	3	3	3	0	1	0

KPI rating   Total CBs with KPI rating: **136**

KPI rating	Interpretation
★☆☆☆☆	Unacceptable performance
★★☆☆☆	Major improvement necessary
★★★☆☆	Some improvement necessary
★★★★☆	Good performance
★★★★★	Excellent performance

Good to know:

Some of the most recently approved CBs may not have a KPI rating due to there not yet being enough evidence available within the evaluation criteria to establish an overall KPI rating. This does not mean poor performance.

# What is the complaint investigation procedure?

Enabling a fast and thorough response system for complaints

Complaints received by the certification body (CB) Integrity team are recorded, analyzed, and investigated by a dedicated complaint management officer.

Reports regarding a breach of standard requirements by GLOBALG.A.P. certification system users — including breaches related to maximum residue limits (MRLs) — can be made via the complaint form on the GLOBALG.A.P. website. Complaints may also be received directly from stakeholders or the media.

If a potential non-compliance with the standard requirements is traced to a producer, producer group, or company with certified production processes, the CB Integrity team requires the corresponding CB and certificate holder to refute the claim. This can be done by verifying and providing evidence of compliance with the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. standard requirements.

CBs investigate the complaints through document reviews and, if needed, unannounced integrity assessments. They must then report all findings and actions taken to the CB Integrity team within a defined time period.
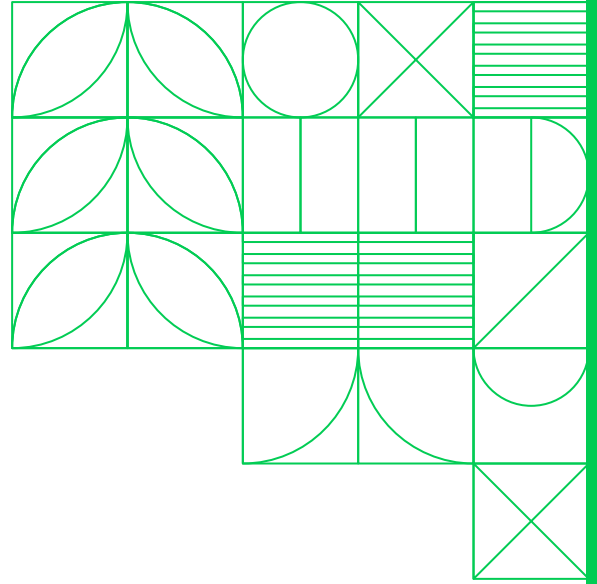
How are complaints **processed?**

Complaint issued to GLOBALG.A.P.

↓

Email with receipt confirmation is sent to the complainant within two working days.

↓

CB Integrity team **investigates the complaint.**

↓

Email with interim report or additional information request is sent to the complainant if necessary.

↓

Email with closing report is sent to the complainant.

↓

Feedback
- **If the report is satisfactory,** the complaint is closed.
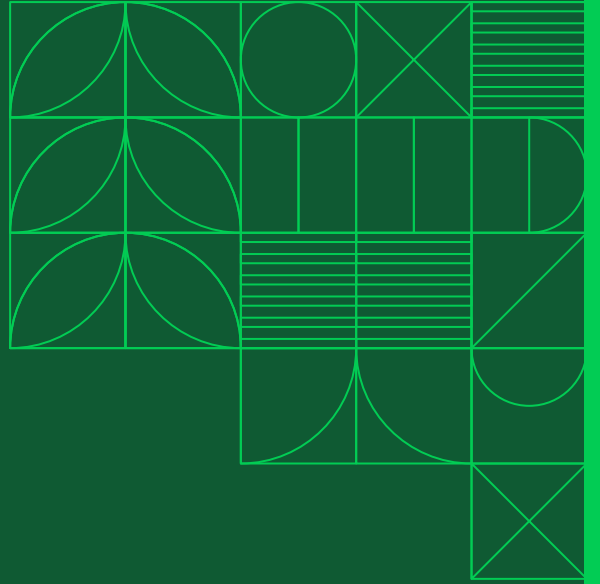- **If the report is unsatisfactory,** the CB Integrity team returns to the investigation stage.
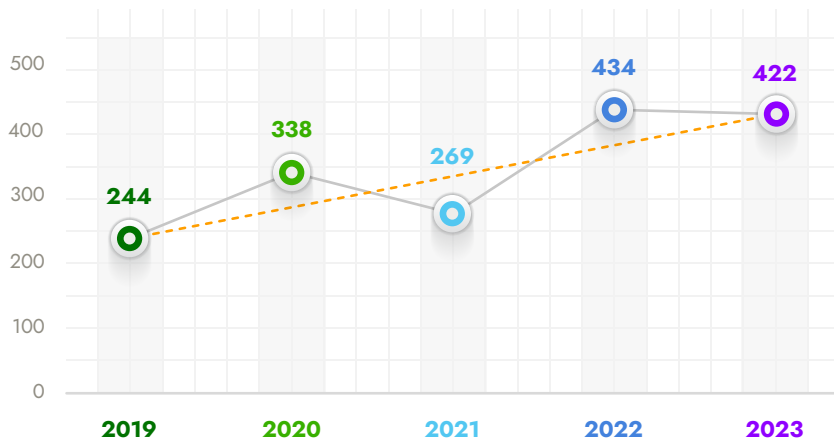
Complaint closed

Good to know:

Complaint information is used to facilitate the selection and scheduling of integrity assessments. This may result in targeted integrity assessments for on-site investigation and follow-up.

# How many complaints were received in 2023?

Number of **complaints processed**

A total of 422 complaints were received during 2023, marking a 2.7% decrease in comparison with 2022. Of the total received, 336 were resolved and 42 rejected. Complaints rejected by the CB Integrity team typically include those that are outside the scope of the relevant producer — for example, a complaint about social issues where the producer is not GRASP assessed.

390 producers with GLOBALG.A.P. certification were involved in the complaints. This represents 0.2% of all producers with GLOBALG.A.P. certification worldwide — 200,147 at the end of 2023.

Of the 390 investigated, 14 producers were suspended, 14 had their certification cancelled, and two producer group members were deregistered from their respective producer groups. The remaining 360 producers maintained their certification.

Number of countries with GLOBALG.A.P. certification and **number of countries with complaint investigations**
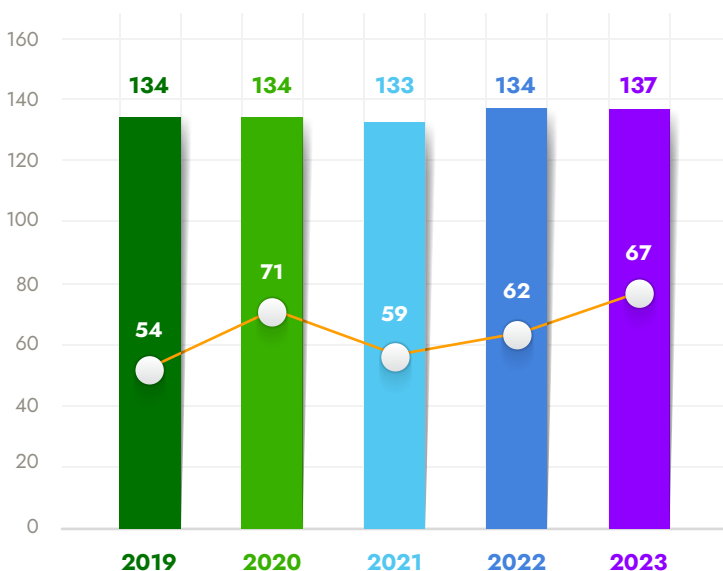
In 2023, complaints were investigated in 67 countries (of 137 total countries with active GLOBALG.A.P. certificates). This represents an 8% increase in comparison with 2022. There was only one complaint investigation where the country could not be defined due to incomplete traceability information.

The top three countries for complaint investigations were Italy, Spain, and Germany. Spain and Italy represent the top two countries by number of producers with certified production processes worldwide, while Germany also features in the top six.

With GLOBALG.A.P. certification active in 137 countries worldwide at the end of 2023, the investigations demonstrate both the scope of GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program oversight globally as well as comprehensive stakeholder engagement in the robustness of the GLOBALG.A.P. certification system.

Number of **brand integrity issues investigated**
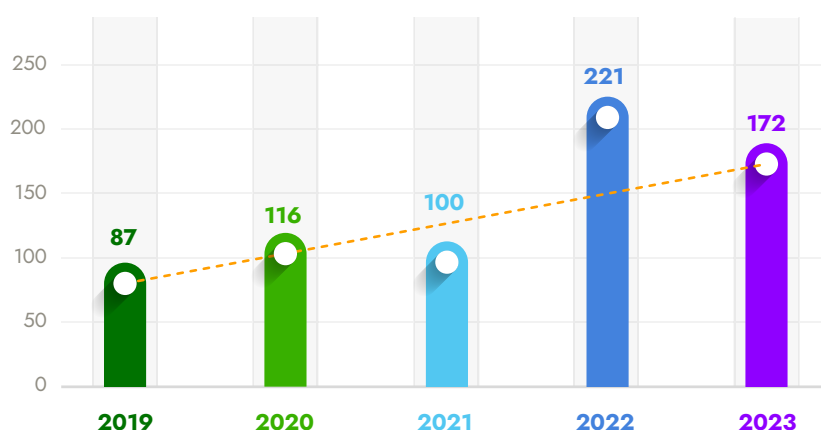
Brand integrity investigations include misuses of the GLOBALG.A.P./GGN label brands, logos, and identification numbers (GLOBALG.A.P. Number [GGN], GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody [CoC] Number, etc.).

A total of 172 brand integrity issues were investigated in 2023, marking a decrease of 22.2% in comparison with 2022. The majority of these cases involve the misuse of GLOBALG.A.P. trademarks or certification claims by producers and traders without valid GLOBALG.A.P. certification.

The "GLOBALG.A.P. trademarks use: Policy and guidelines" document, published in July 2022, also became obligatory for all stakeholders making GLOBALG.A.P. claims in June 2023. Compliance with brand rules now forms a part of standard requirements and is checked during the annual CB audit.

Number of **fraudulent certificates identified**
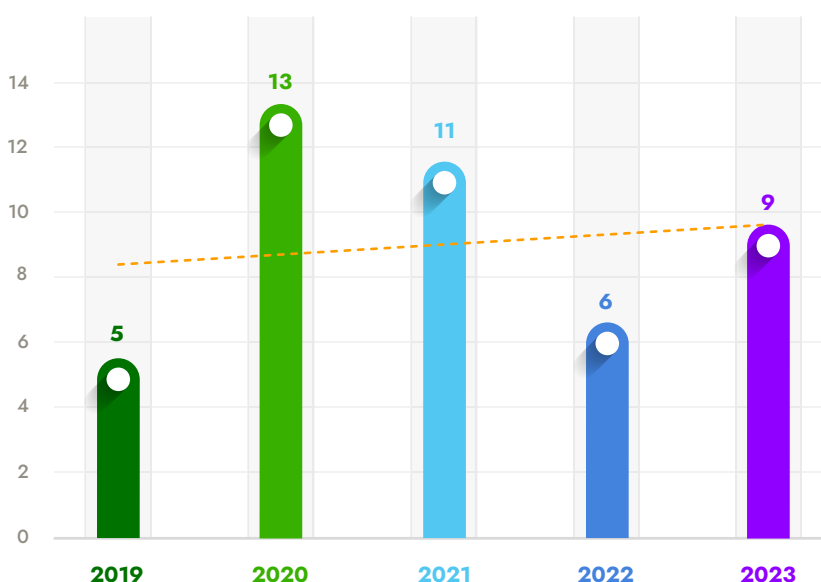
A total of 9 cases involving fraudulent certificates were investigated during 2023, an increase of 50% in comparison with 2022. This includes cases, for example, where a CB issues a certificate without following the certification process (conducting an audit), or where a CB clones the identification number of another producer with certified production processes.

A total of 64,406 certificates for GLOBALG.A.P. core solutions were issued by approved CBs during 2023. To mitigate the risk of fraud in the supply chain, the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems — the database and Validation Service — offer a real-time, publicly available verification method for all producers under GLOBALG.A.P. certification worldwide.

How are complaints **categorized?**
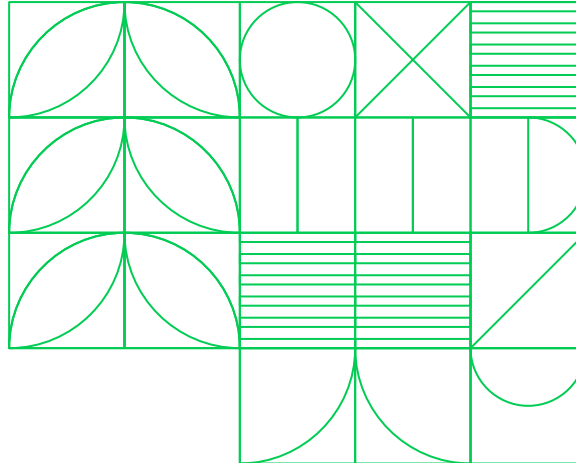
Complaints processed by the CB Integrity team are broken down into **12 categories.** This classification works as a feedback mechanism that aids both the identification of systemic issues as well as the continuous improvement of GLOBALG.A.P. solutions and services.

Against the standard

Related to issues that are either not currently covered by the GLOBALG.A.P. standards or need certain clarifications in the context of the GLOBALG.A.P. standards.

For example: The standard does not cover a specific requirement, and the rules or criteria should be improved to include it.

Against the administration

Related to the daily operations and tasks of the internal GLOBALG.A.P. departments and teams.

For example: A stakeholder was not invited to a specific event, a complaint was filed against a specific GLOBALG.A.P. team member, or a CB has not received an official communication.

Brand/Logo/GGN misuses

Related to GLOBALG.A.P. logo/trademark/GGN uses which are not compliant with the corresponding requirements of the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations.

For example: A producer without certification is making a certification claim on their website (brand misuse) or a producer with noncertified production processes is using the GGN of another producer with certified production processes (GGN misuse).

Business-related issues outside GLOBALG.A.P. jurisdiction

Related to claims that do not fall under the responsibility of GLOBALG.A.P. c/o FoodPLUS GmbH.

For example: A participant in a CB's private training seminar receives a certificate with their name written incorrectly and asks GLOBALG.A.P. to reissue it with the correct name.

CB integrity

Related to the integrity and impartiality of a CB's certification services.

For example: The CB or its auditors are providing consultancy services to their own customers or performing an audit without GLOBALG.A.P. approval for the relevant standard/add-on/-scope/product category.

Fraudulent certificates

Related to certificates that were issued without following proper procedure according to the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations.

For example: Certificates were issued by a non-approved CB or certificates were issued without an audit.

GLOBALG.A.P. normative documents

Related to deviations from the requirements of the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations.

For example: GLOBALG.A.P. audits were conducted at the wrong time (outside the defined audit window), double registrations were made, or certification decisions were delayed.

GGN label

Related to the GGN label or the GGN label portal.

For example: The requirements for use of the GGN label are not fulfilled.

GLOBALG.A.P. database

Related to the daily operation and functionality of the GLOBALG.A.P. database.

For example: A user is experiencing reduced performance or is unable to access the GLOBALG.A.P. database.

Integrity Program

Related to the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program.

For example: A CB complains about a specific key performance indicator (KPI) rating.

Other

Related to complaints in which there is not enough information to process and start an investigation, or in which the communication is a request/inquiry rather than a complaint.

For example: A complaint without valid information (producer name, GGN, etc.) was received.

Registered Trainer

Related to the Registered Trainer program that conducts training on GLOBALG.A.P. standards.

For example: A Registered Trainer is claiming to be a GLOBALG.A.P. representative.

How were complaints **categorized in 2023?**

1%
GLOBALG.A.P. database; **5**

2%
Outside GLOBALG.A.P. jurisdiction; **8**

2%
Fraudulent certificates; **9**

4%
Against the administration; **20**

7%
CB integrity; **30**

37%
Brand/Logo/GGN
misuse; **172**

1%
Registered Trainer; **5**

1%
Other; **5**

1%
GGN label; **4**

1%
Against the standard; **3**

0%
Integrity Program; **1**

43%
GLOBALG.A.P.
normative
documents; **201**
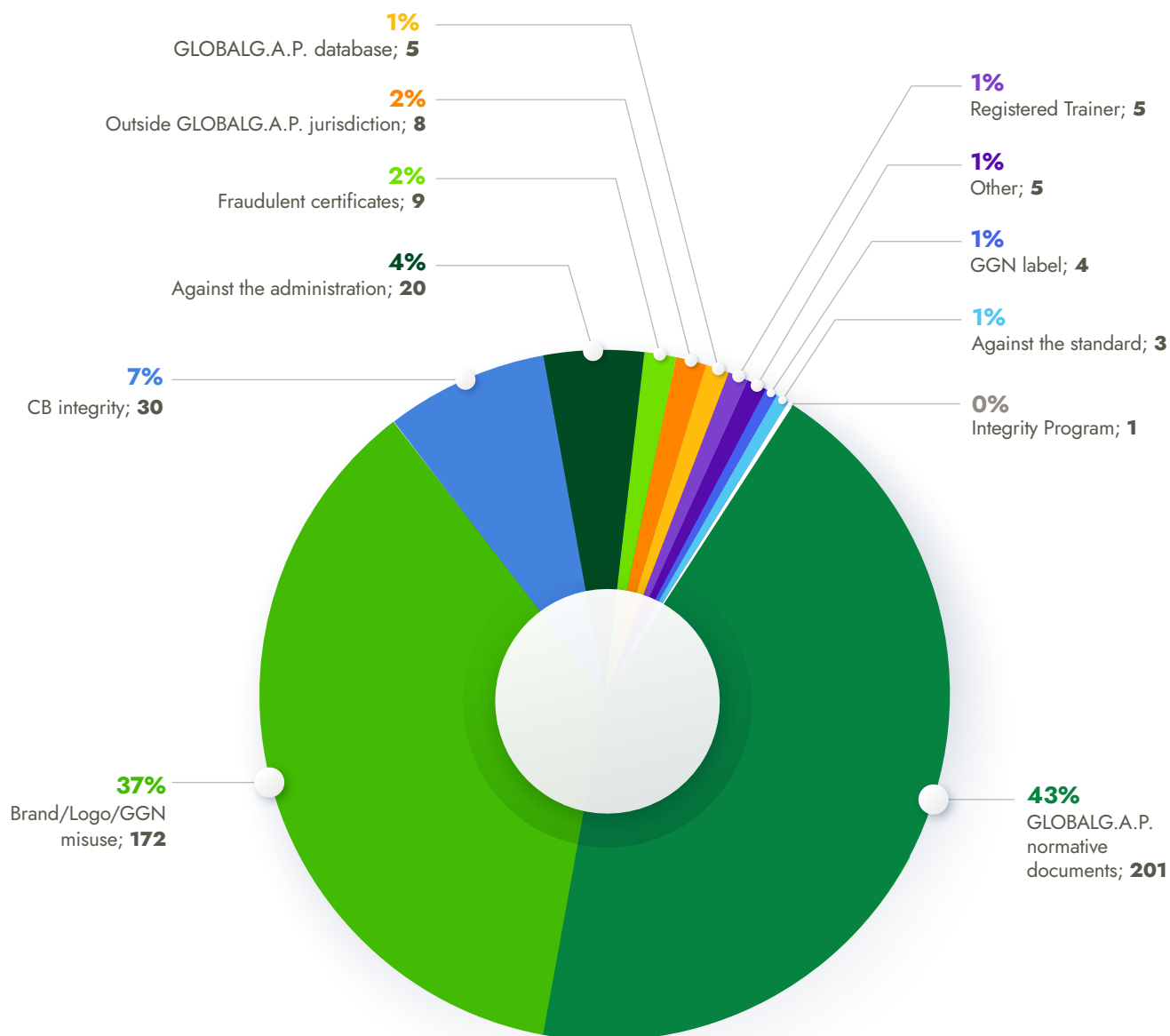
In the top categories for 2023, **there were 201 complaints relating to GLOBALG.A.P. normative documents** (an increase of 27% compared to 2022), 172 complaints of brand/logo/GGN misuse (a decrease of 22%), and 30 complaints on CB integrity (an increase of 173%).

There were five or fewer complaints in six of the categories:
- GLOBALG.A.P. database
- Registered Trainer
- Other
- GGN label
- Against the standard
- Integrity Program

Which GLOBALG.A.P. normative documents **received complaints?**

● 2021　● 2022　● 2023
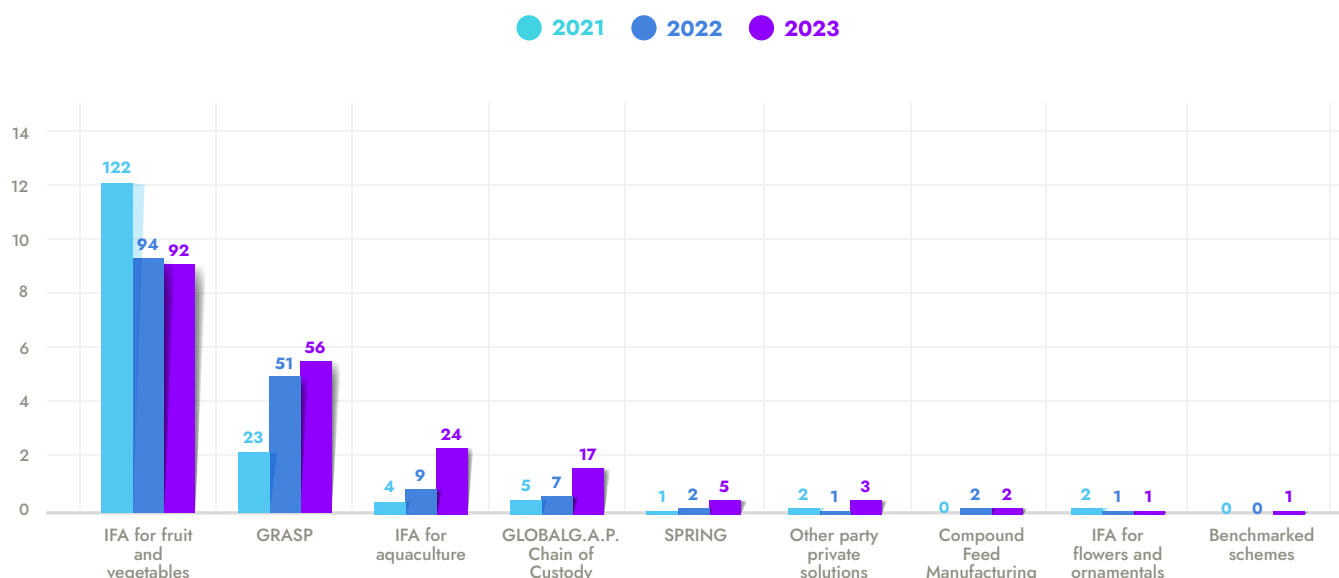
In 2023, the IFA for fruit and vegetables general regulations remained in first place with 92 complaints (a 2% decrease compared to 2022). This can be explained by the fact that the majority of producers under GLOBALG.A.P. certification worldwide are audited to this standard (94%). There were 56 complaints on the GRASP general regulations (a 10% increase), which represents the most widely implemented GLOBALG.A.P. add-on.

The most significant changes in year-on-year complaints concern the IFA for aquaculture general regulations (a 167% increase) and the GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody (CoC) general regulations (a 143% increase). The number of supply chain companies certified to CoC has grown rapidly in the last three years (an increase of 75% between 2021 and 2023), while updated implementation rules also made CoC obligatory as of 1 January 2023, in all supply chains trading products from GLOBALG.A.P. certified production processes.

Number of complaints received in 2023 **by complaint topic**

Complaint topic	Number
CB integrity	130
Logo misuse	100
Fraud	88
Social issues	49
GLOBALG.A.P. other issues	24
Food safety	24
Environmental issues	13
No complaints	12
Traceability	10
GLOBALG.A.P. IT issues	8
Animal welfare	5
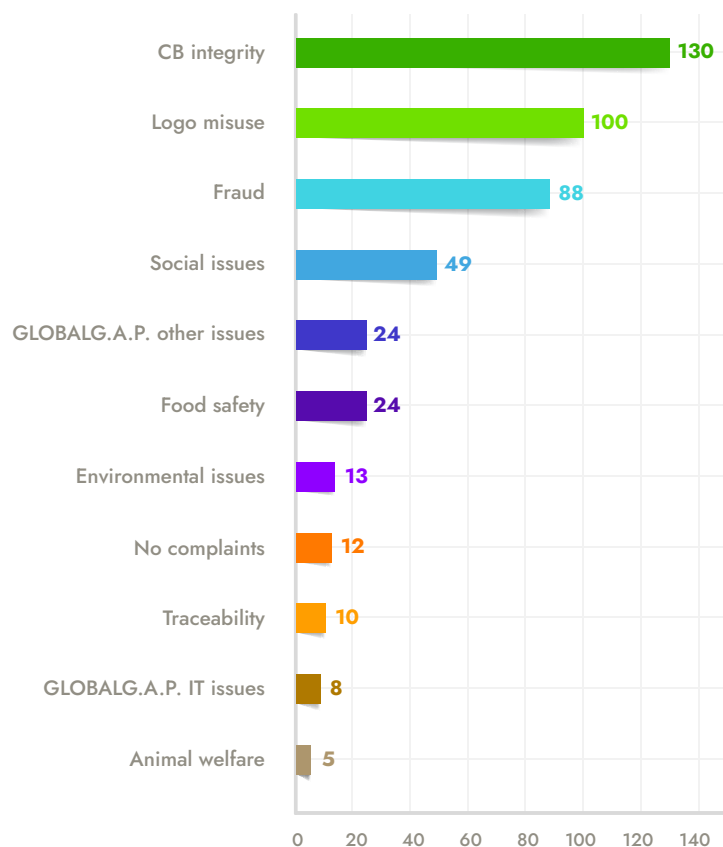
- **Food safety**
  Related to issues that present a food safety risk in preharvest or postharvest production processes and in supply chain management

- **Environmental issues**
  Related to environmental issues in production processes such as water management, soil management, conservation, biodiversity, etc.

- **Social issues**
  Related to social responsibility issues (GRASP requirements), including workers' health, safety, and welfare at farm level

- **Traceability issues**
  Related to issues of product traceability and segregation, as well as supply chain traceability

- **Animal welfare**
  Related to animal welfare issues linked to the GLOBALG.A.P. standards for aquaculture and livestock

- **CB integrity**
  Related to issues concerning the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, CB independence, CB auditors' conflicts of interest, etc.

- **GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems' issues**
  Related to issues concerning the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems such as the Database , Validation Service, Audit Online Hub, CB-AT, etc.

- **GLOBALG.A.P. other issues**
  Related to issues concerning the GLOBALG.A.P. administration, standards, website, marketing, training, Integrity Program, Registered Trainers, etc.

- **Logo misuse**
  Related to issues of GLOBALG.A.P. trademark misuse by CBs, registered producers, supply chain companies, etc.

- **Fraud**
  Related to issues of brand integrity such as certification claims, forged certificates, GLOBALG.A.P. trademark misuse by unregistered producers or supply chain companies, etc.

- **No complaints**
  Related to business issues outside GLOBALG.A.P.'s jurisdiction, general inquiries received via the complaints process, etc.

Where were complaints **investigated?**

In 2023, complaints were investigated in 67 countries (out of 137 total countries with active GLOBALG.A.P. certificates). There was one complaint where the country of origin could not be defined. 5 of the 10 countries with the most investigations in 2023 also feature in the top 10 by number of producers with GLOBALG.A.P. certified production processes worldwide.

- Investigated in 2023
- Investigated in 2022 and 2023
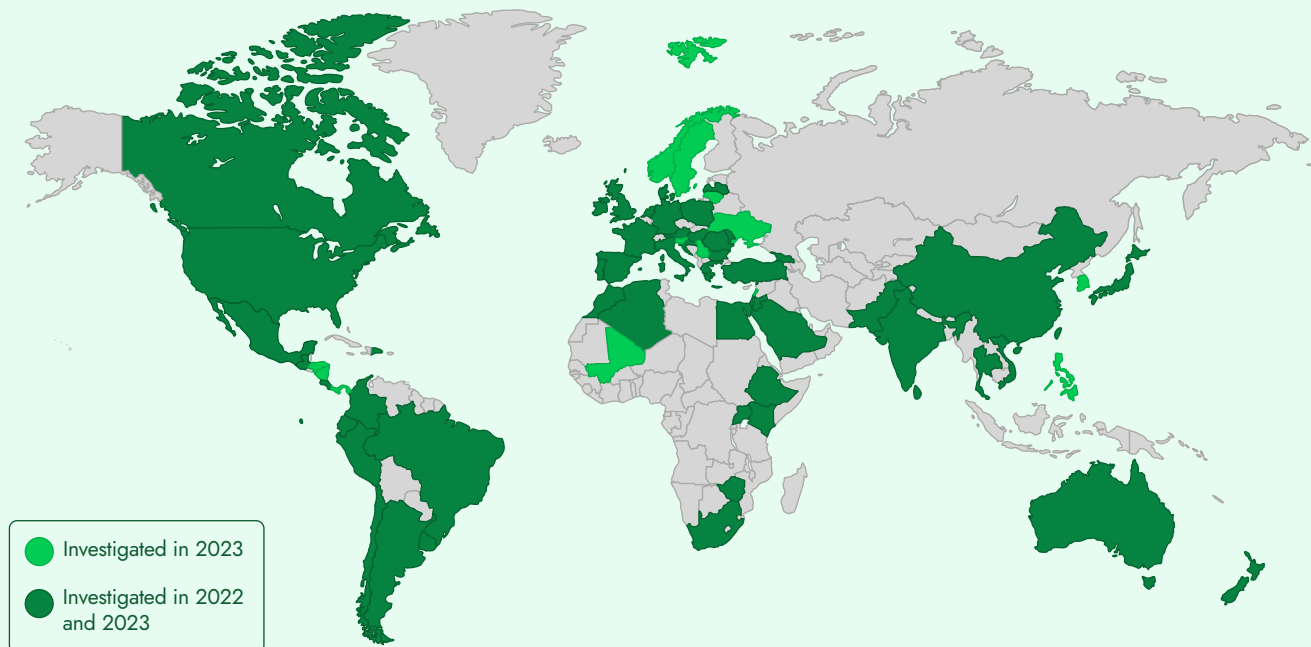
Algeria	Costa Rica	Greece	Kenya	Nicaragua	Serbia	Uganda
Argentina	Croatia	**Guatemala**	**Latvia**	Norway	Slovenia	**UK**
Australia	**Denmark**	Honduras	Lebanon	**Pakistan**	**South Africa**	Ukraine
Austria	**Dominican Republic**	**Hungary**	Lithuania	Panama	South Korea	**USA**
Brazil	**Ecuador**	**India**	Mali	**Peru**	**Spain**	**Uruguay**
Bulgaria	**Egypt**	Ireland	**Mexico**	Philippines	**Sri Lanka**	**Vietnam**
Canada	**Ethiopia**	**Israel**	**Moldova**	**Poland**	Sweden	**Zimbabwe**
Chile	**France**	**Italy**	**Morocco**	**Portugal**	Taiwan	
China	Georgia	**Japan**	**Netherlands**	**Romania**	**Thailand**	
Colombia	**Germany**	**Jordan**	**New Zealand**	**Saudi Arabia**	**Turkey**	

Countries in bold were also investigated in 2022

Most complaints **investigated in 2023**

1. Italy
2. Spain
3. Germany
4. USA
5. Netherlands
6. Egypt
7. Chile
8. Vietnam
9. Brazil
10. Mexico

Spain 45
Italy 48
Germany 38
Netherlands 20
USA 30
Egypt 18
Vietnam 16
Chile 17
Brazil 15
Mexico 15
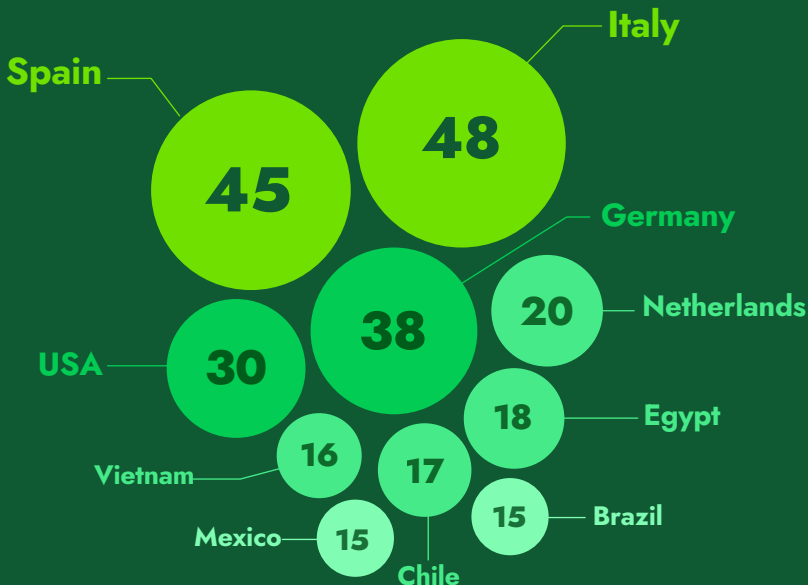
What were the **complaint investigation outcomes?**
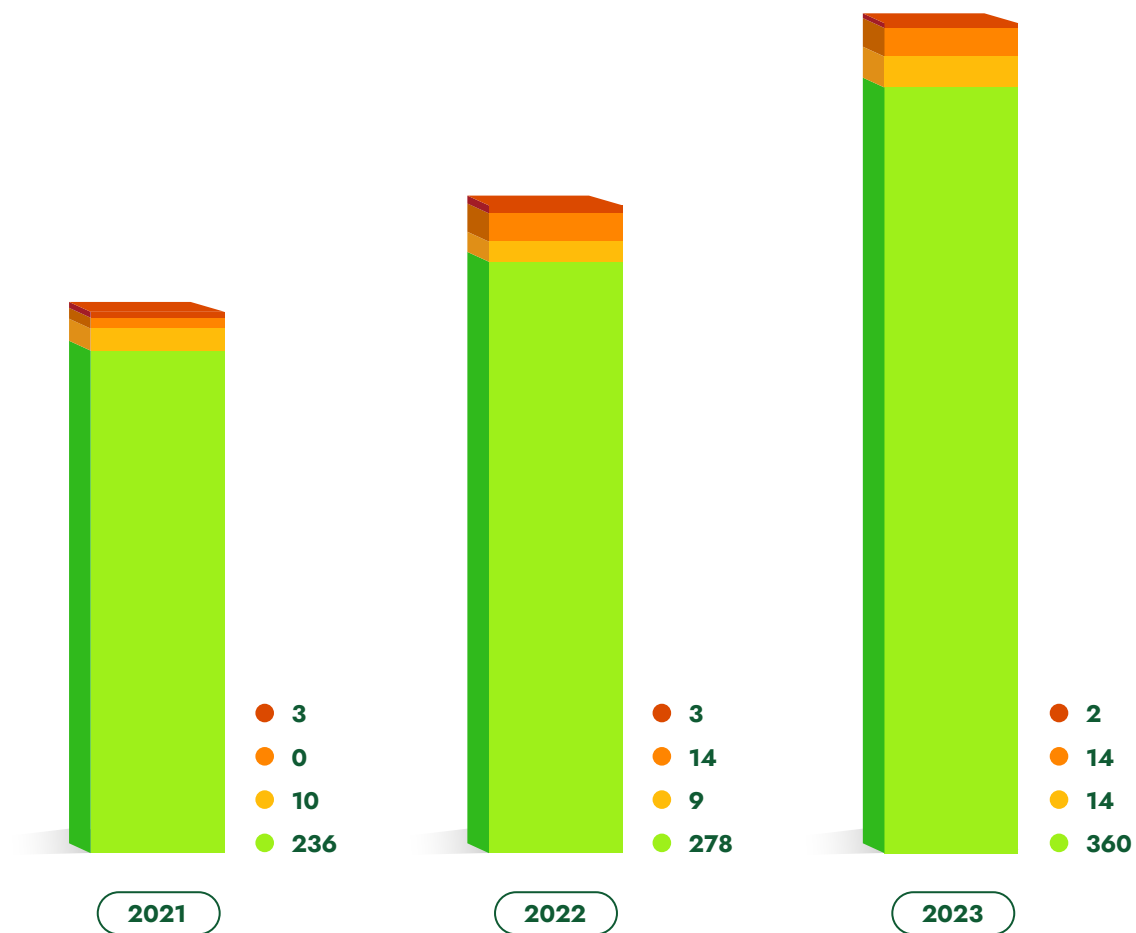
2021
- 3
- 0
- 10
- 236

2022
- 3
- 14
- 9
- 278

2023
- 2
- 14
- 14
- 360

- Producer deregistered from producer group
- Certification cancelled
- Certification suspended
- Certification maintained

What is the **complaint procedure** for maximum residue limit exceedances?
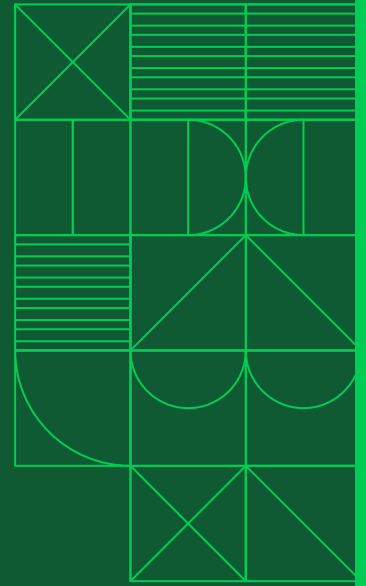
Dedicated experts for maximum residue limit (MRL) investigations

Participation in a residue monitoring system (RMS) or a yearly MRL analysis for each product is a core requirement in the principles and criteria of the Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) standard for the plants scope.

GLOBALG.A.P. has a dedicated team of experts for complaints relating to MRLs. If non-conformances are detected, the producer is given up to 28 days to take corrective actions (depending on the severity of the non-conformance and the food safety risk).

Where the relevant certification body (CB) does not provide the required clarification following an investigation, additional investigations are carried out by GLOBALG.A.P. An additional product sample may be taken at origin where necessary.

How are maximum residue limit **complaints processed?**

Complaint issued to GLOBALG.A.P.

↓

Complaint information is verified (producer status, analysis report, traceability information, etc.), recorded in the complaint management system, and sent to the relevant CB.

↓

CB investigates the complaint and sends their conclusions to the GLOBALG.A.P. technical team.

- **Phase one:** CB performs a document check and sends GLOBALG.A.P. information on the last producer audit/inspection.
- **Phase two:** In most cases, an unannounced audit/inspection is conducted at the producer's premises and the situation is investigated on site.

↓

If clarification is required, additional investigations are undertaken by GLOBALG.A.P.

- **Independent food experts** may be commissioned to take a sample at origin, and the sample is then tested by an accredited laboratory.
- **In cases relating to** GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody, several agents in the supply chain may be contacted for information.

↓

The CB Integrity team sends a report to the complainant. If a potential risk is identified, information can be used to initiate further integrity assessments.

Complaint closed

Good to know:

MRL testing is a screening method conducted in a laboratory to analyze residues from the application of plant protection products in crop farming.

How many maximum residue limit complaints **were received in 2023?**
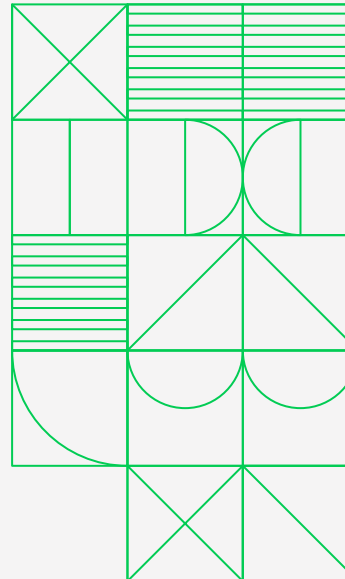
Number of MRL **complaints processed**
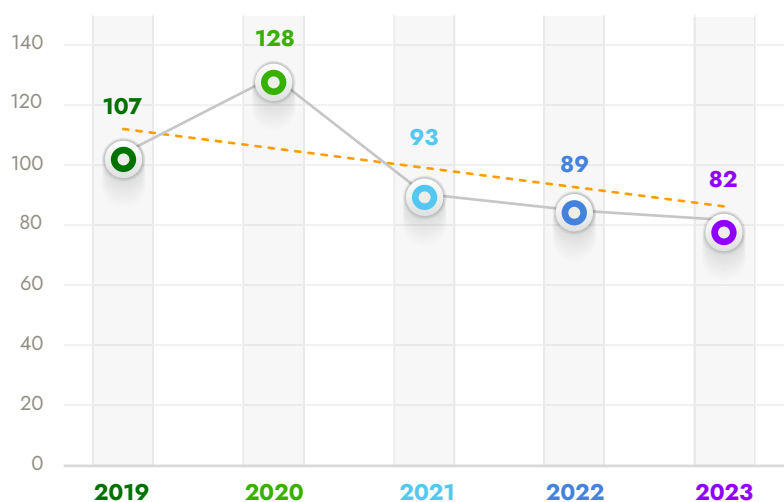
A total of 82 MRL complaints was received during 2023, an 8% decrease in comparison with 2022. This is also the lowest annual number in the previous five years.

The MRL complaints received during 2023 involved **82 different producers.** Following the investigations, five producers had their certification suspended and two producers had their certification cancelled. 75 producers maintained their certification.

Number of countries with producers under GLOBALG.A.P. certification and **number of countries with MRL complaint investigations**
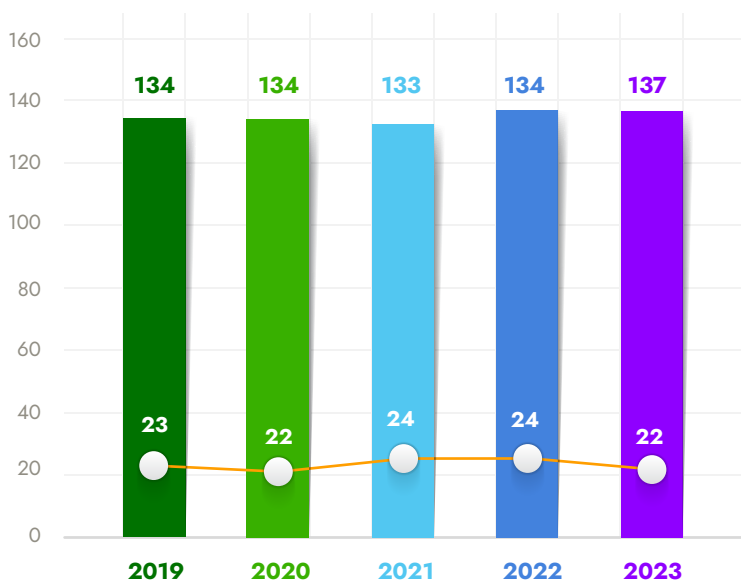
There were MRL investigations involving 22 different countries during 2023. The leading countries were Spain (17 cases), Italy (11), Egypt (9), Morocco (6), Türkiye (5), and Germany (5). Despite the decreases in Spain, Italy, Brazil, and Colombia — and the increases in Egypt, Morocco, Türkiye, Germany, Peru, South Africa, Kenya, and Greece — the top-ranking countries are very similar to those in 2022.

Spain is the country with the highest number of producers with GLOBALG.A.P. certified production processes worldwide (45,423 as of 31 December 2023), followed by Italy, Greece, India, and Germany. France, Peru, Kenya, Türkiye, and Colombia all feature in the top 15.

Number of **crops investigated** in MRL complaints
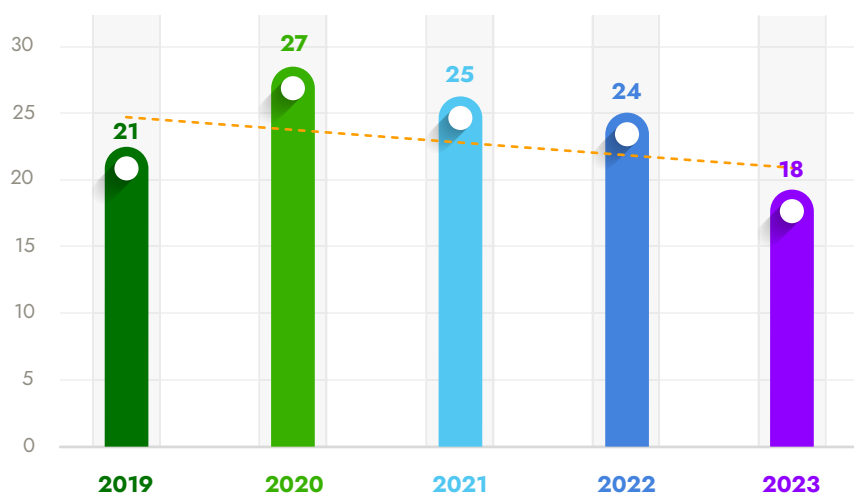
In 2023, the most frequent sources of complaint were leaf crops (12 cases), berries (10), and citrus (10). Leaf crops have appeared in the top three for the previous three years.

In comparison with 2022, the only significant increase of MRL complaints is in berries, where exceedances grew from 2 to 10 cases. Citrus (11 to 10), exotics (16 to 9), and salads (15 to 3) all decreased.

Number of MRL complaints investigated **per crop per country**
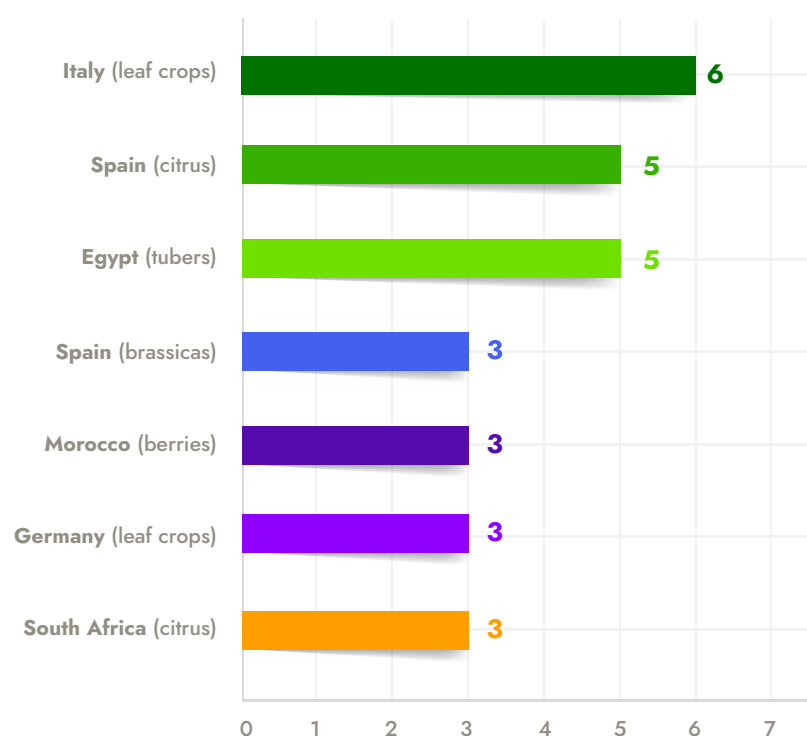
The most MRL investigations in 2023 involved leaf crops from Italy (6 cases). This increased by one case in comparison with 2022.

Leaf crops are also known as leafy greens/salad greens, and are plant leaves eaten as a vegetable (e.g., lettuce, cabbage, herbs). High-risk types of leaf crops are those with an open growth aspect (e.g., spinach) or those with the edible parts of the plant grown close to the ground.

How are maximum residue limit complaints **categorized?**
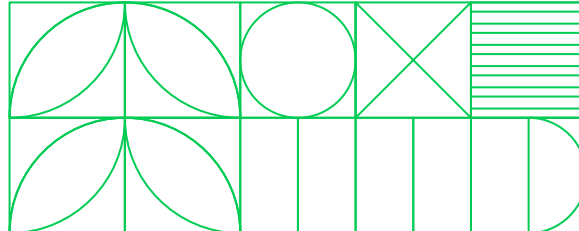
The results of MRL complaints processed by the CB Integrity team are broken down into **14 categories** that identify a root cause. This classification works as a feedback mechanism that aids both the implementation and the audit of GLOBALG.A.P. solutions in the future.

Cross-/Drift contamination

The exceedance is due to drift from an adjacent field which, in most cases, is not covered by GLOBALG.A.P. certification.

GGN misuse by a certificate holder

Misuse includes labeling with incorrect GGNs, producers labeling products from noncertified production processes with a GGN, and other non-authorized uses of the GGN.

Incidence in parallel ownership (PO) and/or parallel production (PP)

These are cases where the producer is registered for PP/PO and related problems were identified as the source of the incident. A common example is an ineffective segregation system resulting in the mixing of products from certified and noncertified production processes.

Incident in the supply chain

Included here are issues such as GGN misuse by a packer or supply chain member without GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody (CoC) certification.

Lack of traceability

No reliable traceability information could be obtained to match the analyzed product to a specific batch from the producer.

Metabolite from a different application

This category covers instances where the exceedance is produced by a chemical process from application of an unrelated substance. One example might be phosphonic acid residues resulting from another application.

No reason found

The CB investigation could not identify the cause of the reported exceedance, or a plausible reason was found but could not be demonstrated as being the origin of the exceedance. In these cases, the producer is requested to take appropriate measures to rectify the detected weak points. Some cases in which no reason is found may be forwarded to the CB Integrity team following review by the MRL technical experts.

Noncertified product

The affected product was not sold as originating from GLOBALG.A.P. certified production processes and is therefore not a matter for a GLOBALG.A.P. investigation. Even if the producer is under certification for another product type, the product in question must be clearly indicated on the invoice/trading document as originating from a GLOBALG.A.P. certified production process in order to qualify for investigation.

Not investigated

This category covers cases relating to producers no longer under GLOBALG.A.P. certification, or cases with a lack of evidence proving that the product originated from a producer with GLOBALG.A.P. certified production processes.

Other

This category covers a range of scenarios, for example, issues with plant protection product application machinery or producer certification.

Pesticide misuse

The most common issue included in this category is the use of pesticides with very low MRLs in the EU and not increasing, not sufficiently increasing, or failing to comply with the preharvest interval (PHI) as indicated on the label. Misuse also covers the application of non-authorized active ingredients and other similar causes.

QS-GAP investigation

The producer is QS-GAP certified, and QS conducts the investigation by taking a second sample. If the result is acceptable, the investigation is closed.

Unexpected behavior of the active ingredients

This category covers exceedances attributable to the low degradation rate of plant protection products or issues resulting from weather conditions.

Lab error

Confirmed by a counter-sample sent to the same laboratory.

How were maximum residue limit complaints **categorized in 2023?**

4%
Unexpected behavior of the active ingredients; **3**

4%
Other; **3**

5%
Lack of traceability; **4**

6%
QS-GAP investigation; **5**

6%
Pesticide misuse; **5**

11%
Metabolite from a different application; **9**

12%
Incident in the supply chain; **10**

14%
No reason found; **12**

1%
Incidence in PO/PP; **1**

1%
Product from noncertified production process; **1**

1%
Not investigated; **1**

1%
Lab error; **1**

0%
GGN misuse by a certificate holder; **0**

34%
Cross-/Drift contamination; **28**
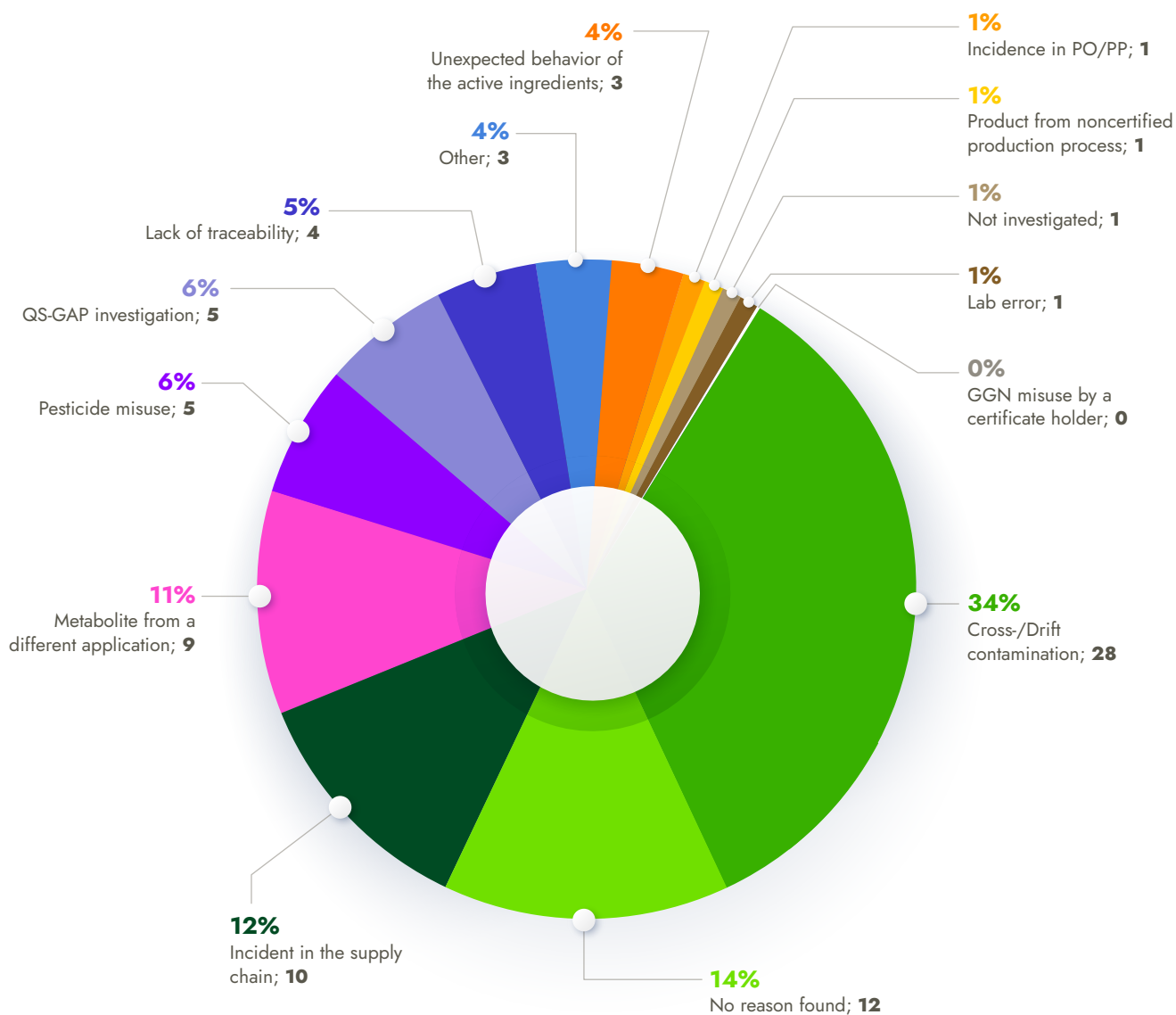
In the top three categories for 2023, the leading causes of MRL complaints were cross-/drift contamination (28 cases, a 133% increase compared to 2022), no reason found (12 cases, a 40% decrease), and incident in the supply chain (10 cases, a decrease of 33%).

MRL investigation results
2019—2023

Legend:

- GGN misuse
- Lab error
- Not investigated
- Product from noncertified production processes
- Incidence in PO/PP
- Unexpected behavior of the active ingredients
- Other
- Lack of traceability
- QS-GAP investigation
- Pesticide misuse
- Metabolite from a different application
- Incident in the supply chain
- No reason fund
- Cross-/Drift contamination
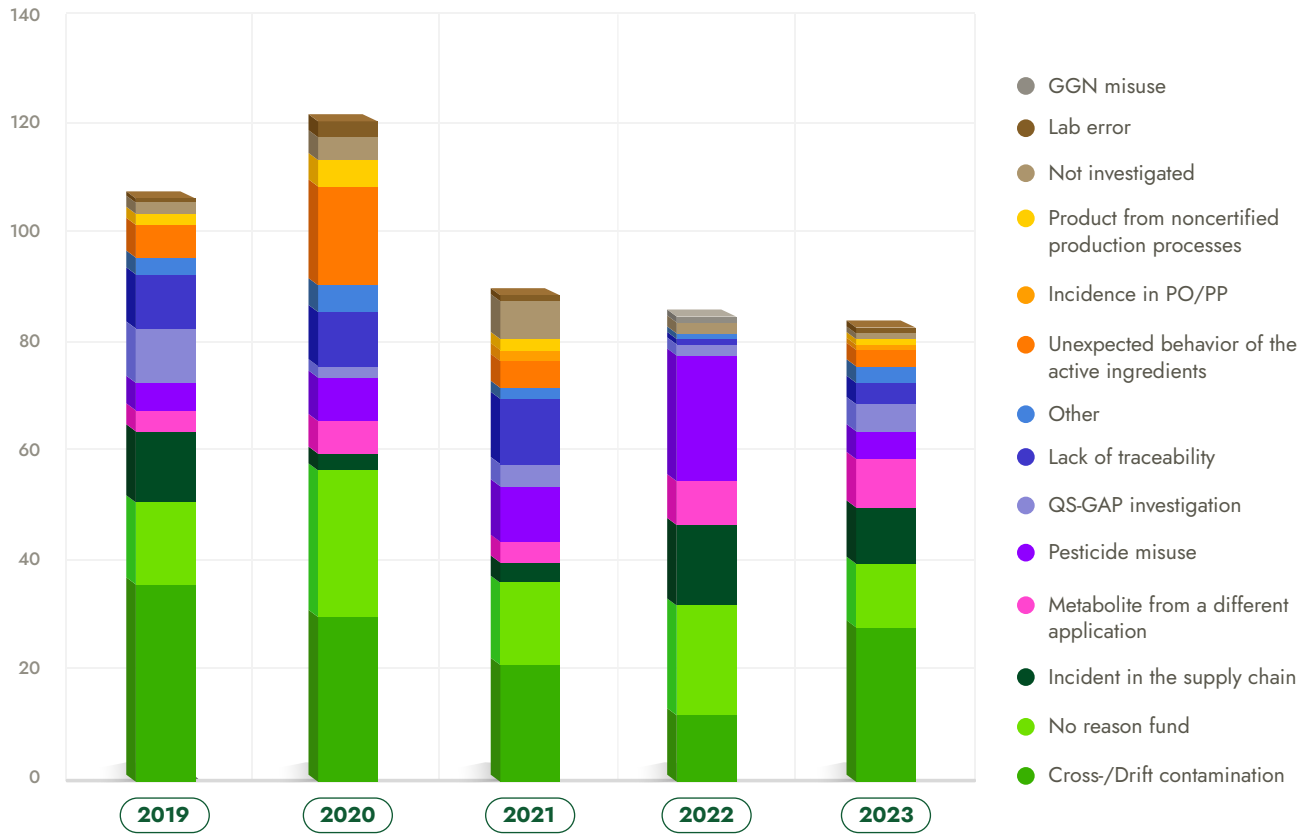
Where were maximum residue limit complaints investigated?

In 2023, MRL complaints were investigated in 21 countries across the globe. There were three cases where the country of origin could not be defined. The most investigations took place in the two countries with the highest number of producers with GLOBALG.A.P. certified production processes worldwide: Spain and Italy.
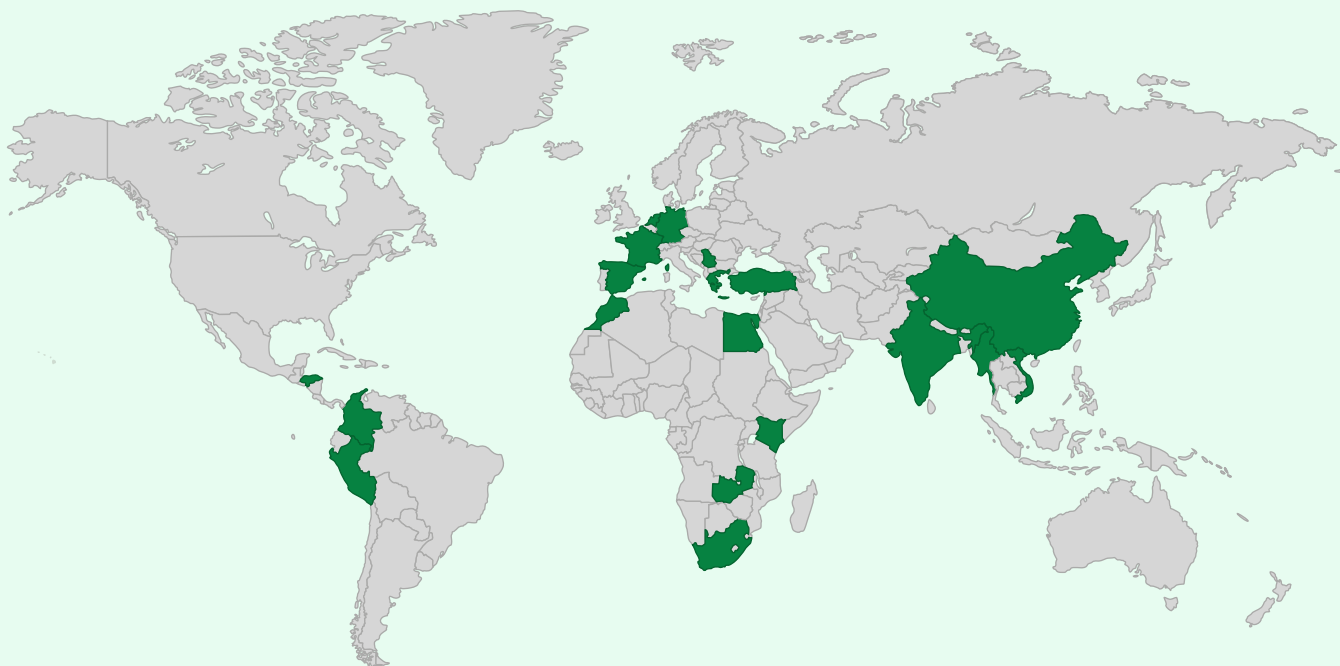
China **2**	Germany **5**	Italy **11**	Netherlands **1**	Spain **17**
Colombia **1**	Greece **3**	Kenya **3**	Peru **4**	Thailand **2**
Egypt **9**	Honduras **1**	Mauritius **1**	Serbia **1**	Turkey **5**
France **1**	India **1**	Morocco **6**	South Africa **3**	Vietnam **1**
				Zambia **1**

Most MRL complaints **investigated in 2023**

1. Spain
2. Italy
3. Egypt
4. Morocco
5. Türkiye
6. Germany
7. Peru
8. Greece
9. Kenya
10. South Africa

2023

Spain **17**

Italy **11**

Egypt **9**

Morocco **6**

Türkiye **5**

2022

Spain **21**

Italy **16**

Brazil **8**

Colombia **6**

Germany **4**

Which crops were investigated in maximum residue limit complaints?

● 2021 ● 2022 ● 2023
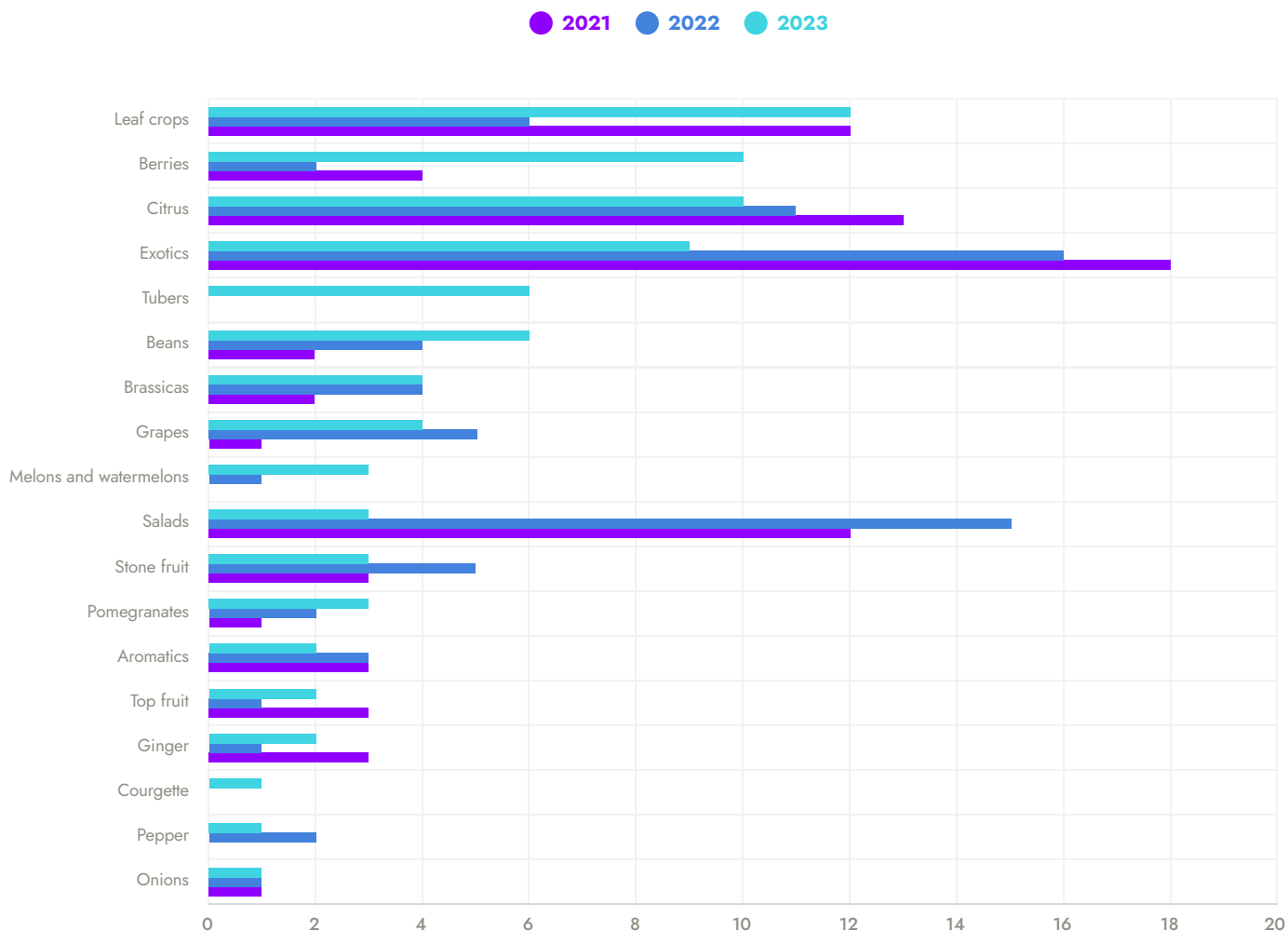
What were the maximum residue limit complaint **investigation outcomes?**

MRL complaints received during 2023 involved 82 different producers.
Following the investigations, five producers had their certification suspended and two producers had their certification cancelled. 75 producers maintained their certification.

- **0**
- **5**
- **13**
- **80**

2021

- **0**
- **0**
- **20**
- **69**

2022

- **0**
- **2**
- **5**
- **75**
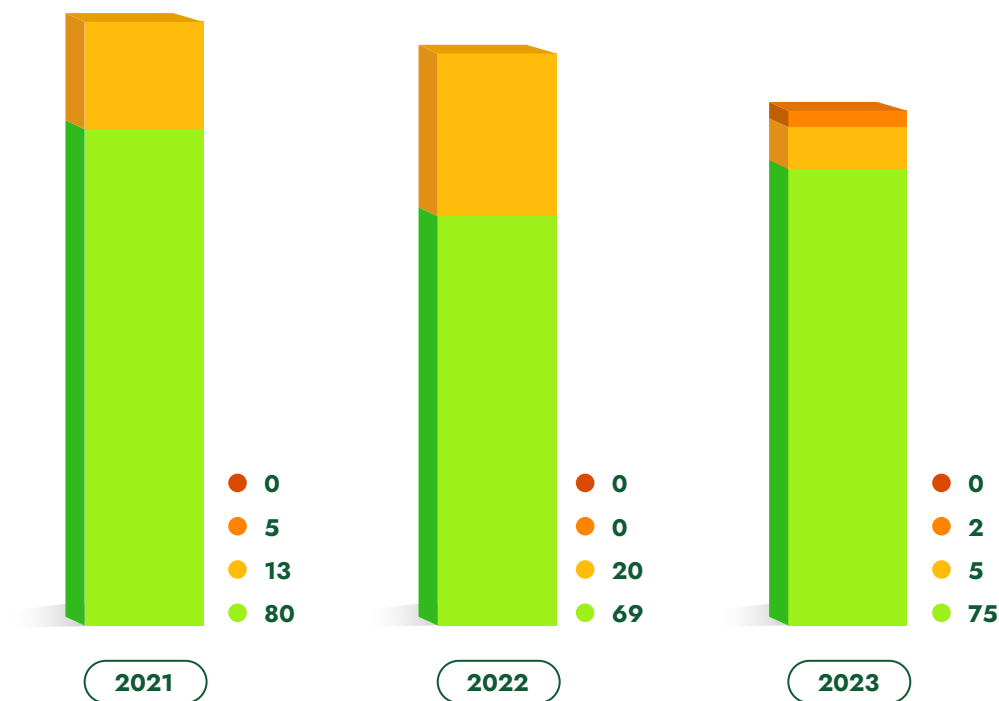
2023

- ● Producer deregistered from producer group
- ● Certification cancelled
- ● Certification suspended
- ● Certification maintained

Top products by hectares of certified production in 2023

Non-covered production

1. Potato
2. Banana
3. Apple
4. Orange
5. Grape (table)
6. Avocado
7. Mandarin
8. Lemon
9. Onion
10. Cherry
11. Pineapple
12. Mango
13. Blueberry
14. Pear
15. Kiwi
16. Tomato
17. Lettuce
18. Carrot
19. Almond
20. Asparagus

Covered production

1. Tomato
2. Capsicum (pepper/chilli)
3. Strawberry
4. Blueberry
5. Raspberry
6. Cucumber
7. Courgette (zucchini/marrow)
8. Watermelon
9. Baby leaf spinach
10. Lettuce
11. Melon
12. Corn salad/Lamb's lettuce
13. Blackberry
14. Aubergine/Eggplant
15. Grape (table)
16. Green bean
17. Arugula/Rocket (herb)
18. Radish
19. Baby leaf lettuce
20. Mushroom

What is the status of **open complaint investigations?**
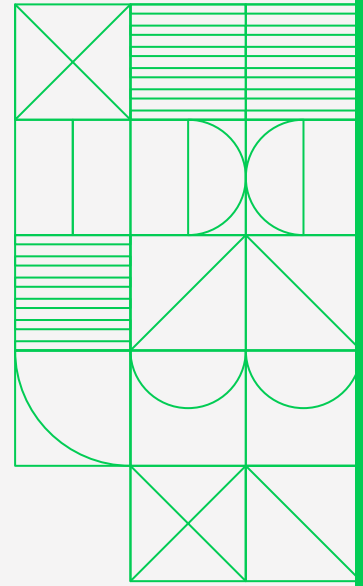
At the end of 2023, there were **20 open investigations** to be resolved in 2024.

While an investigation typically lasts for two months, it can take much longer. In 2023, the main contributing factors for extending the duration of an investigation included:

→ **Chain of custody issues** where the information provided by the complainant does not relate to the producer. In most cases, the product has been packed by another legal entity or repacked at its destination. The supply chain must then be investigated to find the source of the problem.

→ **The CB has no auditors in the country** where the producer is located, and therefore travel arrangements are needed.

→ **The CB's auditors face scheduling** or logistical issues which mean an unannounced audit takes several weeks to organize.

→ **The CB detects non-compliances** during the unannounced audit and — in accordance with the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations — the producer has 28 days to submit corrective actions. The CB has another 28 days to make a certification decision.

→ **GLOBALG.A.P. challenges** the investigation outcome and the CB needs to reorient the investigation and continue with a new investigation.

The role of the Customer Support team

The GLOBALG.A.P. Customer Support team is the primary point of contact for reliable information on all our solutions. **As part of the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program,** the team assists stakeholders around the world with support and guidance on the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems, such as the Database, Audit Online Hub, and Validation Service.

The team also provides information on the certification process, monitors the information that certification bodies (CBs) upload to the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems, and connects stakeholders with specific technical questions to the appropriate GLOBALG.A.P. team.

Facts and figures
2023

13,497
Resolved requests

1,161
Retailers/supply chain companies supported

302
Producers supported

192
Hours of training

12
Team members

13
Languages offered

Afrikaans, Arabic, Czech, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian

The GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program in **2024 and beyond**

Integrity assessments to focus on the **implementation of new versions**

Looking to 2024 and beyond, the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program is ready to navigate the widespread transition to IFA v6 with diligence and foresight. With our IFA v6 Smart edition replacing IFA v5.2 as of 1 January 2024, we anticipate that some minor implementation challenges may arise, as is usual with the adoption of new standard versions. Drawing from our experience with previous version updates, we recognize the importance of providing robust support to ensure a smooth transition on the ground.

In response, our integrity assessors will oversee the implementation of IFA v6. We will place specific emphasis on the outcome-oriented approach, while ensuring adherence to the evolving risk-based framework. With a planned schedule of over 400 assessments throughout the year, we aim to comprehensively evaluate the integration of IFA v6 across diverse global contexts.

Furthermore, as anticipation builds for the GFSI recognition of the IFA v6 GFS edition in 2024, we are prepared to address potential challenges similar to those encountered during the transition to v6 Smart. Our commitment to continuous capacity building and training for certification bodies (CBs) underscores our confidence in their ability to successfully navigate the updated audit processes.

Looking to automation for efficiency and precision

Given the expansion of the GLOBALG.A.P. certification system, with more CBs approved in more regions and a growing number of standards and add-ons for an ever-increasing list of products, the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program will look to harness the power of automation to streamline processes, increase efficiency, and ensure precision in our integrity assessments.

Specifically, we aim to use audit data to better monitor and identify areas of risk and will explore new data analysis tools that could more effectively target integrity assessments. 2024 marks the foundation-laying phase for a new IT system that will enable us to leverage AI-supported decision-making tools. These features will encompass automated control of various aspects, including compliance with minimum audit requirements for each auditor, rotation of auditors, measurement of audit duration per auditor, and more.

Our commitment to upholding the **highest standards of integrity**

In summary, the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding the highest standards of integrity and adapting to evolving industry demands. By proactively engaging with the implementation of IFA v6, leveraging our expertise, and capitalizing on future-proof tools to assist our work, we are poised to adapt and excel at providing smart farm assurance solutions in the ever-evolving landscape of responsible farming practices.
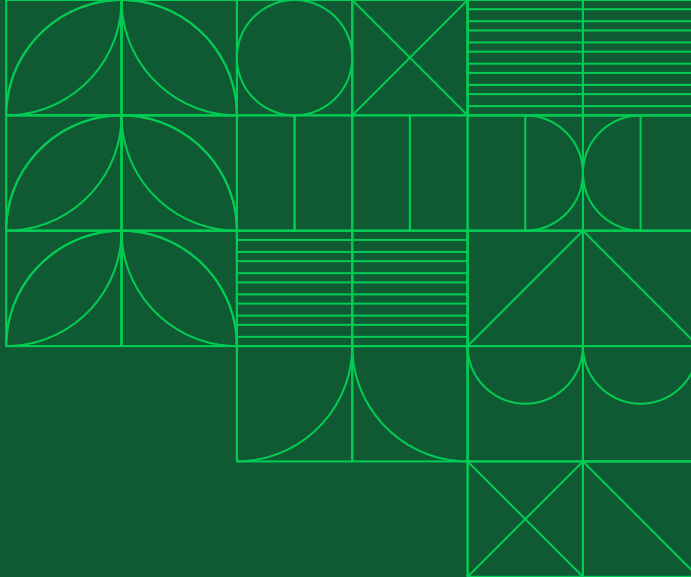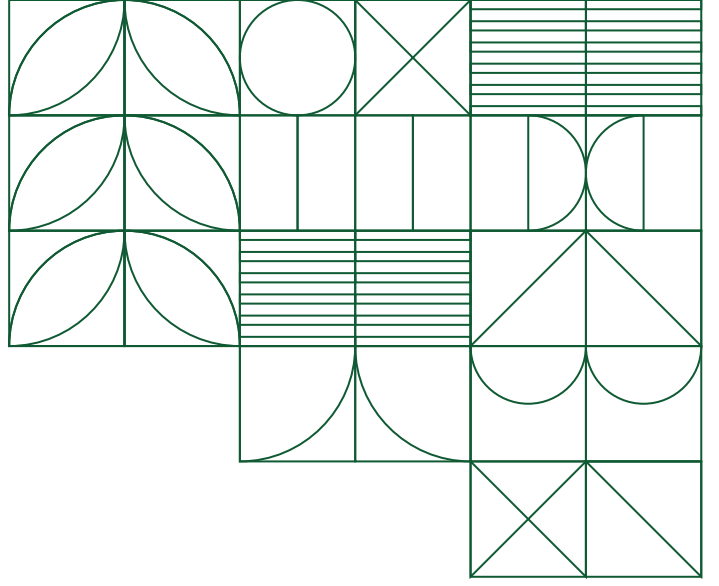
Annex

GLOBALG.A.P. approved
certification bodies

Pending/no KPI: Some of the most recently approved CBs may not have a KPI rating due to there not yet being enough evidence available within the evaluation criteria to establish an overall KPI rating. This does not mean poor performance.

CB name	Headquarters location	KPI rating (31/12/2023)
Bureau Veritas Argentina S.A.	Argentina	4.12
IRAM-Instituto Argentino de Normalizacion y Certificacion	Argentina	3.52
LETIS S.A.	Argentina	3.81
Organizacion Internacional Agropecuaria S.A. (OIA)	Argentina	3.93
SGS Argentina S.A.	Argentina	3.84
AUS-QUAL Pty Ltd.	Australia	4.41
agroVet GmbH	Austria	4.08
Lacon — Privatinstitut für Qualitätssicherung und Zertifizierung	Austria	3.91
Quality Austria Trainings-, Zertifizierungs- und Begutachtungs GmbH	Austria	Pending
SGS Austria Controll-Co. Ges.m.b.H.	Austria	3.74
SLK GesmbH	Austria	5
Bodemkundige Dienst van België vzw (Soil Service of Belgium — CERTALENT)	Belgium	4.32
CKCert	Belgium	3.86
TÜV NORD INTEGRA bvba	Belgium	4
Imocert Latinoamerica Ltda.	Bolivia	3.4
IBD Certificações	Brazil	No KPI available
IMAFLORA	Brazil	Pending
QIMA Brasil Ltda.	Brazil	3.79
Savassi Certificação Serviços Administrativos LTDA.	Brazil	Pending
SBC-Serviço Brasileiro de Certificações Ltda.	Brazil	3.76
Seeds Canada dba Centre for Systems Integration	Canada	No KPI available
Bureau Veritas Certification Chile S.A.	Chile	4.04
CPS - Certification of Product and Systems	Chile	3.93
Primus Auditing Ops	Chile	3.98
Ansense Food Safety Technology Co., Ltd.	China	Pending
CQC — China Quality Certification Centre	China	3.63
Merieux NutriSciences Certification (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.	China	Pending
Fundación NaturaCertificación — NaturaCert	Colombia	4.02
ICONTEC	Colombia	3.78
Lenor Colombia SAS	Colombia	No KPI available
BUREAU NORME AUDIT (BNA)	Côte d'Ivoire	3.91
Bureau Veritas Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire	3.4
Bohemia Certification s.r.o.	Czech Republic	3.25
Czech Society for Quality	Czech Republic	3.93
Baltic Control Certification A/S	Denmark	3.9
Bureau Veritas Certification Denmark A/S	Denmark	3.76
Bureau Veritas Ecuador S.A.	Ecuador	No KPI available
HEIACert	Egypt	4.1
ICERT for Development of Agriculture	Egypt	2.68

CB name	Headquarters location	KPI rating (31/12/2023)
Infinity Cert International	Egypt	No KPI available
Preferred by Nature OÜ	Estonia	Pending
Bureau Veritas Certification France	France	3.6
CERTIPAQ	France	4.19
CERTIS (France)	France	4.02
Ecocert Environnement SAS	France	3.89
QUALISUD	France	4.45
ABCERT AG	Germany	3.98
ABCG Agrar-Beratungs- und Controll GmbH	Germany	No KPI available
ACG Agrar-Control GmbH	Germany	4.13
ADIA-Zert GmbH	Germany	No KPI available
AGRIZERT Zertifizierungs GmbH	Germany	No KPI available
ARS PROBATA GmbH	Germany	Pending
auditpartner GmbH	Germany	No KPI available
CERES — CERtification of Environmental Standards GmbH	Germany	3.96
CERTplus GmbH	Germany	No KPI available
Control Union Certifications Germany GmbH	Germany	Pending
Kiwa BCS Öko-Garantie GmbH	Germany	3.7
LACON GmbH	Germany	No KPI available
LC Landwirtschafts-Consulting GmbH	Germany	Pending
LKSmbH — Landwirtschaftliche Kommunikations- und Servicegesellschaft mbH	Germany	3.59
QAL GmbH	Germany	4.13
SGS Germany GmbH	Germany	3.38
SRS Certification GmbH	Germany	3.95
Tentacontrol GmbH	Germany	No KPI available
TÜV SÜD Management Service GmbH	Germany	No KPI available
Biohellas S.A.	Greece	3.95
Cosmocert S.A. Certification Services	Greece	4.09
EUROCERT European Inspection and Certification	Greece	3.87
Oxygono-Hellenic Certification Body	Greece	4
Q-check P.C.	Greece	3.83
QMSCERT Audits Inspections Certifications S.A. (Q-CERT S.A.)	Greece	4.57
TÜV Austria Hellas	Greece	4.26
TUV Hellas (TUV Nord) S.A.	Greece	4.25
SGS India Pvt. Ltd.	India	3.73
TQ Cert Services Private Limited	India	No KPI available
TUV India Pvt Ltd.	India	Pending
Bord Bia	Ireland	4.14
Institute of Quality & Control (IQC)	Israel	4.18
Agroqualità S.P.A.	Italy	4.13
Bioagricert srl	Italy	3.78
Bureau Veritas Italia Spa	Italy	4.26
CCPB SRL	Italy	4.3
Centro di Sperimentazione e Assistenza Agricola (CeRSAA)	Italy	4.3
Certiquality S.r.l.	Italy	3.55
CODEX SRL	Italy	4.4

CB name	Headquarters location	KPI rating (31/12/2023)
CSI S.p.A.	Italy	4.24
CSQA Certificazioni Srl	Italy	3.89
DNV Business Assurance Italy Srl	Italy	3.65
ICEA Istituto Certificazione Etica Ambientale	Italy	3.83
RINA Services S.p.A.	Italy	3.9
SGS Italia S.p.A.	Italy	3.65
Suolo e Salute srl	Italy	3.88
Japan Organic & Natural Foods Association	Japan	4.08
Japan Quality Assurance Organization	Japan	4.6
Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization (JSMO-CT)	Jordan	Pending
AFRICERT LTD.	Kenya	3.88
React Cert Africa Limited	Kenya	3.67
The Kenya Flower Council (KFC)	Kenya	4.75
FITI Testing & Research Institute	South Korea	4.2
TÜV SÜD Korea Ltd. trading as TÜV SÜD Asia Pacific, TÜV SÜD Group	South Korea	3.73
Asociación De Normalización Y Certificación S.A. De C.V.	Mexico	3.51
Asociación Mexicana De Evaluadores De La Normatividad A.C.	Mexico	Pending
Cema Certificadora Mexicana Agropecuaria Sa De Cv	Mexico	3.87
Certificadora de Productos Sustentables S.C. (CPS)	Mexico	Pending
Global Standards S.C.	Mexico	Pending
NORMICH, A.C.	Mexico	3.85
Primus Auditing Operations México S. de R.L. de C.V.	Mexico	4.2
Servicios Integrales para una Agricultura Rentable A.C. (SIAR)	Mexico	3.65
Sociedad Mexicana de Normalización y Certificación S.C.	Mexico	No KPI available
Verificación y Certificación PAMFA A.C.	Mexico	4.13
ACERTA Certification SARL (AU) Morocco	Morocco	No KPI available
Sygma Certification (Morocco) sarl	Morocco	Pending
Control Union Certifications B.V.	Netherlands	3.71
MPS-ECAS B.V.	Netherlands	4.02
Producert BV	Netherlands	No KPI available
SGS Netherlands B.V.	Netherlands	3.72
Vinçotte Nederland B.V.	Netherlands	3.89
AsureQuality Limited	New Zealand	3.83
Kiwa AS	Norway	4.47
Synfaring AS	Norway	Pending
Control Union Services S.A.C.	Peru	4.14
Marine Consultants S.A.C. — Marconsult S.A.C.	Peru	No KPI available
Biocert Małopolska Spółka Z O.O.	Poland	Pending
Bureau Veritas Polska Sp. z o.o.	Poland	4.04
DQS Polska sp. z o.o	Poland	3.26
PNG Sp. z o.o	Poland	3.81
SGS Polska Sp. z o.o.	Poland	4
TÜV Rheinland Polska Sp. z o.o.	Poland	4.61
Agricert — Certificação De Produtos Alimentares Lda.	Portugal	3.91
Certis — Controlo e Certificação, Lda.	Portugal	3.98
CODIMACO — Certificação e Qualidade, Lda.	Portugal	3.6

CB name	Headquarters location	KPI rating (31/12/2023)
Kiwa Sativa — Unipessoal, Lda.	Portugal	3.93
Naturalfa — Controlo e Certificação, Lda.	Portugal	4.15
African Certification and Testing (Pty) Ltd.	South Africa	3.87
Aspirata Auditing, Testing & Certification Pty Ltd.	South Africa	Pending
Partner Africa	South Africa	No KPI available
SGS South Africa (Pty) Ltd.	South Africa	3.81
4plus Ingenieros Y Arquitectos S.L.	Spain	4.22
Ab-Aucatel Organismo De Certificación, S.L.U.	Spain	4.06
Acerta Certificación, S.L.	Spain	4.17
Aenor Internacional, S.A.U.	Spain	No KPI available
Agencia para la Certificación de la Calidad y el Medio Ambiente (ACCM)	Spain	3.98
Agrocolor S.L.	Spain	4.09
APPLUS (LGAI Technological Center S.A.)	Spain	4.36
Araporc Entidad De Inspeccion, S.L.	Spain	3.93
Bureau Veritas Iberia, S.L.	Spain	3.84
Certifood	Spain	4.37
ECCO Ingenieros S.L.	Spain	4.65
ITACA-Ingeniería Técnica Agrícola Certificadora Agroalimentaria, S.L.	Spain	4.21
KIWA ESPAÑA, S.L.U.	Spain	4.02
Norma Agricola S.L.	Spain	3.98
SAI Global Assurance Services	Spain	No KPI available
SAI Global Certification Services Pty Ltd.	Spain	4.05
Servicio de Certificación CAAE	Spain	3.93
SGS ICS Ibérica S.A.	Spain	4.08
Sohiscert S.A.	Spain	4.35
SYGMA CERTIFICATION, S.L.	Spain	4.05
SMAK Certifiering AB	Sweden	No KPI available
ProCert AG	Switzerland	4.3
Universal Certification Service CO., LTD.	Taiwan	3.64
Greencert Limited	Tanzania	Pending
AGFO Teknik Kontrol ve Belgelendirme Hizmetleri Ltd. Şti.	Türkiye	3.63
Control Union Gözetim ve Belgelendirme Ltd. Şti.	Türkiye	Pending
CTR Uluslararası Belgelendirme ve Denetim Ltd. Şti.	Türkiye	Pending
Ecas Sertifikasyon Ve Uluslararasi Denetim Ltd. Şti.	Türkiye	4.05
Ecosir Kontrol Ve Sertifikasyon A.Ş.	Türkiye	Pending
EKOINSPEKT Uluslar arasi Belgelendirme Denetim Gozetim Teknik Kontrol ve Egitim Hizmetleri Ltd. Sti.	Türkiye	4.08
Naviga Ul.Belgelendirme ve Egitim Hizm. Ltd. Sti.	Türkiye	4.03
Tcert Uluslararasi Sertifikasyon Ve Teknik Denetim Hizm. Tic. Ltd. Şti.	Türkiye	4.65
Acoura Marine Ltd. trading as LRQA	United Kingdom	4.08
Agri-Canaan LTD.	United Kingdom	Pending
BSI Assurance UK Limited	United Kingdom	3.66
UK Food Certification Ltd.	United Kingdom	No KPI available
1st Solution Certification USA, Inc.	USA	No KPI available
CCOF Certification Services, LLC	USA	3.38
Ceres Certifications, International (USA)	USA	3.88

CB name	Headquarters location	KPI rating (31/12/2023)
EAGLE Food Registrations Inc.	USA	3.12
FoodChain ID Certification L.C.	USA	3.61
International Compliance Group Inc.	USA	4.4
Intertek Testing Services NA, Inc.	USA	3.57
Mérieux NutriSciences Certification LLC	USA	3.83
NSF Certification LLC	USA	3.54
NSF Certification UK Ltd.	USA	4.1
Perry Johnson Registrars Food Safety, Inc.	USA	3.56
Quality Certification Services (QCS)	USA	4.25
SCS Global Services	USA	3.97
WQS, LLC	USA	3.34
LSQA S.A.	Uruguay	3.7
Bureau Veritas Certification Vietnam Limited	Vietnam	3.83
Eurofins Assurance Vietnam Limited Liability Company	Vietnam	3.85
Global Inspection And Certification Network (Cglobal) Joint Stock Company	Vietnam	Pending
IQC Certification and Inspection JSC	Vietnam	4.05
SGS Vietnam Ltd.	Vietnam	4.08

List of **integrity assessment days** by country

Country	No. of days	Country	No. of days
Argentina	14.5	Jordan	1.5
Austria	7	Kenya	2
Belgium	7	Korea (Republic of)	5.5
Brazil	8	Mexico	20
Bulgaria	4	Morocco	9
Chile	25.5	Netherlands	16
China	17.5	New Zealand	3
Colombia	7	Norway	6.5
Costa Rica	3	Peru	13
Cyprus	5	Poland	20
Czech Republic	3.5	Portugal	10
Denmark	5	South Africa	10
Dominican Republic	5	Spain	58
Ecuador	7.5	Switzerland	2
Egypt	7.5	Türkiye	17
France	18	United Kingdom	2
Germany	18	Uruguay	5
Greece	12	USA	10
Guatemala	5	Vietnam	12
India	11.5	Philippines	8
Israel	4	Taiwan	5
Italy	39.5	**Total**	**480.5**
Japan	10		

Top 15 countries by number of producers under GLOBALG.A.P. core solutions certification

Country	Certificates	Producers under certification
1. Spain	4,315	45,423
2. Italy	4,031	24,708
3. Greece	931	19,891
4. India	162	11,126
5. Germany	7,594	7,985
6. France	4,416	7,822
7. Peru	772	7,537
8. Kenya	448	6,951
9. Netherlands	5,080	5,080
10. Chile	4,599	4,742
11. Poland	1,988	4,163
12. Türkiye	2,682	3,808
13. Portugal	515	3,763
14. Austria	2,548	2,548
15. Colombia	696	2,506

List of public certification body
training courses in 2023

Training type	Date of course	Medium	Language	Participants
IHT training CoC v6	09—11/01/2023	Online	English	14
IHT training PHA v1.2	17—19/01/2023	Online	Spanish	5
IHT training BioDiversity add-on v1.0	19/01/2023	Online	English	3
IHT training plants v6	23—27/01/2023	Online	English	14
QMS auditor update v6	25—26/01/2023	Online	Spanish	7
QMS auditor update v6	30—31/01/2023	Online	English	6
IHT training GRASP v2	31/01—02.02.23	Online	English	12
IHT training SPRING v1.1-1	01—03/02/2023	Online	English	5
QMS auditor v6	06—08/02/2023	Online	English	12
QMS auditor update v6	14—15/02/2023	Online	English	8
IHT training GRASP v2	22—24/02/2023	Online	English	11
QMS auditor update v6	27—28/02/2023	Online	Spanish	8
IHT training GROW v3	28/02/2023	Online	English	10
QMS auditor update v6	02—03/03/2023	Online	English	7
QMS auditor update v6	06—07/03/2023	Online	Spanish	11
IHT training plants v6	06—10/03/2023	Online	Spanish	15
QMS auditor v6	08—10/03/2023	Online	English	7
IHT training plants v6	13—17/03/2023	Online	English	10
QMS auditor update v6	20—21/03/2023	Online	English	11
IHT training SPRING v1.1-1	21—23/03/2023	Online	Spanish	8
QMS auditor update v6	28—29/03/2023	Online	Spanish	6
QMS auditor update v6	12—13/04/2023	Online	Spanish	5
QMS auditor v6	18—20/04/2023	Online	Spanish	5
QMS auditor update v6	19—20/04/2023	Online	English	6
IHT training plants v6	24—28/04/2023	Online	Spanish	13
IHT training GRASP v2	26—28/04/2023	Online	English	10
QMS auditor v6	03—05/05/2023	Online	English	8
QMS auditor update v6	08—09/05/2023	Online	Spanish	5
IHT training aquaculture v6	08—11/05/2023	Online	English	5
IHT training plants v6	08—12/05/2023	Online	English	11
QMS auditor update v6	15—16/05/2023	Online	English	11
Scheme manager update training	15/05/2023	Online	English	14
IHT training Nurture v11	16—17/05/2023	Online	English	6
QMS auditor update v6	22—23/05/2023	Online	Spanish	9
Scheme manager update training	25/05 /2023	Online	English	12
IHT training GRASP v2	31/05—02/06/2023	Online	Spanish	15
QMS auditor v6	31/05/—02/06/2023	Online	Spanish	9
IHT training GROW v3	06/06/2023	Online	English	4
IHT training BioDiversity add-on v1.0	07/06/2023	Online	English	5

Training type	Date of course	Medium	Language	Participants
Scheme manager update training	13/06/2023	Online	English	14
IHT training GRASP v2	13–15/06/2023	Online	Spanish	15
QMS auditor update v6	14–15/06/2023	Online	Spanish	4
QMS auditor update v6	20–21/06/2023	Online	English	6
Scheme manager update training	22/06/2023	Online	English	8
IHT training Nurture Module v11	22–23/06/2023	Online	English	10
IHT training CoC v6.1	27–29/06/2023	Online	English	12
QMS auditor v6	03–05/07/2023	Online	English	8
IHT training plants v6	03–07/07/2023	Online	English	11
IHT training GRASP v2	10–12/07/2023	Online	English	13
QMS auditor update v6	17–18/07/2023	Online	Spanish	15
IHT training SPRING v1.1-1	18–20/07/2023	Online	English	6
Scheme manager update training	20/07/2023	Online	Spanish	11
IHT training CoC v6.1	24–26/07/2023	Online	Spanish	12
QMS auditor update v6	26–27/07/2023	Online	English	6
Scheme manager update training	27/07/2023	Online	Spanish	13
Scheme manager update training	01/08/2023	Online	English	7
QMS auditor update v6	02–03/08/2023	Online	English	7
QMS auditor update v6	07–08/08/2023	Online	Spanish	14
QMS auditor v6	08–10/08/2023	Online	English	9
QMS auditor update v6	10–11/08/2023	Online	English	5
IHT training GRASP v2	16–18/08/2023	Online	Spanish	16
IHT training plants v6	21–25/08/2023	Online	English	7
IHT training GRASP v2	29–31/08/2023	Online	English	8
QMS auditor update v6	11–12/09/2023	Online	Spanish	12
IHT training GRASP v2	12–14/09/2023	Online	Spanish	7
IHT training plants v6	11–15/09/2023	Online	Spanish	7
QMS auditor update v6	25–26/09/2023	Online	Spanish	14
QMS auditor update v6	27/09/2023	In person	Italian	17
QMS auditor update v6	27–28/09/2023	Online	English	12
QMS auditor update v6	28/09/2023	In person	Italian	16
QMS auditor update v6	28–29/09/2023	Online	French	15
QMS auditor update v6	29/09/2023	In person	Italian	16
QMS auditor update v6	02/10/2023	In person	Italian	15
Scheme manager update training	03/10/2023	In person	Italian	10
QMS auditor update v6	04/10/2023	In person	Italian	24
Scheme manager update training	05/10/2023	Online	Spanish	10
IHT training CoC v6.1	10–12/10/2023	Online	English	8
IHT training SPRING v2	11–12/10/2023	Online	English	12
In IHT training FSMA v2	16/10/2023	Online	English	8
QMS auditor update v6	16–17/10/2023	Online	Spanish	13
IHT training FSMA v2	17/10/2023	Online	Spanish	15
IHT training FSMA v2	18/10/2023	Online	Spanish	14
Scheme manager update training	18/10/2023	Online	Spanish	14
QMS auditor v6	18–20/10/2023	Online	English	12
QMS auditor update v6	24–25/10/2023	Online	English	13

Training type	Date of course	Medium	Language	Participants
IHT training GRASP v2	24–26/10/2023	Online	English	15
IHT training SPRING v2	25–26/10/2023	Online	Spanish	19
QMS auditor update v6	26–27/10/2023	Online	French	5
IHT training SPRING v2	30/10/2023	Online	English	15
QMS auditor update v6	30–31/10/2023	Online	English	11
QMS auditor update v6	06–07/11/2023	Online	Italian	15
IHT training plants v6	06–10/11/2023	Online	English	14
QMS auditor v6	06–08/11/2023	Online	Spanish	7
IHT training GRASP v2	07–09/11/2023	Online	Spanish	5
IHT training FSMA v2	08/11/2023	Online	Spanish	14
IHT training training SPRING v2	09–10/11/2023	Online	Spanish	20
Scheme manager update training	14/11/2023	Online	English	16
QMS auditor update v6	15–16/11/2023	Online	French	6
QMS auditor v6	20–22/11/2023	Online	English	12
IHT training aquaculture v6	20–24/11/2023	Online	English	8
QMS auditor update v6	21–22/11/2023	Online	English	14
QMS auditor update v6	22–23/11/2023	Online	Italian	12
QMS auditor update v6	27–28/11/2023	Online	Spanish	12
IHT training plants v6	27/11–01/12/2023	Online	English	12
IHT training GRASP v2	28–30/11/2023	Online	English	13
QMS auditor update v6	29–30/11/2023	Online	English	9
Scheme manager update training	30/11/2023	Online	English	17
IHT training Nurture v12	04–06/12/2023	Online	English	9
IHT training IDA v1.1	11/12/2023	Online	English	8
IHT training Nurture Module v12	11–13/12/2023	Online	English	11
Scheme manager update training	12/12/2023	Online	English	23
IHT training SPRING v2	12–14/12/2023	Online	English	6
IHT training Nurture v12	13–15/12/2023	Online	English	6
QMS auditor update v6	14–15/12/2023	Online	English	13
QMS auditor update v6	18–19/12/2023	Online	Spanish	4
IHT training Nurture Module v12	18–20/12/2023	Online	English	15
IHT training GRASP v1.3-1-1		Online (pre-recorded)	English	3
IHT training IDA	any time	Online (self-paced)	English	4
Inspector/Auditor training for NON-GM/"Ohne Gentechnik" add-on (Modules 1–3)	any time	Online (self-paced)	English	Not tracked

Number of auditors who took **online tests**

Standard/Add-on	Languages available	Number of auditors assigned to online tests
IFA v6 plants	English, Spanish, Greek, Portuguese, French, Dutch, Italian, German, Brazilian Portuguese, Polish, Chinese	2,154
IFA v6 aquaculture	English, Spanish	118
GRASP v2	English, Spanish, German, Italian, Norwegian	1,141
SPRING v2	English, Spanish	230
FSMA PSR add-on v2	English, Spanish	177
BioDiversity add-on v1.1	English	6
IDA add-on v1.1 — plants	English	27
IDA add-on v1.1 — aquaculture	English, German, Dutch	1
Other party private solutions		
AH-Beter Voor add-on	English, Dutch	18
GROW v3.1	English, Spanish, Dutch	385
Nurture Module v12	English, Spanish	89
Total		**4,346**

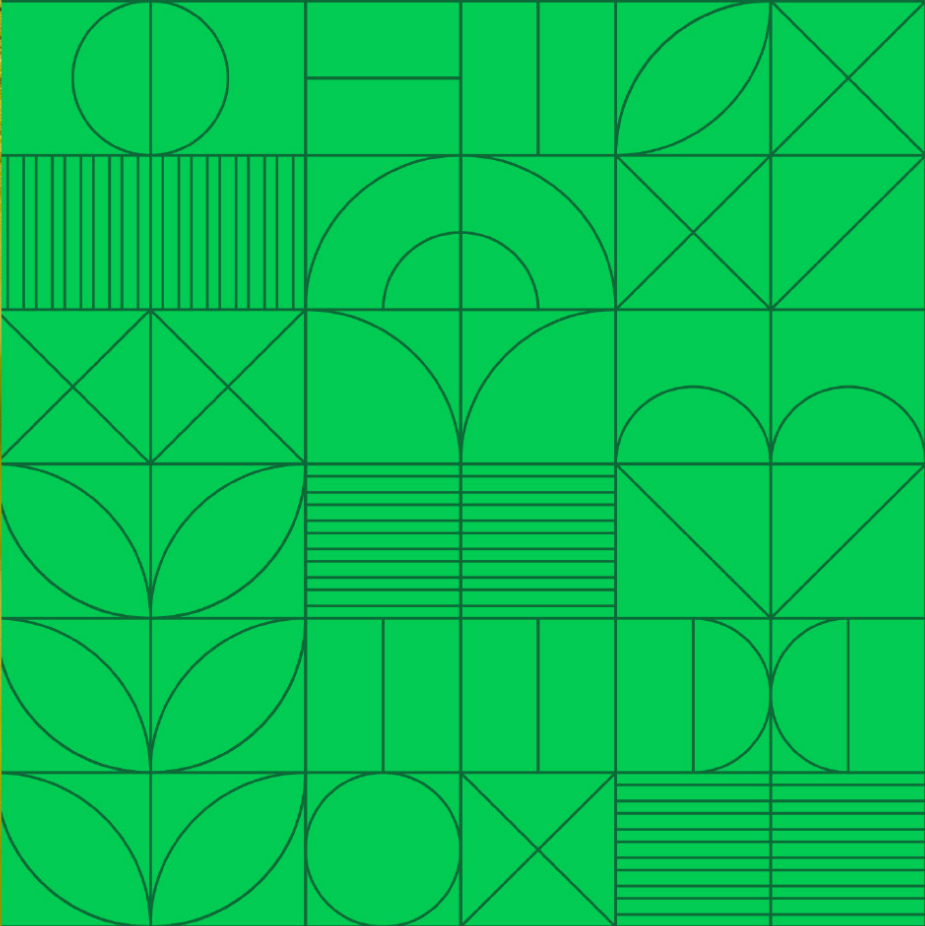# GLOBALG.A.P. Integrity Program **glossary**

Term	Definition
Accreditation body	Organization responsible for assessing and accrediting GLOBALG.A.P. approved certification bodies against EN 45011 or ISO/IEC Guide 65. The accreditation body must be a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) or the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA) and a signatory to both the Multi-Lateral Agreement (MLA) for product certification and the Memorandum of Understanding between the EA and/or IAF and GLOBALG.A.P.
Audit	A process carried out by an auditor to obtain evidence (e.g., records, documents, visual observations, interviews) of whether criteria determined in the applicable normative documents have been met
Auditor	A person who conducts an audit against a standard or add-on
Certification body	An organization which conducts audits and awards certificates upon completion of a successful audit
Checklist	A tool used by auditors to audit producers against a standard. A checklist contains a set of principles and criteria which are assigned a level to determine how important the requirement is (Major Must, Minor Must, or Recommendation).
CoC	The GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody (CoC) standard ensures that any product sold with a GLOBALG.A.P. claim or bearing a GGN label logo is truly sourced from a GLOBALG.A.P. certified production process.
Farm audit	An audit of whether a farm's production process fulfills the criteria determined in a given standard. In IFA v5, farm audits were previously called inspections. Farm audits can be carried out internally or by a GLOBALG.A.P. approved certification body.
Farm auditor	A person who conducts a farm audit (previously called "inspector" in IFA v5)
In-house trainer	An in-house representative at a GLOBALG.A.P. approved certification body who has passed the training and test for the relevant scope and version and is responsible for ensuring all the registered auditors of a certification body comply with the requirements for conducting certification body audits against GLOBALG.A.P. standards
Integrity assessment	Periodic assessments to determine whether certification bodies are conducting their certification processes in line with GLOBALG.A.P. normative documents, including the signed license and certification agreement
ISC	The Integrity Surveillance Committee (ISC) is an independent and impartial body formed of industry experts who are not certification body stakeholders. The ISC makes decisions on performance-related certification body sanctions and corrective measures following integrity assessments.
MRL	Maximum residue limits (MRLs) are set to monitor the application of plant protection products in crop farming. MRL testing is a screening method conducted in a laboratory to analyze residues on the final product.
Normative document	A document that provides rules, guidelines, or characteristics on what ought to be done within the application of a standard. In the GLOBALG.A.P. certification system, general regulations, rules, principle and criteria documents, checklists, and sublicense agreements, among others, are all normative documents.
Option 1	Option 1 certification is for individual producers with a single site or multiple sites that do not function as separate legal entities.
Option 2	Option 2 certification is for producer groups (cooperatives, etc.) where the legal entity of the group is the certificate holder once certified. The group must implement a quality management system.

Term	Definition
Parallel ownership	Parallel ownership occurs when individual producers, producer groups, or producer group members own the same product originating partly from GLOBALG.A.P. certified and partly from noncertified production processes. This may occur if they produce or buy noncertified products of the same product they produce and have registered for certification. Parallel ownership has specific rules that are part of the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations.
Parallel production	Occurs when a legal entity produces certified and noncertified products (the same product). Certified and noncertified products must be segregated and have full traceability throughout the production, harvesting, and handling processes. Parallel production within the same production management unit is not allowed. Under IFA v6, "parallel production" is merged with "parallel ownership".
Product category	Within the GLOBALG.A.P. certification system, the product categories for the plants scope are: · Fruit and vegetables · Flowers and ornamentals · Plant propagation material · Combinable crops · Hops Finfish, crustaceans, molluscs, and seaweed (macroalgae) species fall under the aquaculture scope.
QMS	A quality management system (QMS) is a set of policies, processes, and procedures required for planning and execution (production/development/service) in the core business area of an organization (i.e., areas that can impact the organization's ability to meet customer requirements).
QMS audit	An audit of the quality management system (QMS) of a producer group or a producer with several production sites (multisite producer). In IFA v5, QMS audits were previously called audits . QMS audits can be carried out internally or by a GLOBALG.A.P. approved certification body. In the GLOBALG.A.P. standards, the implementation of a QMS is obligatory for producer group certification and voluntary for individual producers with multisite certification.
QMS auditor	A person who conducts a QMS audit (previously called auditor in IFA v5)
Registered Trainer	Farming experts who are trained and authorized by GLOBALG.A.P. c/o FoodPLUS GmbH to aid the implementation of GLOBALG.A.P. standards by offering training courses. They may also provide consultancy services.
RMS	A residue monitoring system (RMS) is a tool used to sample and record the results of maximum residue limit (MRL) testing in food. Residue monitoring provides assurance and transparency to both retailers and consumers on the responsible use of plant protection products and is required to demonstrate compliance with plant protection products analysis requirements when seeking certification.
Standard	An established set of criteria which must be fulfilled, according to established rules, to achieve recognition of a certain level of quality
Scheme manager	A representative of a GLOBALG.A.P. approved certification body who is the contact person for GLOBALG.A.P. related matters. This person fulfills all the criteria outlined in section 5.2 of the "GLOBALG.A.P. rules for certification bodies".
Self-assessment	An assessment which a producer must carry out before a certification body audit takes place in order to check whether they comply with enough principles and criteria from a GLOBALG.A.P. standard to pass a certification body audit. Only applicable to Options 1 and 3.
Unannounced audit	Certification body audits which are conducted without extended advance warning. Unannounced audits are conducted within 48 hours of notification in IFA v6 Smart and without notification at all in IFA v6 GFS.