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TERMINOLOGY

For the sake of simplicity, in this document:

- The term “assessment” is used rather than “audit” in this document. This is because the Primary Farm Assurance (PFA) program is not ISO/IEC 17065 accredited and therefore results in a letter of conformance rather than a certificate.
- Whenever the term “verification” is used, it shall refer to all those actions leading to the issuing of a letter of conformance in the context of a producer’s successful conformance to all applicable principles of a specific PFA level.
- Whenever the term “certification body (CB)/verification body (VB) assessor” is used, it shall refer to a CB farm auditor, CB quality management (QMS) auditor, VB farm assessor, or VB QMS assessor.
- Whenever the term “CB/VB assessment” is used, it shall refer to a CB/VB farm assessment or CB/VB QMS assessment.
- Whenever the term “producer” is used, it shall refer to persons (individuals) or businesses (companies, individual producers, or producer groups) that are legally responsible for the production processes and the products of the respective scope, sold by those persons or businesses.
- Whenever the term “producer group/multisite producer” is used, it shall refer to producer groups managed by a QMS and/or individual producers with multisites, respectively.

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 01	INTERNAL DOCUMENTATION		
PFA-FV 01.02	Records for assessment purposes are up-to-date.	<p><i>All records generated or kept by the producer for assessing purposes shall:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Be up-to-date</i> - <i>Be stored securely and be readily accessible</i> - <i>Be retained for a minimum of two years, or longer if required by buyers</i> - <i>Be valid and backed-up, if used in electronic format</i> - <i>Cover at least three months prior to the date of the initial certification body (CB)/verification body (VB) assessment, or begin on the day of registration, whichever is longer</i> - <i>Reference full details of each area and all activities covered by the registration</i> <p><i>Where an individual record is missing, the respective principle addressing those records is not compliant. For example, if the date of application is missing on a single spray record, a non-conformance or non-compliance shall be issued against that principle.</i></p>	Minor Must

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 03	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING		
PFA-FV 03.03	Worker training includes the necessary skills and competencies and is supported by records.	<p><i>Workers shall be able to demonstrate competence in their assigned tasks.</i></p> <p><i>Tasks that shall require specific training include handling and/or administering of agricultural chemicals, disinfectants, plant protection products (PPPs), biocides, and/or other hazardous substances and operating of equipment.</i></p> <p><i>Evidence of training includes attendance records, certificates, or other relevant qualifications.</i></p> <p><i>Subcontractors shall either be trained by the producer or be able to demonstrate competence through previous training or certification.</i></p>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 03.04	Records of all training activities are kept.	<p><i>Induction or refresher training should be recorded.</i></p> <p><i>Training records relevant to the implementation of the Primary Farm Assurance (PFA) program and good agricultural practices should include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- Date of training and duration</i> <i>- Topics covered</i> <i>- Names of trainers or training providers</i> <i>- Names of trainees (e.g., attendance lists)</i> <i>- Evidence of attendance (e.g., trainee signature)</i> 	Recom.

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 11	EQUIPMENT AND DEVICES		
PFA-FV 11.01	Equipment, tools, and devices are fit for purpose and maintained.	<p><i>Equipment, tools, and devices coming into contact with products shall be made of materials that are safe for contact with products and designed and constructed to ensure that they can be cleaned, disinfected, and maintained to avoid contamination.</i></p> <p><i>Equipment, tools, and devices, even those not coming into direct contact with products (scales, plant protection product (PPP) or fertilizer application equipment, thermometers, pH meters, etc.), shall be maintained, routinely verified, and, where applicable, calibrated at least annually.</i></p> <p><i>Equipment maintenance, calibration (where applicable), and repairs shall be documented. Maintenance activities shall not present risks to food safety, the environment, or workers.</i></p> <p><i>PPP sprayers: The calibration of PPP application machinery (automatic and nonautomatic) shall have been verified for correct operation within the last 12 months, and this verification shall be certified or documented either by participation in an official scheme (where it exists) or by having been carried out by a person who can demonstrate their competence.</i></p> <p><i>Irrigation/Fertigation equipment: At a minimum, annual maintenance records shall be kept for all methods of irrigation/fertigation machinery/techniques used.</i></p>	Minor Must

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 11.02	Equipment is stored in such a way as to prevent product contamination.	<i>Equipment (plant protection product (PPP) or fertilizer application equipment, harvesting equipment, wrapping machines, etc.) shall be stored in an appropriate way that prevents possible contamination of products or other materials that may come into contact with the edible portion of the harvested products.</i>	Major Must
PFA-FV 11.03	Vehicles and equipment used for loading, transport, or storage of harvested products are cleaned, maintained, and appropriate for use.	<i>Vehicles and equipment used for loading, transport, or storage of harvested products shall be appropriate for use, cleaned and maintained, and stored to prevent product contamination (animal manure, fuel spills, etc.). Vehicles and equipment shall be suitable for the intended purpose.</i>	Major Must
PFA-FV 15	HYGIENE		
PFA-FV 15.01	The farm has a documented hygiene risk assessment.	<p><i>The farm should have a documented hygiene risk assessment covering production, harvesting, and handling, as applicable.</i></p> <p><i>The hygiene risk assessment should include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Physical, chemical, and microbiological contaminants, spillage of bodily fluids (vomiting, bleeding, etc.), and human transmissible diseases that are associated with the applicable products and processes</i> - <i>Workers, personal effects, equipment, clothing, packaging material, transport, vehicles, and product storage (including short-term storage on the farm)</i> - <i>The production environment, including design and layout for prevention of cross contamination and support of food safety</i> 	Recom.

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 15.02	Documented hygiene procedures are in place to minimize food safety risks.	<p><i>Hygiene procedures should be aligned with the risk assessment and include applicable harvest and postharvest activities. Pictograms or signs in the predominant workforce language should describe the appropriate hygiene measures for workers, visitors, and subcontractors.</i></p> <p><i>When protective equipment and clothing (smocks, aprons, sleeves, gloves, footwear, etc.) are required, they should be provided by the employer and cleaned, maintained, and stored in a way that minimizes food safety risks.</i></p> <p><i>Hands should be washed whenever they may be a source of contamination, including prior to the start of work and after using the toilet.</i></p> <p><i>The hygiene procedures should address contamination of product with bodily fluids, reporting requirements for sick people (vomiting, jaundice, diarrhea, etc.), restricting ill persons' contact with products, and a return-to-work policy.</i></p> <p><i>Skin cuts should be covered and gloves used, as appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>Visual evidence should show that no violations of the hygiene procedures occur.</i></p>	Recom.
PFA-FV 15.03	All persons working on the farm have received hygiene training.	<p><i>Basic training on hygiene shall:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- Be provided annually to all workers, including owners and managers that are working on the farm</i> <i>- Be provided to all new workers</i> <i>- Cover all necessary instructions</i> <i>- Be given in a format, either written or verbal, that ensures understanding (may be in verbal and pictorial form without written explanatory content, where appropriate)</i> <i>- Specifically include training on hygiene procedures for harvesting and product handling activities, where applicable</i> 	Minor Must

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 15.04	Smoking, eating, chewing, and drinking are confined to designated areas.	<i>In order to prevent contamination of products, smoking, eating, chewing, and drinking shall be confined to designated areas. In addition, these behaviors shall be prohibited in product handling or storage areas, unless indicated otherwise by the hygiene risk assessment. Drinking water is the exception.</i>	Major Must
PFA-FV 15.05	Clean toilets are provided for workers, visitors, and subcontractors in the vicinity of their work.	<p><i>Toilets provided for production and handling activities (including stationary or mobile toilets) shall be:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- Designed and located so as to minimize the potential risk for product contamination</i> <i>- Constructed of material that is easy to clean and maintain (also applies to pit latrines)</i> <i>- Allow for direct accessibility for servicing</i> <i>- Located in reasonable proximity to the place of work, i.e., accessible on foot or by a readily available mode of transportation</i> <p><i>If production and/or handling takes place in a facility, the doors of toilets shall not open directly onto the production and/or product handling area, unless the door is self-closing. Toilets shall be appropriately cleaned, maintained, and stocked. Facilities shall also be available to visitors, where applicable.</i></p>	Minor Must

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 15.06	Handwashing facilities are available for all workers, visitors, and subcontractors who come into direct contact with products.	<p><i>Handwashing facilities shall be accessible and maintained in a clean and sanitary condition to allow workers to clean their hands any time their hands may be a source of contamination.</i></p> <p><i>The facilities shall be situated as near as possible to the toilets without posing a risk of cross contamination.</i></p> <p><i>All handwashing facilities shall be equipped with nonperfumed hand soap and means of drying hands. Single use towels shall be used where possible. Towels shall not pose a cross contamination risk. Air towels and forced-air hand dryers are permitted.</i></p> <p><i>The water used for handwashing shall be analyzed, and risks associated with water quality assessed. The water used shall meet the microbial standard for drinking water at all times. If handwashing water does not meet the microbial drinking water standard, a sanitizer (e.g., alcohol-based gel) shall be used after washing hands. The use of only hand sanitizer to clean hands before coming into contact with products is not permitted.</i></p>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 15.07	Animal activity that may result in product contamination is managed.	<p><i>Appropriate measures shall be taken to reduce possible product contamination by animals within the production area. Where there is evidence of animal activity that may result in product contamination, appropriate measures shall be taken. Eliminating wildlife or using destructive techniques to rid the production area of all animals are not considered appropriate measures.</i></p>	Minor Must

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 15.08	Containers used for production and harvesting are cleaned, maintained, and appropriate for use.	<p><i>Containers shall be made of materials that do not pose a risk to food safety and be constructed to facilitate cleaning and maintenance.</i></p> <p><i>Reusable containers shall be clean before use. A documented cleaning schedule that includes frequency and is in accordance with the hygiene risk assessment shall be in place. Disinfection shall be incorporated into the cleaning procedure when required in the hygiene risk assessment.</i></p> <p><i>Harvest containers shall be used exclusively for product (not used to store chemicals, lubricants, oil, trash, tools, etc.).</i></p>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 16	WORKERS' HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE		
PFA-FV 16.02	Hazards and first aid		
PFA-FV 16.02.01	Accident and emergency procedures are displayed and communicated.	<p><i>Instructions based on the accident and emergency procedures should be clearly displayed in accessible and visible locations for workers, visitors, and subcontractors. These instructions should be available in the predominant language of the workforce and/or in pictograms.</i></p> <p><i>The procedures should cover/identify the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The farm address, map, or other location information (e.g., GPS coordinates)</i> - <i>Contact persons</i> - <i>An up-to-date list of relevant telephone numbers (i.e., police, ambulance, hospital, fire brigade, access to emergency healthcare on site or by means of transport, and suppliers of electricity, water, and gas)</i> - <i>Emergency evacuation procedures, where applicable</i> 	Recom.

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
		<p><i>Permanent and legible signs should indicate potential hazards. Emergency exits and escape route signs should indicate these must be kept open, accessible, and clear of obstacles. This includes, where applicable, waste pits, flammable structures (fuel tanks, propane/natural gas tanks, etc.), plant protection product (PPP) storage, bodies of water, and any other identified physical hazards.</i></p> <p><i>Warning signs should be present and in the predominant language of the workforce and/or in pictograms.</i></p> <p><i>Examples of other information that can be included:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The location of the nearest means of communication (telephone, radio)</i> - <i>How and where to contact local medical services, hospitals, and other emergency services</i> - <i>The location of fire extinguishers and availability of water nearby</i> - <i>The location of large chemical, fuel, and fertilizer storages</i> - <i>The locations of emergency exits and operation of fire escapes</i> - <i>Emergency cutoffs for electricity, gas, and water lines</i> - <i>How to report accidents and dangerous incidents (location, description of incident, number of injured people, type of injuries)</i> 	
PFA-FV 16.02.03	First aid kits are accessible at all permanent sites and fields near the work.	<p><i>First aid kits should be complete, maintained (as per applicable regulation and activities), and accessible at all permanent sites (plant protection product (PPP) storage, workshops, product handling unit (PHU), etc.) and fields near the work. When in the field, the first aid kits may be on a tractor or in a car, if accessible by a trained first aider.</i></p>	Recom.

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 16.03	Personal protective equipment		
PFA-FV 16.03.01	Workers, visitors, and subcontractors are equipped with suitable personal protective equipment (PPE).	<p><i>PPE shall be in accordance with legal requirements, label instructions, and/or as authorized by a competent authority. The PPE shall be available, properly used, and in good repair. Complying with label requirements and requirements in the risk assessment for on-farm operations may include use of the following: appropriate footwear, waterproof clothing, protective overalls, rubber gloves, face masks, respiratory equipment (including replacement filters), ear and eye protection, etc.</i></p> <p><i>PPE shall be provided whenever necessary to workers, subcontractors (acceptable when provided by subcontracting company), and visitors.</i></p>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 16.03.02	Personal protective equipment (PPE) is maintained in clean conditions and stored appropriately so as not to pose any contamination risk to personal items.	<p><i>PPE shall be kept clean according to the type of use and degree of potential contamination. Protective clothing shall be laundered separately from personal items. Dirty and damaged PPE shall be disposed of appropriately. PPE shall be stored in a manner that prevents cross contamination with chemicals.</i></p>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 16.03.03	There is evidence that the provided personal protective equipment (PPE) is used by the workers.	<p><i>There should be evidence that the provided PPE is being used. If single-use PPE is used, the supply maintained on hand should correspond to the needs of the workers, or records demonstrating that new PPE is promptly sourced and restocked should be available.</i></p>	Recom.

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 16.04	Workers' welfare		
PFA-FV 16.04.01	There is communication between management and workers on issues related to their health, safety, and welfare.	<p><i>There should be communication between management and workers on issues related to their health, safety, and welfare. Such communication should be able to take place openly (i.e., without fear of intimidation or retaliation).</i></p> <p><i>The communication may be in the form of scheduled meetings, worker hotlines, anonymous comment boxes, daily prework briefings, or individual crew meetings. On very small operations, communication between a family or limited number of workers may occur continuously.</i></p>	Recom.
PFA-FV 16.04.02	Workers have access to clean drinking water, food storage, and areas to eat and rest.	<p><i>A clean place to store food and a clean place to eat shall be provided to the workers if they eat on the farm. Drinking water shall always be provided at no cost to the workers. Worker access to drinking water shall not be restricted. There shall be designated areas for resting and breaks.</i></p>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 17	SITE MANAGEMENT		
PFA-FV 17.03	The producer has a system for identifying sites and facilities used for production.	<p><i>It shall include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- All fields, orchards, vineyards, greenhouses, and other production areas</i> <i>- All water sources, storage and handling facilities, agrochemical storages, yards, buildings, and any features that may pose a workers' health and safety, food safety, or environmental risk</i> <p><i>Identification may be on a map or through the use of signs at each site.</i></p>	Minor Must

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 17.04	The site is kept in a tidy and orderly condition.	<i>The site shall be maintained so as to prevent contamination of products. There shall be no waste or litter in the immediate vicinity of the production sites or storage buildings. Incidental and insignificant litter and waste in the designated areas are acceptable, as is the waste from the current day's work. All other waste shall be cleaned up, including fuel spills.</i>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 17.05	Where the operation handles or stores allergens, the operation has a documented allergen management program.	<i>The allergen management program shall list the allergens in use, stored, or handled by workers at the site specific to prevailing regulations. Where applicable, procedures shall address identification and segregation of allergens during storage, handling, loading, and shipping as based on a risk assessment conducted by the operation. All products intentionally or potentially containing allergenic materials shall be labeled according to the allergen labeling regulations in the country of production and the country of destination.</i>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 20	WASTE MANAGEMENT		
PFA-FV 20.05	Fragments and small pieces of packaging material and other nonproduct waste are removed from the field.	<i>Fragments and small pieces of packaging material and nonproduct waste shall be removed from the production site after the specific in-field process is completed.</i>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 22	SOIL AND SUBSTRATE MANAGEMENT		
PFA-FV 22.01	Soil management and conservation		
PFA-FV 22.01.04	The producer uses techniques to reduce the possibility of soil erosion.	<i>There shall be evidence of control practices and remedial measures (mulching, crossline techniques on slopes, drains, sowing grass or green fertilizers, trees and shrubs on the borders of sites, etc.) to minimize soil erosion (from water, wind, etc.).</i>	Minor Must

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 23	FERTILIZERS AND BIOSTIMULANTS		
PFA-FV 23.01	Application records		
PFA-FV 23.01.01	Up-to-date records of all fertilizer and biostimulant applications are kept.	<i>Up-to-date records shall be kept of each fertilizer (organic and inorganic) and biostimulant application, including in hydroponic and fertigation systems.</i>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 23.01.02	The records shall include: Geographical area and the name or reference of the field, orchard, or greenhouse	<i>Geographical area and the name or reference of the field, orchard, or greenhouse</i>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 23.01.03	The records shall include: Dates	<i>Dates</i>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 23.01.04	The records shall include: Name and type	<i>Name and type</i>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 23.01.05	The records shall include: Amount (rate or concentration as applicable)	<i>Amount (rate or concentration as applicable)</i>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 23.01.06	The records shall include: Name of the applicator to clearly identify the individual or team of workers performing the fertilization	<i>Name of the applicator to clearly identify the individual or team of workers performing the fertilization</i>	Minor Must

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 23.02	Storage		
PFA-FV 23.02.01	Fertilizers and biostimulants are stored in an appropriate manner that does not compromise food safety.	<p><i>Fertilizers and biostimulants shall be stored in a designated area separate from plant protection products (PPPs) and harvested or packed products.</i></p> <p><i>Cross contamination between fertilizers (organic and inorganic), biostimulants, and PPPs shall be prevented. Use of a physical barrier (wall, sheeting, etc.) may be based upon defined risk.</i></p> <p><i>Fertilizers and biostimulants that are applied together with PPPs (micronutrients, foliar fertilizers, etc.) can be stored with PPPs if both are kept in closed containers.</i></p>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 23.02.02	Fertilizers and biostimulants are stored in an appropriate manner that reduces the risk of environmental contamination.	<p><i>Fertilizers and biostimulants shall be stored in a designated area. Appropriate measures shall have been taken to prevent the pollution of water sources (concrete foundations, walls, leak-proof container, etc.), or the fertilizers shall be stored at least 25 meters from water sources.</i></p> <p><i>Where necessary, inorganic fertilizers (powders, granules, liquids, etc.) shall be protected from atmospheric influences (sunlight, frost and rain, high temperatures, etc.). Based on a risk assessment (fertilizer type, weather conditions, storage duration and location), plastic coverage may be acceptable. It is permitted to store lime and gypsum in the field.</i></p> <p><i>As long as the storage requirements on the safety data sheet (SDS) are complied with, bulk liquid fertilizers can be stored outside in containers. The storage area shall be well ventilated and free from rainwater or heavy condensation.</i></p> <p><i>Inorganic fertilizers shall be stored in an area that is free from waste, does not constitute a breeding place for rodents, and where spillage and leakage can be cleared away.</i></p>	Minor Must

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 23.03	Organic fertilizers		
PFA-FV 23.03.02	The interval between the application of organic fertilizer and harvest does not compromise food safety.	<p><i>Records and practices shall show compliance.</i></p> <p><i>If raw animal manure is used, it shall be incorporated into the soil. The risks associated with the type of raw manure used and intended use shall be evaluated when establishing a preharvest interval, while adhering to the following minimum requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- For tree crops (i.e., trees with the lowest fruit suspended well above the ground, so that the fruit does not come into contact with the soil, and excluding low bushes): Raw manure shall be applied prior to bud burst or on a shorter interval based on the risk assessment, but never shorter than 60 days prior to harvest.</i> <i>- Leafy greens: Raw manure shall never be applied after planting, regardless of any harvest interval.</i> <i>- For other crops: Raw manure shall be applied at least 60 days prior to harvest.</i> 	Major Must
PFA-FV 23.03.03	The use of human sewage sludge is prohibited on the farm.	<i>The use of human sewage sludge shall be prohibited on the farm. Human sewage sludge shall never be used in the production of registered crops. The use of human sewage sludge that has been composted or incorporated into a commercially available product is not permitted, regardless of lawful use according to prevailing regulations.</i>	Major Must

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 23.04	Nutrient content		
PFA-FV 23.04.01	The content of major nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) in applied fertilizers is known.	<i>Documented evidence/labels detailing major nutrient content (or recognized standard values) should be available for all fertilizers (organic and inorganic) used on registered crops within the last 24 months.</i>	Recom.
PFA-FV 24	WATER MANAGEMENT		
PFA-FV 24.01	Water use risk assessments and management plan		
PFA-FV 24.01.01	There is a risk assessment to assess food safety risks for pre- and postharvest water used.	<p><i>There should be a risk assessment for water used for indoor and outdoor production and postharvest activities. The risk assessment should cover, at minimum:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- Identification of water sources by means of maps, photographs, drawings (hand drawings are acceptable), or other depictions to identify the location of water sources, permanent fixtures, and the flow of the water system (including holding systems, reservoirs, or any water captured for reuse), the depiction should be linked with site maps and an on-farm reference system</i> <i>- Historical analysis results, where applicable</i> <i>- The timing of water use (crop growth stage or postharvest)</i> <i>- The risk of physical, chemical, and microbial contamination</i> <i>- Methods to address risk associated with water delivery mechanisms, mitigating the risk of cross contamination</i> <i>- The contact of water with the crop</i> <i>- The characteristics of the crop and the growth stage or handling</i> <i>- The quality of the water used for fertilizer, plant protection product, or postharvest applications</i> 	Recom.

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measures taken to mitigate contamination risk, where appropriate (e.g., preventing human and livestock intrusion with fencing) - Acceptable thresholds for water quality - Impact on food safety and fit-for-purpose 	
PFA-FV 24.01.02	A water management plan is available.	<p><i>A documented water management plan should:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be reviewed at least annually, based on the reviewed risk assessment - Assess the need for maintenance of irrigation and other water delivery equipment - Identify worker training required to support maintenance and repairs - Be either an individual or a regional plan if participation in a community irrigation system is documented - Include reference to water analysis and frequency of sampling - Include corrective actions taken related to water quality requirements 	Recom.
PFA-FV 24.03	Water storage		
PFA-FV 24.03.01	Storage of water does not pose any food safety risks.	<p><i>If tanks, cisterns, or other containers are used to store water, risks to stored water or products shall be identified. If water storage containers are open to the air, the possibility of contamination shall be addressed. The container shall not be a source of contamination for the water, and the quality of the water held within it shall be appropriate for the intended use.</i></p>	Major Must

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 24.04	Water quality		
PFA-FV 24.04.03	The use of treated sewage water does not pose a food safety risk.	<p><i>Treated sewage water shall only be used when the risks have been identified and effectively mitigated. The type of crop, growth aspect, and contact with edible portions of the crop shall be considered. Analysis of water shall occur at appropriate intervals to verify that the treatment is consistently effective.</i></p> <p><i>Where treated sewage or reclaimed water is used, water quality shall comply with prevailing regulations or the World Health Organization (WHO-) published “Guidelines for the safe use of wastewater, excreta and greywater” (2006) where no prevailing regulations exist.</i></p> <p><i>Guidelines for minimum verification monitoring of microbial performance targets for wastewater treatment have been referenced in Table 4.5 (Volume 2, 2006) and Table 2.9 (Volume 1, 2006) of the WHO “Guidelines for the safe use of wastewater, excreta and greywater.” Water quality shall be assessed by measuring the quantity of indicator organisms. Escherichia coli (E. coli) is recommended for this purpose, but other prevailing regulations and industry standards may reference total fecal coliforms. When more restrictive prevailing regulations do not exist, the verification level established by the WHO of ≤ 1000 E. coli per 100ml treated wastewater shall be adopted for monitoring purposes. Many prevailing regulations require recreational, reclaimed, and irrigation water to be held to a more restrictive quality requirement, so target water quality</i></p>	Major Must

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
		<p><i>thresholds shall be addressed in risk assessments and supporting documentation.</i></p> <p><i>If water has the potential to be polluted (e.g., upstream contamination source), the producer shall demonstrate through analysis that the water complies with prevailing regulations and requirements, or with the WHO guideline requirements where no prevailing regulations exist.</i></p> <p><i>Untreated sewage water shall never be used on crops.</i></p> <p><i>“N/A” if treated sewage water is not used.</i></p>	
PFA-FV 24.04.04	Water that comes into contact with products during harvest and postharvest meets the microbial standard for drinking water.	<p><i>Water (including ice) used during harvest and postharvest activities (cooling, transport, washing, etc.) shall meet the microbial standards for drinking water and shall be handled so as to prevent product contamination.</i></p> <p><i>The only exception are flood-harvested cranberry fields, where analysis shall confirm that the water is not a source of microbial contamination for the product.</i></p>	Major Must

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 25	INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT		
PFA-FV 25.02	The producer is informed about the relevant pests, diseases, and weeds that affect their registered crops.	<p><i>The producer should offer a verbal demonstration of their knowledge on identifying the presence and potential damage of the relevant pests, diseases, and weeds that affect the registered crops. This demonstration can take place in the field, or the producer can explain how they train the corresponding workers on the relevant pests, diseases, and weeds that affect the main registered crops.</i></p> <p><i>In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable.</i></p>	Recom.
PFA-FV 25.07	Anti-resistance recommendations have been followed to maintain the effectiveness of available plant protection products (PPPs).	<p><i>If the level of a pest, disease, or weed requires repeated controls in the crops, there should be evidence that anti-resistance recommendations either on the label or from other sources (where available) are followed. If only one chemical mode-of-action or class of PPP exists or is permitted for use in the country of production or country of export, rotation of product types may not be possible due to lack of availability of suitable alternatives.</i></p> <p><i>The resistance management strategy should be documented and consider the following points:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- Always follow the recommendations on the product label.</i> <i>- Avoid lower dose rates to ensure optimal application quality.</i> <i>- Use rotation programs and mixtures of PPPs with different modes of action that are effective against the target, where available.</i> 	Recom.

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 26	PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS		
PFA-FV 26.01	Plant protection product management		
PFA-FV 26.01.01	Only treatments with plant protection products (PPPs) authorized for the country of production are used.	<p><i>A system should be in place to ensure that PPPs are used as authorized for the country of production.</i></p> <p><i>Evidence may take the form of reference lists (online acceptable), product labels, or descriptions of prevailing regulations. Where no official registration scheme exists in the country of production, the producer should refer to “International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides” of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).</i></p> <p><i>Extrapolated PPP use is allowed as per local registration scheme (see guideline).</i></p> <p><i>An up-to-date documented list that takes into account any change in local and national legislation for biocides, waxes, and postharvest PPPs should be available for commercial brand products (including any active ingredient compositions) used.</i></p>	Recom.

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 26.01.02	Plant protection products (PPPs) and other treatments are applied appropriately and as recommended on the product label.	<p><i>A system shall be in place to ensure that PPPs, including biocontrol agents, are used as authorized for the specific crop and intended purpose (i.e., for the pest, disease, weed, or target of the intervention) and as per label recommendation or official registration body publication.</i></p> <p><i>If the producer uses an off-label PPP, there shall be evidence of official approval for use of that PPP on that crop in that country.</i></p> <p><i>All PPPs shall be correctly and properly labeled.</i></p>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 26.01.03	The producer takes active measures to prevent plant protection product (PPP) drift to neighboring plots.	<p><i>The producer shall take active measures to avoid the risk of PPP drift from own plots to neighboring production areas. This may include, but is not limited to, knowledge of what neighbors are growing, planting living fences, maintenance of spray equipment, etc.</i></p>	Minor Must

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 26.02	Application records		
PFA-FV 26.02.01	Records of plant protection product (PPP) applications are kept.	<p><i>Records shall be kept for all applications of PPPs, biocontrol agents, and postharvest treatments and shall specify the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Crop and/or variety treated</i> - <i>Application location (geographical area, the name or reference of the farm, and the field, orchard, greenhouse, or facility where the crop is located)</i> - <i>Exact dates (day/month/year) from start to end (The producer need not record end times, but shall always record end dates. By doing so, it shall be considered that re-entry intervals are calculated using the start of the next calendar day.)</i> - <i>Registered trade name and active ingredient or beneficial organism with scientific name</i> - <i>Preharvest interval as per the product label or, if not on the label, as stated by an official source</i> - <i>Amount of product applied (weight or volume) and concentration or rate</i> - <i>Type of machinery or application equipment used (backpack sprayer, aerial application, chemigation, etc.)</i> - <i>Reason for application (target pest, disease, weed, condition, etc.)</i> - <i>Full name of the applicator (person applying)</i> - <i>Full name of the person technically responsible for decision-making and authorization of treatment applications (if single individual authorizes all applications, person's details need be recorded only once)</i> 	Minor Must

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 26.03	Plant protection product preharvest intervals		
PFA-FV 26.03.01	There is evidence that the registered preharvest intervals have been complied with.	<i>The producer shall be able to demonstrate, through the use of records such as plant protection product (PPP) application records and crop harvest dates, that preharvest intervals have been complied with for PPPs applied to crops. Specifically, in continuous harvesting situations, systems shall be in place in the field, orchard, or greenhouse (warning signs, time of application, etc.) to ensure compliance with all preharvest intervals.</i>	Major Must
PFA-FV 26.04	Empty containers		
PFA-FV 26.04.01	Empty plant protection product (PPP) containers are triple rinsed with water before storage and disposal, and the rinsate is disposed of in such a way as to mitigate the risk to the environment.	<p><i>Pressure-rinsing equipment for PPP containers shall be installed on the PPP application machinery, or there shall be documented instructions to rinse each container at least three times prior to its disposal.</i></p> <p><i>Either via the use of a container-handling device or according to a documented procedure for the application equipment operators, the rinsate from the empty PPP containers shall always be put back into the application equipment tank when mixing or disposed of in a manner that compromises neither food safety nor the environment.</i></p>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 26.04.02	The reuse of empty plant protection product (PPP) containers for purposes other than containing and transporting identical products is avoided.	<i>There shall be evidence that empty PPP containers have not been and currently are not being reused for anything other than containing and transporting identical products as stated on the original label. In regions where there is a risk that the container could be used to carry drinking water, containers shall be punctured prior to disposal.</i>	Minor Must

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 26.04.03	Empty containers are kept secure until disposal is possible.	<i>There shall be a designated secure storage point for all empty plant protection product (PPP) containers prior to disposal that is isolated from the crop and packaging materials (e.g., permanently marked via signage) with physically restricted access for persons and fauna.</i>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 26.04.04	Empty plant protection product (PPP) containers are disposed of in such a way as to mitigate the risk to humans and the environment.	<i>The producer shall dispose of empty PPP containers using a safe handling system prior to the disposal, and a disposal method that avoids exposing people to the contents and avoids contamination of the environment (watercourses, flora, and fauna).</i>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 26.04.05	All local regulations regarding disposal or destruction of empty plant protection product (PPP) containers are complied with.	<i>All the relevant national, regional, and local regulations and legislation, if such exist, shall have been complied with regarding the disposal of empty PPP containers.</i>	Minor Must

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 26.06	Disposal of surplus application mix		
PFA-FV 26.06.01	Surplus application mixes or tank washings are disposed of responsibly.	<p><i>Applying surplus spray and tank washings to the crop should be the first method of disposal, providing that the overall label dose rate is not exceeded. Surplus mix or tank washings should be disposed of in a manner that does not pose a risk to the environment.</i></p> <p><i>No agrochemical wastewater should be released into the open environment.</i></p> <p><i>Records should be kept.</i></p>	Recom.
PFA-FV 26.07	Residue analysis		
PFA-FV 26.07.01	Information regarding maximum residue levels (MRLs) is available for the destination markets in which products will be traded.	<p><i>The producer or the buyer should have a list of currently applicable MRLs for all markets in which products are intended to be traded (regional, domestic, and/or international). The MRLs should be identified by either demonstrating communication with clients confirming the intended markets or by selecting the specific country or countries in which products are intended to be traded.</i></p>	Recom.
PFA-FV 26.07.02	A risk assessment for all registered products has been completed and the maximum residue level (MRL) requirements of the applicable market are met.	<p><i>The risk assessment should cover all registered crops and the potential risk of MRL exceedance based on plant protection product (PPP) usage.</i></p> <p><i>Risk assessment may conclude that analyses are not required when all of the following conditions are met:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>No use of PPPs during the production season or during postharvest handling</i> - <i>Evidence of residue testing by the buyer (processor or other)</i> 	Recom.

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
		<p><i>- A risk assessment validated by an independent third party (e.g., certification body (CB)/verification body (VB) assessor) or the buyer</i></p> <p><i>Where the risk assessment concludes an analysis is required, the number, type, location, and frequency of sampling should be recorded.</i></p> <p><i>Complying with MRL thresholds in the country of production is required, regardless of whether the product is exported to other countries. If MRLs of the market of intended export are stricter than those of the country of production, documentation exists that these MRLs have been addressed. Documentation should support export decisions based upon PPP use and MRL analysis results to maintain compliance with country-of-destination regulations.</i></p> <p><i>Where brokers are responsible for all shipments and the country-of-destination is outside of the producer's control, compliance with the MRLs in the country of production should be verified.</i></p> <p><i>The producer may delegate the risk assessment and sampling to a third party managed PPP residue monitoring system (RMS) that is assessed by a GLOBALG.A.P. approved VB/CB.</i></p>	

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 26.09	Plant protection product and postharvest treatment product storage		
PFA-FV 26.09.01	Plant protection products (PPPs), biocontrol agents, and any other treatment products are stored in a manner that ensures the associated risks are managed.	<p><i>The PPP storage should:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comply with all the appropriate current national, regional, and local legislation and regulations - Be located away from production areas, packaging storage areas, living areas, and harvested products to prevent cross contamination - Be kept secure and locked when not in use - Be accessible only to people with formal training in handling PPPs - Be properly ventilated - Have measuring equipment to support the accuracy of mixtures, including containers with graduation demarcations and calibrated scales - Be equipped with utensils (buckets, water supply point, etc.), which should be kept clean for the safe and efficient handling of all PPPs that can be applied (This last also applies to the filling/mixing area, if this is different.) - Ensure all PPPs used on registered crops are stored separately from those used on nonregistered crops (e.g., garden chemicals) - Contain the PPPs in their original containers and packages (In the case of breakage only, the new package should contain all the information of the original label.) 	Recom.
PFA-FV 26.09.02	The plant protection product (PPP) storage is structurally sound and robust.	Storage capacity should be sufficient to contain all PPPs during the peak application season. The storage space should be sturdy.	Recom.

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 26.09.03	Plant protection product (PPP) storage does not pose a risk to workers or create opportunities for cross contamination.	<i>The PPPs and postharvest treatment product storage shall mitigate health and safety risks to workers and the risk of cross contamination.</i> <i>Liquids shall never be stored above powders or granular formulations.</i>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 26.09.04	Plant protection products (PPPs) are stored at appropriate temperatures.	<i>Storage temperatures should be in accordance with label requirements.</i>	Recom.
PFA-FV 26.09.05	Plant protection product (PPP) storage is illuminated.	<i>The storage should be sufficiently illuminated by natural or artificial lighting to ensure that all product labels can be easily read.</i>	Recom.
PFA-FV 26.09.06	The plant protection product (PPP) storage is able to retain and manage spillage.	<i>Shelving shall not be absorbent in case of spillage (metal, rigid plastic, or covered with impermeable liner, etc.).</i> <i>The PPP storage shall have retaining tanks or shall be banded to 110% of the volume of the largest container of stored liquid to ensure that there cannot be any leakage, seepage, or contamination to the exterior of the storage. Materials and tools such as sand, floor brush and dustpan, and plastic bags shall be available and in a fixed location to be used exclusively in case of spillage of PPPs.</i>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 26.10	Mixing and handling		
PFA-FV 26.10.02	Plant protection products (PPPs) are mixed and handled according to label requirements.	<i>Appropriate measuring equipment shall be adequate for mixing PPPs, and the correct handling and filling procedures shall be followed.</i>	Minor Must

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 26.10.03	An accident procedure is available near the plant protection product (PPP)/chemical storage.	<i>An accident procedure containing all appropriate information and emergency contact telephone numbers should be present and display the basic steps of primary accident care. The procedure should be accessible by all persons working near the PPP/chemical storages and designated mixing areas.</i>	Recom.
PFA-FV 26.10.04	Facilities are available to deal with operator contamination.	<i>All plant protection product (PPP)/chemical storage and filling/mixing areas present on the farm should have eyewash amenities, a source of clean water near the work area, and a first aid kit containing the relevant first aid material.</i>	Recom.
PFA-FV 26.10.05	Plant protection products (PPPs) are transported between production sites in a safe and secure manner.	<i>The producer should ensure that the PPPs are transported in a way that mitigates risk to the environment or the health of the workers and should follow best industry practices.</i>	Recom.
PFA-FV 26.10.06	The farm has documented procedures addressing re-entry times after plant protection product (PPP) application.	<i>Based on the PPP label instructions there should be clear, documented procedures that regulate re-entry intervals for PPPs applied to crops (standard operating procedure when intervals start and end, time of interval or signs to enter, how to enter, exceptions to entering during interval, and equipment and time in the field required, etc.). Special attention should be paid to workers at greater risk.</i> <i>Where no re-entry period is stated, re-entry should not be allowed until the chemical has dried on the crop.</i>	Recom.

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 27	POSTHARVEST HANDLING		
PFA-FV 27.01	Packing (in-field or facility) and storage areas		
PFA-FV 27.01.01	Harvested and packed products are stored to minimize food safety risks.	<i>All harvested products (packed products, bulk) are stored appropriately and protected from contamination in accordance with the hygiene risk assessment.</i>	Major Must
PFA-FV 27.01.02	All locations for collection, storage, and distribution of packed products are cleaned and maintained.	<i>All product handling and storage facilities and equipment (walls, floors, conveyance lines, machinery, etc.) shall be cleaned and maintained with a defined frequency according to a documented cleaning and maintenance schedule. Maintenance shall not introduce food safety risks. Records of cleaning and maintenance shall be kept.</i>	Major Must
PFA-FV 27.01.03	Packaging materials are appropriate for their intended use and stored under conditions that protect the materials from contamination.	<i>Packaging materials (including reusable crates) shall be appropriate for their intended use and stored under conditions that protect the materials from contamination and deterioration. Packaging materials may be stored outside, providing risks of contamination have been addressed (e.g., packaging materials sealed in plastic covers).</i>	Minor Must
PFA-FV 27.01.04	Cleaning equipment, agents, lubricants, etc. are stored and used to prevent chemical contamination of products and are approved for application in the food industry.	<i>Cleaning equipment, agents, lubricants, etc. are stored and used to prevent chemical contamination of products and are approved for application in the food industry.</i>	Minor Must

Section	Principle	Guidance	Level
PFA-FV 27.02	Foreign bodies		
PFA-FV 27.02.01	Systems are in place to ensure that foreign materials do not contaminate products.	<p><i>Systems shall be in place to ensure that foreign materials, including insects, stones, debris, glass, and hard plastic, do not contaminate products.</i></p> <p><i>Glass, hard plastic, and similar materials (light bulbs, fixtures, etc.) suspended above products or used for product handling shall be of a safety design or protected/shielded.</i></p>	Major Must
PFA-FV 27.02.02	A system is in place for handling foreign material contamination.	<i>A system for handling foreign material contamination, including glass and hard plastic breakages (in greenhouses, product handling, preparation and storage areas, etc.) shall be in place.</i>	Major Must
PFA-FV 27.04	Pest control		
PFA-FV 27.04.01	A pest management plan is in place and implemented.	<p><i>A pest management plan for monitoring and control of pests in the packing and storage areas shall be in place and implemented.</i></p> <p><i>There shall be visual evidence that the pest monitoring and correcting processes are effective.</i></p>	Major Must
PFA-FV 27.04.02	Records are kept of pest control inspections and corrective actions taken.	<i>Monitoring shall take place and records of pest control inspections and follow-up action plans shall be kept.</i>	Minor Must

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