



Tesco Nurture Module

Scheme Rules

ENGLISH VERSION 13.0_FEB25

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1 INTRODUCTION

This document describes the rules for any party seeking certification against the Tesco Nurture Module add-on version 13 (hereinafter referred to only as the Nurture Module).

The Nurture Module builds upon the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) version 6 and adds additional rules and principles and criteria (P&Cs).

Tesco PLC (hereinafter referred to only as Tesco) developed Tesco Nature's Choice, rebranded as the Tesco Nurture (TN) scheme, which has been implemented through a code of practice since 1991. This scheme identifies key principles and practices that, when complied with by Tesco's producers and suppliers of fresh fruit, vegetables, and flowers and ornamentals, will ensure that their production and produce handling systems are sustainable, environmentally sound, and responsible.

In 2016, Tesco decided to restructure the scheme in a way that builds upon the current version of the IFA standard. Many of the producers that participate in the TN scheme also have GLOBALG.A.P. certification. In order to increase efficiencies in the assessment process, Tesco identified the overlap of both schemes and decided to assess the Nurture-specific P&Cs through the Nurture Module on top of IFA for fruit and vegetables.

For the sake of simplicity, this document will use the terms "certified products" and "certified producers." However, products and producers themselves are not certified. "Certified product" refers instead to a product originating from a production process certified according to the Nurture Module. "Certified producer" refers to an individual producer or producer group whose production processes have been certified.

2 OWNERSHIP AND SCOPE

This add-on is called the Nurture Module and is the property of Tesco:

Tesco Stores Limited, Checkout Building, Shire Park, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL7 1GA, UK

The scope of the Nurture Module includes products that can be produced under IFA for the fruit and vegetables or flowers and ornamentals product categories, under the scope of plants, said products being then supplied to Tesco stores in the UK. The current GLOBALG.A.P. product list also applies to the Nurture Module.

The Nurture Module is a private label program. As the owner, Tesco reserves the right to review, amend, and/or withdraw any element of the Nurture Module at its discretion. The governance of the Nurture Module is overseen by the Nurture Governance Committee (NGC), composition of which is detailed in the Nurture Module certification body and integrity program rules (Appendix 2). In matters related to any aspect of the Nurture Module, the NGC's decision is final.

3 ADMINISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION

GLOBALG.A.P. c/o FoodPLUS GmbH is the appointed Nurture Module service provider for the scheme administration. This includes management and integrity services with the certification bodies (CBs) that conduct the audit of the producers as well as maintenance and provision of database services to Tesco and its primary suppliers.

The ongoing review of the scheme rules, P&Cs, and guidance documents as well as the management of CB and auditor applications, complaints, sanctions, and appeals will be managed by the NGC.

4 NORMATIVE DOCUMENTS

The producers and traders of products originating from Nurture Module certified production processes must be aware of the obligations and responsibilities as defined within the normative documents. The latest version of the normative documents can be downloaded on the GLOBALG.A.P. website. The normative documents may also be provided by the approved Nurture Module CBs. The Nurture Module normative documents will be periodically reviewed by the NGC.

The NGC may approve guidance to aid clarification of specific areas, which will be classified as supplementary add-on documents. These changes will be notified as described above. The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat shall inform the approved Nurture Module CBs about changes in the normative documents, and the CBs shall in turn inform their producers registered for the Nurture Module.

The following Nurture Module normative documents provide information for the implementation of

and audit against the Nurture Module:

- a) The *Nurture Module scheme rules* (this document) describe the basic steps and considerations relevant for the applicant producer to obtain Nurture Module certification. They set the rules on how the registration, audit, and certification processes work, as well as describe the relationship between producers, Tesco, primary suppliers, and CBs.
- b) The *Nurture Module certification body and integrity program rules* describe the relationships between the CBs, Tesco, and the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat. They set the rules for CB and auditor approval and the integrity program.
- c) The *Nurture Module checklists* consist of the relevant IFA checklists and of the additional Nurture Module P&Cs. The Nurture Module checklists cannot be used in isolation. They must be used in conjunction with the relevant IFA checklists and are not valid independently.

There will be two different checklists:

- (i) For individual producers and Option 1 multisite producers without QMS: Nurture Module checklist (IFA v6 Smart/GFS combined)
- (ii) For Option 2 producer groups and Option 1 multisite producers with QMS: Nurture Module quality management system checklist (IFA v6 Smart/GFS combined)

The checklists shall be used for CB audits, internal farm audits, and self-assessments. The Nurture Module audit result becomes valid only when the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform is updated with the relevant audit information.*

The CB shall upload the checklist to the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform.

Once the CB uploads the Nurture Module checklist, the checklist will be visible to the following:

- (i) The Tesco team
- (ii) The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat
- (iii) Tesco primary suppliers (based on individual release by the producer)
- (iv) The CB that is the producer's trustee for the Nurture Module

The visibility of data is described in Annex I.2, "Nurture Module data access rules" of this document.

Unless otherwise specified in the Nurture Module scheme rules and the Nurture Module certification body and integrity program rules, the current GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations apply.

* The systems included within the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform will be defined at a later date.

4.1 Document control

- a) The latest versions of the Nurture Module documents can be downloaded free of charge from the GLOBALG.A.P. website and are available from all approved CBs.
- b) Language: Original documents are in English. The Nurture Module documents may be made available in other languages. In the case of a discrepancy between translations, the English version shall prevail.
- c) Changes to the documents:
 - (i) Normative documents are identified with a unique document code and a version number and date.
 - (ii) The date in the version name indicates the date of publication of the document.
 - (iii) A change in the first digit (e.g., change from 1.x to 2.x) indicates a version change. A change in the second digit indicates updates of the same version.
 - (iv) Updates can be made independently in the scheme rules, certification body and integrity program rules, and checklists, but a version change affects all normative documents.
 - (v) The updates are sent as official communication by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat to all approved Nurture Module CBs. Updates are further made available to Tesco primary suppliers on the Tesco Supplier Network. CBs are responsible for informing their clients of such updates.
 - (vi) The NGC is the final arbiter for all technical and scheme management decisions and interpretations.

5 APPLICATION OPTIONS

- a) Application for the Nurture Module audit is open only to individual producers or producer groups that supply Tesco. Producers will be registered in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform via an approved CB. Before registration, the CB must confirm that the producer is an existing Tesco producer, or a prospective producer directly linked to an approved primary supplier of Tesco. Producers may supply Tesco via more than one Tesco primary supplier (e.g., if the producer supplies the UK and Republic of Ireland markets).
- b) The Nurture Module certification scope shall be limited to only those products supplied to Tesco. Nurture Module certification is not permitted for:
 - (i) Non-Tesco producers supplying other customers via the Tesco primary supplier
 - (ii) Non-Tesco products produced alongside products registered for the Nurture Module (in the case of parallel ownership)
- c) This means products may only be audited against the Nurture Module if there is a current program to supply Tesco in place. Certifying all production processes and sites of a producer is not permitted unless all produced products are to be supplied solely to Tesco.
- d) The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat and Tesco shall monitor compliance with these requirements. Where there is evidence of non-conformance with these requirements, sanctions may be applied to suppliers, producers, and/or CBs.

5.1 Tesco primary suppliers

- a) Tesco primary suppliers are companies who sell directly to Tesco. They may be producers or traders.
- b) All Tesco primary suppliers, except those who are producers who sell directly to Tesco, shall contact the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat and apply for a bookmarking account. The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat will grant Tesco primary suppliers access to the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform and provide instructions on how to manage lists of their producers in the platform. A supporting document with bookmarking instructions for Tesco primary suppliers is available for guidance.
- c) The Tesco primary suppliers shall manage their certified supplier base via the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform.
- d) The Tesco primary suppliers shall inform the relevant CBs which producers and which production processes are to be audited.
- e) An online Nurture Module training will be offered to Tesco primary suppliers against the Nurture Module.

5.2 Producers

- a) Only producers who have an agreed program to supply products to Tesco via a Tesco primary supplier and whose production processes are certified or in process of being certified against IFA may apply for an audit through an approved Nurture Module CB. An audit against the Nurture Module cannot be carried out if the producer does not have a valid IFA certificate, as Nurture Module certification relies on and complements IFA.
- b) The Nurture Module audit must be completed at the same time as the IFA audit.
- c) Applicants can apply for an audit under one of the valid certification options as described below. A detailed description of the certification options is available in the current GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations.
- d) Nurture Module training may be offered to producers certified to the Nurture Module.

5.2.1 Certification options

Certification options follow the same rules as the current GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations.

Option 1 – individual certification

Single site producer:

- a) An individual producer (single legal entity) applies for certification.
- b) This individual producer is the certificate holder once certified.
- c) In this case, the “GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for individual producers” shall apply.

Multisite producer without QMS:

- a) An individual producer or one organization owns several production sites that *do not* function as separate legal entities, and no quality management system (QMS) has been implemented.
- b) This individual producer is the certificate holder once certified.
- c) In this case, “GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for individual producers” shall apply.

Multisite producer with QMS:

- a) An individual producer or one organization owns several production sites that *do not* function as separate legal entities, but a QMS has been implemented.
- b) This individual producer is the certificate holder once certified.
- c) In this case, “GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for producer groups and multisite producers with QMS” shall apply.

Option 2 – group certification

- a) A producer group applies for group certification.
- b) The group, as a legal entity, is the certificate holder once certified.
- c) A group shall have a QMS implemented and comply with rules set out in “GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for producer groups and multisite producers with QMS”.

5.3 Producer confirmation process

- a) At the start of each growing season, approved Tesco primary suppliers shall inform the relevant CBs which producers/producer groups and which products are to be assessed.
- b) The list shall include sufficient detail to enable the CB to conduct the Nurture Module audit and contain at minimum the producer’s name, address, GLOBALG.A.P. Number (GGN), producer group member details where applicable, products supplied to Tesco, and the O-Key of the Tesco primary supplier.
- c) If additional producers require a Nurture Module assessment during the season, the Tesco primary supplier shall notify the relevant CB.
- d) The Nurture Module assessment cannot take place without a current (for the coming cycle) confirmation of the producer/producer group by the Tesco primary supplier.
- e) If potential producers contact a CB to request a Nurture Module assessment after the initial list of producers has been submitted, the CB shall confirm the producer with the relevant Tesco primary supplier before agreeing to conduct the Nurture Module assessment.
- f) The CB shall also validate the approval of the primary supplier with GLOBALG.A.P. customer support at least once every year and when receiving confirmation from a previously unvalidated primary supplier. The CB shall keep a record of this verification for at least 3 years.
- g) If a producer is delisted, the Tesco primary supplier shall inform the relevant CB, which shall cancel the Nurture Module certificate in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform and cancel any upcoming assessments (including unannounced/surveillance assessments).
- h) If a certified producer is transferred to a different Tesco primary supplier, the new Tesco primary supplier shall inform the CB of the change.
- i) In all cases above, the CB shall keep a record of the confirmation by the Tesco primary supplier for at least 3 years.

6 REGISTRATION PROCESS

6.1 Registration

Registration for the relevant IFA standard in its current version is a prerequisite for a producer (applicant) to apply for the Nurture Module.

6.1.1 General

- a) The applicant shall register for the Nurture Module via the CB that carries out the IFA certification. Contact information of approved Nurture Module CBs is available on the GLOBALG.A.P. website.
- b) The chosen CB is responsible for the registration of the applicant in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform and for data updates.
- c) The registration process follows the current GLOBALG.A.P. general.
- d) Each CB invoice to a producer, or a document accompanying each such invoice, shall clearly identify the applicable Nurture Module fees.
- e) By registering, the applicant commits to complying with the following:
 - (i) Provision of additional registration data as specified in the Nurture Module registration form and in the Nurture Module data access rules
 - (ii) Communicating to the CB all data updates that are relevant for the registration (e.g., update of responsible persons, detected non-conformances, new products, new sites)
 - (iii) Acceptance of the Nurture Module data access rules
- f) The following rules apply with regard to confidentiality and data access:
 - (i) The Nurture Module data access rules regulate the access of different users of the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform.
 - (ii) During registration, the applicant gives written permission to FoodPLUS GmbH, Tesco, and the appointed CB to use their registration data for internal processes and sanctioning procedures, if applicable, as well as consent to Tesco, the designated Tesco primary supplier, and FoodPLUS GmbH to access the Nurture Module CB audit report and checklist with the audit results.
 - (iii) The producer can assign additional data access (to the Nurture Module checklist) to individual companies (Nurture Module observer companies). To identify these companies, the producer needs to provide their O-Key to the CB.
 - (iv) The CB shall ask Tesco for authorization to audit producers who declare two O-Key numbers (i.e., two Tesco primary suppliers) for the same product. In these cases, audits shall not be conducted without Tesco's approval.
 - (v) The CB shall not release any data to other third parties without the written consent of the applicant.
- g) The Nurture Module scheme management and the NGC reserve the right to refuse/terminate participation of a producer to prevent the scheme being brought into disrepute.

6.1.2 Parallel ownership

Parallel ownership of products certified and products not certified according to the Nurture Module (whether or not certified according to IFA) is allowed.

Control measures to prevent mixing of products shall comply with the “GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for parallel ownership” as well as with IFA v6 P&Cs *FV 06* (“Traceability”), *FV 07* (“Parallel ownership and segregation”), and *FV 08* (“Mass balance”) and with the requirements *NM 6*, *NM 18*, and *NM 27* in the Nurture Module v13 checklist.

6.2 Acceptance

For the registration to be accepted, applicants shall satisfy *all* the following conditions:

- a) They shall submit to the CB the Nurture Module registration form, which shall include all necessary information. Applicants shall have formally committed to complying with the obligations indicated in this document.
- b) With the acceptance of the applicant in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform, FoodPLUS GmbH will charge the CB the applicable Nurture Module certificate license fee as set out in the current Nurture Module fee table.
- c) The registration and acceptance process shall be finalized *before* a CB audit can take place.

7 CB AUDIT PROCESS

7.1 Self-assessments/Internal audits

The same rules as for IFA apply.

Producers shall use the Nurture Module checklist for their self-assessments and internal audits and audit compliance with all P&Cs.

7.2 CB audits

- a) Nurture Module certification requires a CB audit against IFA v6 (Smart or GFS edition) and against the Nurture Module conducted by an approved Nurture Module CB auditor who meets the requirements set out in the Nurture Module certification body and integrity program rules.
- b) Audits against IFA and the Nurture Module shall always be carried out simultaneously and by the same auditor and CB.
- c) The applicant shall give the CB and its auditors reasonable access to all installations and documents that are seen to be relevant to the objectives and scope of the Nurture Module audit process.
- d) The Nurture Module P&Cs shall be verified in every audit (Option 1 and Option 2). The three-year cycle rule is not applicable for v13 of the Nurture Module.

7.2.1 CB audit timing

- a) The initial CB audit against the Nurture Module shall be timed to ensure that the audit takes place during the harvest or handling of the principal crop so that all pesticide records, harvesting techniques, hygiene policies, etc. can be checked.

The principal crop is the one of which the producer sells the highest volume to Tesco.

- b) For initial CB audits of producers who grow multiple crops to be included in the Nurture Module certification within one contiguous harvesting season, crop grouping is allowed as explained in the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations.

If crops are grouped, the initial CB audit against the Nurture Module shall also be conducted during the harvest or handling of the principal crop.

- c) For CB audits in subsequent years, the audit date shall be timed to ensure that it is completed during, or as close as possible to, the harvest or handling of the principal crop.
- d) The CB audit date will preferably be set by mutual agreement, but in cases where there is a conflict, the CB shall select the date of the audit.
- e) Failure to agree on a CB audit date after two unfulfilled requests for audit dates will lead to the suspension of the producer from the Nurture Module.
- f) If a producer changes from one CB to another it is considered recertification, not initial certification.

7.2.2 CB QMS audit

Producer groups or multisite producers with QMS who apply for certification against the Nurture Module shall implement a QMS that guarantees compliance with IFA and the Nurture Module.

The CB shall evaluate the implementation of the QMS using the Nurture Module QMS checklist.

For every P&C, the CB shall evaluate whether the requirements of the Nurture Module have been complied with.

- a) The CB shall conduct initial and subsequent audits (surveillance and recertification audits) following the same rules as those set in the current GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, especially those regarding timing. For sampling of producer group members/production sites the same rules apply as for IFA v6 (Smart or GFS edition).
- b) The CB shall make sure that in the sample taken for the IFA audit there is always a number of Nurture Module producers in accordance with the calculation rules of the sample size applicable to the different crop types (controlled environment/open field production, or perennial). For Option 2 producer group members: The square root of the number of producer group members to whom the following rules apply shall always be included in the minimum number of producer group members included in the CB's audit sample:
 - (i) The producer group member uses a product handling unit (packhouse or open shed operation).
 - (ii) In the product handling unit Tesco products are handled.
 - (iii) The Tesco products are "unfinished," i.e., not ready for retail sale when dispatched.

Example: In a producer group with 100 producer group members, all of whom are registered for IFA and the Nurture Module, the CB shall inspect 10 (square root of 100) producer group members during the initial audit. If 7 producer group members handle Tesco unfinished products in their own product handling units, the CB shall include 3 (square root of 7) producer group members in the sample size of 10 producers.

If unfinished products were handled in the central product handling unit(s) of an Option 2 producer group, the relevant P&Cs of the Nurture Module shall be verified during a QMS audit.

- c) The producer group member/production site selection shall aim to cover all producer group members/production sites of the producer group/multisite producer throughout the years, taking into consideration risk factors, new producers, and random selection.
- d) Producers that move from one producer group to another shall have a higher likelihood of being included in the sample of producers chosen by the CB.
- e) The audit scope of the producer group members/production sites selected in the sample shall include:
 - (i) All products grown by that producer which are registered for certification

- (ii) All types of production (i.e., controlled environment/open-field production, or perennial)

In the case of recertification of Option 2 producer groups or Option 1 multisite producers with QMS, the scope may be covered between the certification and the CB surveillance audits.

- f) CB audits of producer group members/production sites in which more than one production type or scope is audited count as one CB audit for each scope or production type.

7.2.3 Unannounced CB audits

A producer certified to the Nurture Module has a 10% chance of being subjected to a subsequent CB audit as an unannounced audit as defined in the current GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations for unannounced audits. If the CB has ≤ 10 certified Option 1 producers without QMS, at least one producer shall be audited unannounced. If the CB has ≤ 10 certified Option 2 producer groups and/or Option 1 multisite producers with QMS, at least one of these shall be audited unannounced. CBs with only one certified Option 2 producer group/Option 1 multisite producer with QMS shall conduct an unannounced CB QMS audit at least every two years.

7.2.4 Off-site and on-site stages, and GLOBALG.A.P. Full Remote

The CB may divide announced CB audits (both initial and subsequent) into two stages, which shall be carried out by the same approved Nurture Module CB auditor as defined in the current GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations.

The Nurture Module P&Cs shall always be audited during the on-site stage.

GLOBALG.A.P. Full Remote is an emergency procedure that may be temporarily allowed by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat in cases where force majeure (e.g., war, pandemic outbreak, natural disaster) makes on-site CB audits impossible. To implement this procedure, the CB shall refer to "GLOBALG.A.P. Full Remote".

7.2.5 Subcontractors (outsourced activities)

- a) A subcontractor is defined as the entity furnishing labor, equipment, or materials to perform specific farm operation(s) under contract with the producer (e.g., custom harvesting of grain, spraying and picking of fruit)
- b) Subcontractors shall agree that approved Nurture Module CBs are allowed to verify the assessments through a physical audit in cases of doubt.
- c) Remarks shall explain the applicable subcontracting scenario for the relevant P&Cs.

7.3 Upload of the Nurture Module checklist and certification decision

- a) The CB shall upload the Nurture Module checklist in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform as per the current GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform rules.
- b) The CB shall also enter the information which is specific to the Nurture Module, including the details of the producer's primary supplier(s), the audited product handling units, the achieved Nurture Module compliance level, and the products in the scope of the Nurture Module certificate in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform.
- c) The comments in the uploaded checklists shall be in either English or Spanish for all Major Musts and QMS P&Cs, and non-conformances.
- d) The CB shall always audit the complete Nurture Module checklist (which includes the IFA P&Cs) and therein confirm the information that was provided by the applicant in the Nurture Module registration form.

- e) Because all P&Cs of the Nurture Module are Major Musts, justification shall be given in all cases (Yes, No, or N/A) for every P&C in all CB audits.

Remarks and comments (e.g., which documents were sampled) shall be site-specific and included in the checklist, showing that all P&Cs have been properly audited. Remarks and comments for the IFA P&Cs shall be given as indicated in the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations.

- f) Names or personal data of responsible persons or other employees shall never be entered in the “Justification” column of the Nurture Module checklist.
- g) Certification decisions shall follow the rules as explained in the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations. That means the CB auditor conducting the audit cannot take the certification decision alone. Instead, it shall be taken by a Nurture Module CB auditor independent from the one who conducted the audit or by a certification committee where an independent Nurture Module auditor takes part.

The certification decision will only be visible once the checklist is available for at least one product included in the certification scope of the Nurture Module.

- h) If certification is not achieved, i.e., if the non-conformances are not corrected, the Nurture Module checklist with all non-conformances, outstanding corrective actions, and respective remarks shall be uploaded to the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform. This is then the final checklist, which is also issued by the CB to the producer as proof of audit.
- i) After a positive certification decision, the CB shall issue the Nurture Module certificate by generating it from the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform. For Option 2 producer groups, the certificate shall also list all producer group members that are accepted for the Nurture Module.
- j) The IFA and Nurture Module certificates shall be issued by the same CB.

8 NURTURE MODULE COMPLIANCE SYSTEM

8.1 Nurture Module CB audit results

- a) The Nurture Module is based on a scoring system and results in different compliance levels. The calculation of the compliance levels combines the scoring of the IFA audit with the scoring of the Nurture Module audit as described below.
- b) The results of the Nurture Module audit are only displayed in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform after an IFA certificate is issued.
- c) There are two overall compliance levels for the Nurture Module:
 - (i) Certified (Nurture Pass, Silver, or Gold)
 - (ii) Suspension
- d) Each certificate owner receives only one compliance level, which then applies to all the products in the Nurture Module scope.

In the event of successive Nurture Module CB audits within a year (e.g., adding new crops to an existing certificate, unannounced CB audits, etc.), the compliance level will be the lowest obtained in any of the audits carried out during the year.

- e) For Option 2 producer groups and Option 1 multisite producers, the compliance level is established as the result of the “weakest performing” producer group member or production site during the CB audit. This means that if during the audit of the sample of producer group members or production sites the “weakest” producer group member or production site achieves the compliance level “Silver,” the compliance level of the whole producer group or multisite producer can only be “Silver.”
- f) For Option 2 producer groups and Option 1 multisite producers, the established compliance level of the certificate holder and the audited producer group member/production site will be available in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform.

8.1.1 Compliance levels

The following statuses are set based on the results on the day of the CB audit:

- a) **Certified – Gold:**
 - (i) Nurture Module: 100% Major Musts
 - (ii) IFA: 100% Major Musts; ≥98% Minor Musts; ≥50% Recommendations
- b) **Certified – Silver:**
 - (i) Nurture Module: 100% Major Musts
 - (ii) IFA: 100% Major Musts; ≥95% Minor Musts; ≥0% Recommendations
- c) **Certified – Nurture Pass:**

For producers who have non-conformances on the day of the CB audit, i.e.:

 - (i) Nurture Module: <100% Major Musts; or
 - (ii) IFA: <100% Major Musts; or
 - (iii) IFA: <95% Minor Musts and have solved them by implementing corrective actions.
- d) **Suspended:**

For producers who were certified against the Nurture Module and do not close the non-conformances during the time period set (maximum 28 days after the CB audit).

The compliance levels are established respectively of the IFA edition (Smart and GFS) against which a producer seeks certification. If a producer seeks certification for both IFA editions the determination of the compliance level will be determined by IFA v6 Smart and the Nurture Module v13.

8.2 Notification of non-conformances and CB audit report

- a) Whenever a CB auditor detects a non-conformance against a Major Must P&C of the Nurture Module checklist (IFA v6 *and* Nurture Module v13), the CB must notify the Tesco primary supplier of this situation on the day of the audit or within a maximum of two working days after the completion of the audit (where communication on the day of the audit is not feasible).
- b) Any incidents detected with relation to food safety that pose an actual danger to consumers shall be reported to the Tesco primary supplier on the same day as the CB audit and without delay.
- c) The CB shall use the official sanction form and follow the instructions written on it to report detected non-conformances. The official sanction form is available on the GLOBALG.A.P. website.
- d) Corrective actions follow the same rules as set in the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations.

- e) The CB shall complete the audit report in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform and, once the status is set to “closed”, send the final report in PDF format to the respective primary supplier of each Nurture Module producer. The CB audit report shall include both:
 - (i) Full audit details (checklist details not required)
 - (ii) Non-compliances with corrective actions

8.3 Nurture Module certificate validity

- a) The Nurture Module certificate may only be issued if the producer has a valid IFA certificate.
- b) The Nurture Module certificate is not transferable from one legal entity to another.
- c) The Nurture Module certificate validity is 12 months and shall be harmonized with the validity of the IFA certificate.
- d) In order to align CB audit dates with IFA, the producer shall request that the CBs shorten the validity of one of the certificates and conduct the IFA and Nurture Module audits before the earlier expiry date. Certificate validities can then be matched, avoiding a gap in the certification of both IFA and the Nurture Module.

Annex I.1 of this document includes additional information for scenarios where validities of IFA and Nurture Module certificates need to be aligned.

8.3.1 Maintenance of certificate

- a) The registration of the producer for the Nurture Module shall be reconfirmed with the CB annually before the expiry date of the Nurture Module certificate.
- b) Certificate validity extension follows the same rules as set out in the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations. The validity of the IFA and Nurture Module certificates shall be aligned.
- c) The validity of Nurture Module certificates may be extended beyond the usual 12 months for a maximum period of 4 months but only if there is a valid reason, which shall be recorded. The following are the only two reasons that are considered valid:
 - (i) The CB wants to schedule the on-site audit after the certificate has expired in order to observe a certain part of the production process because that part has not been seen in the previous audit, because it is considered to be a high-risk process in terms of product safety, or because it involves a newly added product, site, producer group member, or process the CB wishes to observe.
 - (ii) The CB was not able to conduct the on-site audit and/or the producer was not able to receive the CB audit due to circumstances beyond their control (force majeure) (e.g., natural disaster, political instability in the region, epidemic, unavailability of the producer for medical reasons) as described by the rules in the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations.

Resource constraints are not a valid reason.

8.4 Certificate cancellation

- a) A cancellation of the producer's certificate shall be issued if one or both of the following apply:
 - (i) The CB finds evidence of fraud and/or lack of trust to comply with the Nurture Module requirements.
 - (ii) There is a contractual non-conformance.

The CB may report to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat any findings of serious fraud or breaches of legal requirements/crimes detected, which will then be reported to Tesco via the NGC.

- b) A cancellation of the certificate results in the total prohibition (all products, producer group members/production sites) of the use of the Nurture Module certificate and any communication that may be linked to the Nurture Module.
- c) A producer whose certificate has been cancelled shall not be accepted for Nurture Module certification within 12 months of the date of cancellation.
- d) In this case, IFA certification may also be affected, depending on the reason for the cancellation.
- e) If a producer is delisted (i.e., the producer is no longer authorized to supply products to Tesco), the Tesco primary supplier shall inform the relevant CB, which shall cancel the Nurture Module certificate and any upcoming audits (e.g., surveillance audits). The CB shall inform the producer of the reason for the cancellation.

8.5 Notification and appeals

If the producer considers they have grounds for an appeal in relation to their Nurture Module CB audit, they may appeal to their CB in writing. They must do so within 5 days of receipt of their CB audit report.

Appeals may only be reviewed if the producer is able to provide sufficient evidence of grounds for an appeal. Please see some examples of justified reasons for appeals that may be considered when hearing an appeal:

- **New evidence:** The appeal presents new evidence or information that was not available during the initial review.
- **Circumstance change:** The non-conformance was based upon circumstances that transpire not to be the case when presented with relevant, permissible evidence.
- **Outside scope:** The appeal pertains to a non-conformance that was raised against the site but was outside of the scope of the standard.

9 CONFIDENTIALITY

The results of the CB audit of the registered producer will be available to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat, Tesco, the respective Tesco primary suppliers, and the CB. Any other party requiring information on the Nurture Module CB audit process concerning a producer is required to obtain the written consent from said producer.

In all other respects, the scheme management and its authorized agents will treat in confidence all producer information obtained during the course of the CB audit process other than that information which is in the public domain or unless they are otherwise required to do so by law.

The scheme management will, where appropriate, comply with and use all reasonable endeavors to ensure compliance by its authorized agents with the requirements of the UK Data Protection Act 1998 affecting any information held or stored concerning the producers and their activities.

10 DISCLAIMER

Under no circumstances shall Tesco, the scheme management, or its appointed agents be liable for any losses, damages, charges, costs, or expenses of whatever nature, including consequential loss which any producer may suffer or incur by reason of, or arising directly or indirectly from, the activities of the add-on, save to the extent that such losses, damage charges, costs, and/or expenses arise as a result of finally and judicially determined gross negligence or willful default of such person.

These scheme rules are subject to English law and any litigation, claims, or judicial actions will be judged in the courts of England.

If any competent authority considers any of the scheme rules to be unreasonable, then that individual regulation will be modified in order to be reasonable, but no other part of the scheme rules will be affected.

11 ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

11.1 Abbreviations

These abbreviations apply to this and all other documents related to the Nurture Module:

CB	Certification body
GGN	GLOBALG.A.P. Number
GLN	Global Location Number
IHT	In-house trainer
NGC	Nurture Governance Committee
PHU	Product handling unit
QMS	Quality management system

11.2 Definitions

All definitions follow the GLOBALG.A.P. definitions as per the current GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations unless otherwise specified in the Nurture Module rules.

ANNEX I 1 ALIGNMENT OF GLOBALG.A.P. AND NURTURE CERTIFICATES

Producers seeking Nurture Module certification for the first time may need to have the Nurture Module certification added to an existing IFA certificate.

The following offers advice how to manage different scenarios around the CB audit timing and certificate validity.

1 ALIGNING VALIDITIES OF IFA AND NURTURE MODULE CERTIFICATES

The rules for CB audits set in this document mean that:

- a) The Nurture Module CB audit can only be conducted **at the same time** as the audit against IFA v6.
- b) When the combined IFA and Nurture Module CB audit is conducted, both certificates may be issued with the same validity (the same “Valid from” and “Valid to” dates).

The information described below covers some common scenarios and complements the rules mentioned above.

1.1 Option 1 multisite producers without QMS

Multisite producers without QMS who are already certified to IFA and seek certification against Nurture Module v13:

- a) The CB may add the Nurture Module when renewing the producer’s IFA certificate at the end of the cycle.
- Or:
- b) The CB may add the Nurture Module during the validity of the producer’s IFA certificate by shortening the validity of the Nurture Module certificate to align with the validity of the already existing IFA certificate. The CB may then add IFA when renewing the producer’s Nurture Module certificate at the end of the cycle.

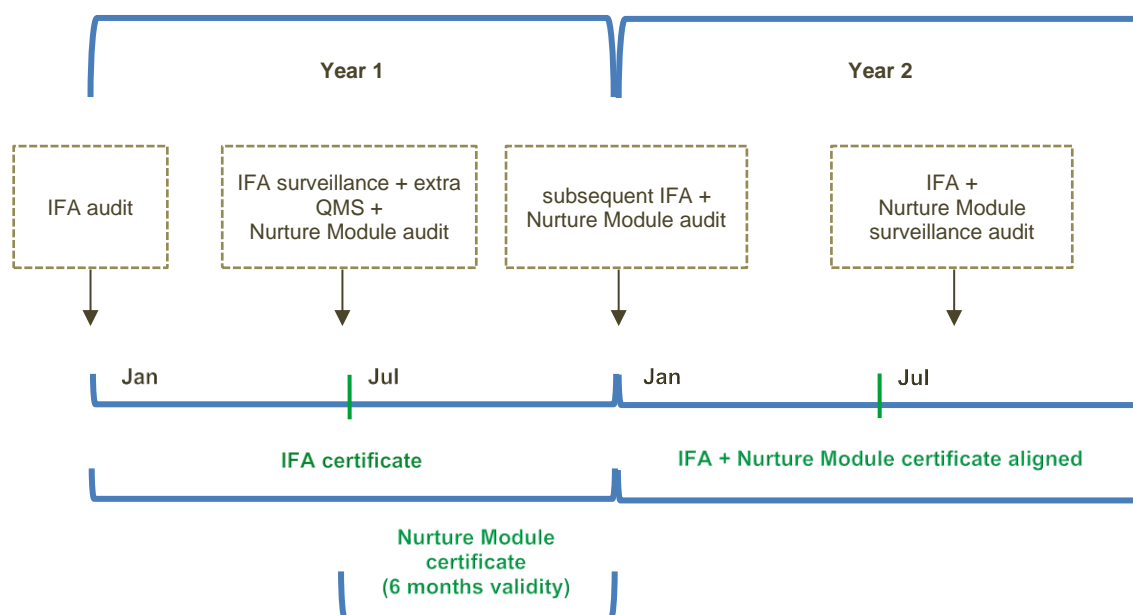
1.2 Option 2 producer groups and Option 1 multisite producers with QMS

Producer groups and multisite producers with a QMS who are already certified to IFA and seek the certification against Nurture Module v13:

- a) The CB may add the Nurture Module when renewing the producer’s IFA certificate at the end of the cycle.
- Or:
- b) In the GLOBALG.A.P. system, certified producer groups and individual multisite producers with QMS receive two CB audits per year: A (re)certification audit at the end of the certification cycle and a CB surveillance audit during that cycle.

CB surveillance audits are of the same scope as the (re)certification audits (complete IFA checklist) but normally without a QMS audit.

A way of introducing the Nurture Module between IFA certification audits is to conduct the Nurture Module audit during the IFA CB surveillance audit of producer group members/production sites, provided the QMS requirements relevant to the production of crops intended for Nurture Module certification are also audited for compliance (e.g., plant protection product list, product traceability and segregation, internal audits). The Nurture Module certificate shall then be issued with the same “Valid to” date as the IFA certificate.



This is only possible with CB surveillance audits conducted against IFA v6.

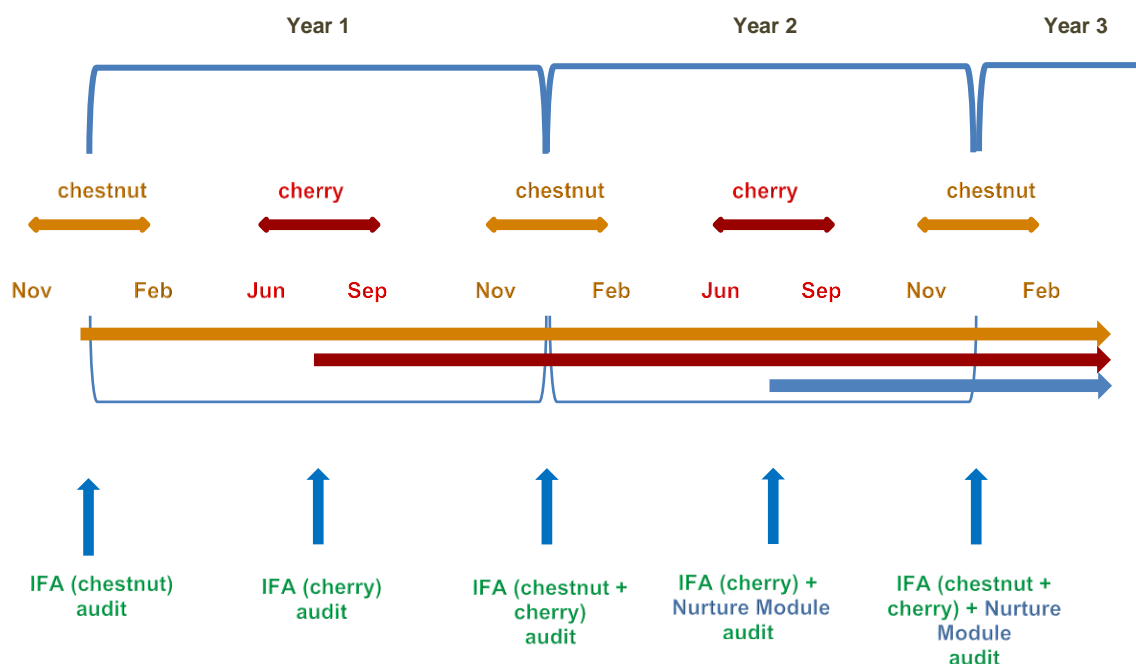
IFA and Nurture Module audits shall thereafter follow the process described in the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations. Both CB audits against IFA and the Nurture Module shall be conducted together in all recertification and surveillance audits of Nurture Module producers (i.e., two CB audits every year to audit different samples of producer group members).

- c) For initial CB audits against the Nurture Module, at least the square root of the number of Nurture Module producer group members shall be audited. This might mean an increase in the number of the producers to be included in the CB surveillance and recertification audits against IFAs.

1.3 Multiple harvest windows within a year:

If the producer grows products whose harvest seasons do not coincide in time, the following applies:

- a) Producers seeking Nurture Module certification for a new product may not have it added to a Nurture Module certificate until after its entire production process has been completely audited by a CB (i.e., all P&Cs are audited).
- b) The production process for each product intended for Nurture Module certification shall be audited by a CB during harvest in the first year of the producer's certification.
- c) It is not necessary to conduct multiple CB audits during the different harvest windows if the Nurture Module certificate is being renewed for those products.
- d) Recertification audits shall take place when at least one product intended for Nurture Module certification is being harvested/handled.
- e) CB surveillance audits shall never take place when no product intended for Nurture Module certification is being harvested/handled.
- f) The CB shall make sure that the production processes for all products intended for Nurture Module certification are audited during harvest within a four-year cycle.
- g) There are exceptions to this CB audit taking place during harvest, for example when there is a very short harvest/handling window.



Example 1: An individual producer grows chestnuts (harvest window from November to February) and cherries (harvest window from June to September).

Year 1: The producer seeks IFA certification only, so the CB conducts a first audit during the harvest of chestnut and issues the certificate for this product for one year in year 1.

During that year, a second visit to audit cherry production during harvest time allows adding cherries to the certificate for chestnuts, valid until November.

Year 2: The CB conducts the audit for chestnut and cherry production during the harvest of chestnuts to renew the IFA certificate for both products.

Later that year, the producer decides to register for Nurture Module certification for both products.

Because the harvest of chestnuts has ended, the producer must wait until the harvest of cherries, when his production process will be audited against IFA and Nurture Module v13 obtain a Nurture Module certificate for cherries. Chestnut production cannot be certified before it is audited against the Nurture Module during harvest.

Year 3: The CB audits the production of cherries and chestnuts against IFA and Nurture Module v13 during the harvest of chestnuts (November). The IFA and Nurture Module certificates will be issued for chestnuts and cherries with 1-year validity, until November in year 4.

It is not mandatory to conduct a CB surveillance audit during the harvest of cherries to maintain the certificate.

- h) It may not be necessary to conduct a new CB audit for the harvest activities of a new crop if the production process for a similar product has already been audited during harvest and added to the certificate (e.g., adding plums to a certificate that already includes peaches). Crop groupings are defined based on similarities in production and harvest processes and their risks.

ANNEX I 2 DATA ACCESS RULES

These are the GLOBALG.A.P. data access rules as set for the Nurture Module. More details (e.g., on the definition of the general data access groups such as GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat, CBs) are available in “GLOBALG.A.P. data access rules.”

This section sets out the rules based on which different user groups of the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform have access to producer- and product-related data that is collected during IFA and Nurture Module CB audits.

The data access group “Nurture Module observer” always includes Tesco. Tesco primary suppliers are also Nurture Module observers. Tesco primary suppliers have access to a producer’s checklist data if and only if the producer declared their Tesco primary supplier’s O-Key in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform. Tesco has access to all producer checklists. If a producer gives a specific Nurture Module Observer access to their checklist, this Nurture Module observer will automatically have access to the final CB audit report uploaded in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform. Access to “Nurture Module observer” status (whether for a Tesco primary supplier or other company) is given by a producer through the application form of the CB or during the CB audit. The producer shall notify the CB of the Tesco primary supplier via email in order for the CB audit report that is completed in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform to be sent to the respective primary supplier.

Important:

- All data fields are mandatory and shall be completed in the checklist as well as in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform.
- The data access rules listed below apply to only the information that is registered in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform.
- Data entry fields that are marked with an asterisk (*) are currently available in the checklist only but will be available and obligatory in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform in the future.

“x” indicates data that is visible to users assigned to the respective data access group.

1 GENERAL VISIBILITY OF THE NURTURE MODULE IN THE GLOBALG.A.P. IT PLATFORM

The Nurture Module is **not** visible to the public.

	Data access groups			
	GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat	CB	Nurture Module observer	Public user
Nurture Module	x	x	x	

2 COMPANY (PRODUCER/OPERATION) DATA

The information listed below is linked to the following legal entities that are registered in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform:

- a) Option 1 individual producer
- b) Option 1 multisite producer
- c) Option 2 producer group (legal entity)
- d) Option 2 producer group members (legal entities)

	Data access groups			
	GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat	CB	Nurture Module observer	Public user
Company (producer/operation)				
Company name	x	x	x	
Company address ¹	x	x	x	
Company city	x	x	x	
Company country	x	x	x	
Company contact information ²	x	x	x	
Company website (if available)	x	x	x	
Current GLOBALG.A.P. identification number (GGN/GLN)	x	x	x	
Previous GLOBALG.A.P. identification number	x	x	x	
Legal registration per country*	x	x	x	
Location ³	x	x	x	
CB registration number ⁴	x	x	x	
Contact person (responsible for legal entity)				
Contact name ⁵	x	x		
Contact information ²	x	x		
Product handling unit/Production site information*				
Name of the product handling unit/production site	x	x	x	
Product handling unit/Production site address ⁶	x	x	x	
Product handling unit/Production site contact information ²	x	x	x	
Sub-GLN(s)	x	x	x	
Location ³	x	x	x	
Products per product handling unit/production site	x	x	x	

Notes

- ¹ Company address includes: street address (or information available to describe the company (producer/operation) location), postal address, postal code, and state/province
- ² Contact information includes: telephone number and email address
- ³ Location includes geospatial coordinate information of the physical location of the site: northern/southern latitude and eastern/western longitude in decimal format (2+5 digit format, e.g., 10.12345)
- ⁴ Number assigned to the company (producer/operation) by the CB
- ⁵ Contact name includes: title, first name, and last name.
- ⁶ Product handling unit/Production site contact address includes: street address (or information available to describe the product handling unit/production site location), postal address, postal code, city, and country

3 PRODUCT AND CERTIFICATION DATA

Product data is specific to each product and not visible unless the product is in an active status (e.g., “accepted”).

	Data access groups			
	GLOBALG.A.P. staff	CB	Nurture Module observer	Public user
Product	x	x	x	
Product status	x	x	x	
Certification option including multisite information	x	x	x	
For producer groups: number of producer group members	x	x	x	
Certificate validity date	x	x	x	
CB	x	x	x	
GLOBALG.A.P. certificate number	x	x	x	
Countries of destination	x	x	x	
Quantity data ¹	x	x	x	
Product attributes ²	x	x	x	
Certification data ³	x	x	x	
Nurture Module CB audit report	x	x	<i>Important:</i> The CB audit report is not visible to all Nurture Module observer companies, only to those authorized by the producer and Tesco.	

Notes

- ¹ For plants: number of growing cycles for covered production; number of growing cycles for noncovered production; productive area of covered harvest in ha; productive area of noncovered harvest in ha. The productive area is the part of the production area where harvest occurs during the period covered by a valid certificate. The number of growing cycles refers to the number of crops planted on the same productive area during certificate validity.

- ² Product attributes are additional information linked to a product in an active status. Product attributes of Nurture Module: Parallel ownership, exclusion/inclusion of harvest, exclusion/inclusion of product handling, status of the Nurture Module compliance level (Gold, Silver, Nurture Pass).
- ³ Data includes “valid from” date of the certificate and the date of certification decision.

ANNEX II NURTURE LOGO USE

1 SPECIFICATIONS

- (i) Tesco is the owner of the Nurture logo, which is registered in the UK under registration 2505115. Full details can be found here: <https://trademarks.ipo.gov.uk/ipo-tmcase/page/Results/1/UK00002505115>. Tesco is the owner of the “Nurture” trademark (i.e., the word “Nurture” and the Nurture logo, collectively the “Nurture trademark”).
- (ii) Whilst the Nurture logo is not permitted to be used on finished product packaging, it may be used under other circumstances with written approval from Tesco. The producer/Tesco primary supplier/CB shall not use the trademark in any manner other than that provided by Tesco and shall not alter, modify, or distort it in any way. The Nurture trademark shall always be obtained from <https://trademarks.ipo.gov.uk/ipo-tmcase/page/Results/1/UK00003674010> or <https://euipo.europa.eu/eSearch/#basic/1+1+1+1/018338265>, to ensure it contains the exact corporate color and format.
- (iii) The Nurture logo:



- (iv) Use of the Nurture logo is not transferable to third parties. The producer/Tesco primary supplier/CB shall have a written procedure defining the conditions for use of the Nurture logo, and that procedure shall include the relevant requirements of this document. The use of the Nurture logo shall be controlled and a register maintained of the producers/CBs using the Nurture logo and where the Nurture logo is in use. Users of the Nurture logo must indicate that it is a trademark by using the TM symbol next to it.

2 PRODUCERS AND TESCO PRIMARY SUPPLIERS

- (i) Certification against the requirements of the Nurture Module in its current version entitles the producer/Tesco primary supplier to distribute and market their products under the trademark only to the extent that these products have been registered with a Tesco-approved CB and the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat and are produced, handled, or traded in a production site or location registered with the CB and the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat and are in full compliance with the requirements of the Nurture Module.
- (ii) Producers and Tesco primary suppliers with Nurture Module certification may use the Nurture trademark in business-to-business communication, on-site stationery and marketing materials, and for traceability, segregation, or identification purposes in the supply chain. Producers and Tesco primary suppliers may use the Nurture trademark on pallets that contain only products from production processes audited to the Nurture Module and that will not appear at the point of sale. The producer/Tesco primary supplier shall indicate when using the trademark that it is a registered trademark. The producer and Tesco primary supplier shall use the trademark in connection with only those products that originate from production processes that comply with the requirements of the Nurture Module.

- (iii) The Nurture trademark shall not appear on the product or consumer packaging at the point of sale. Producers and Tesco primary suppliers shall not use the Nurture trademark on “public-facing” materials, including websites and company signage.
- (iv) Producers and Tesco primary suppliers shall no longer use the Nurture logo once they stop supplying Tesco or are no longer certified to the Nurture Module, whether because of certificate expiry, cancelation, or suspension. In addition, failure to comply with the obligations of logo use, incurring a sanction, or termination of membership shall lead to a temporary or permanent withdrawal of the right of use of the logo.

3 CBS

- (i) Approved Nurture Module CBs may use the Nurture trademark in promotional material directly linked to their Nurture Module audit activities, on their websites, and in business-to-business communication. The CB shall indicate when using the trademark that it is a registered trademark.
- (ii) CBs shall no longer use the Nurture logo if they are no longer approved to conduct Nurture Module audits.

VERSION/EDITION UPDATE REGISTER

New document	Replaced document	Date of publication	Description of modifications
250228_Nurture_Module_scheme_rules_v13_0_Feb25_en	231101_Nurture_Module_scheme_rules_v12_0_Nov23_en	28 February 2025	<p>1 Introduction: "PLC" added to "Tesco"</p> <p>2 Ownership and scope: clarification added regarding NGC</p> <p>3 Administration and certification: "sanctions" added</p> <p>4 Normative documents: "must" added</p> <p>4 Normative documents c) clarification added & (ii) "the relevant" added</p> <p>5.2 b) NEW regarding timing</p> <p>5.2 d) "will" replaced by "may"</p> <p>7.3 a) "Audit Online Hub upload rules" replaced by "GLOBALG.A.P. IT platform rules"</p> <p>7.3 j) clarification</p> <p>8.2 a) "shall" replaced by "must"</p> <p>8.2 b) "immediately after" replaced by "on the same day" and "without delay" added</p> <p>8.4 a) (ii) clarification added</p> <p>8.5 clarification added</p>

If you want to receive more information on the modifications in this document, please contact the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat at standard_support@globalgap.org.

If the changes do not introduce new requirements to the standard, the version will remain "5.0" and an edition update shall be indicated with "5.0-x". If the changes do affect compliance with the standard, the version name will change to "5.x". A new version, e.g., v6.0, v7.0, etc., will always affect the accreditation of the standard.

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