



VERSION 6.0 SEP23

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CREATED BY: UNITED STATES NATIONAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. What is a national technical working group?

THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL

That's the philosophy at the heart of GLOBALG.A.P.

This is why [GLOBALG.A.P. Community Members](#) set up [national technical working groups \(NTWGs\)](#) in several countries to help adopt GLOBALG.A.P. standards and add-ons on a national scale. NTWGs are established voluntarily by GLOBALG.A.P. Community Members in countries where there is a need for clarification in the implementation of GLOBALG.A.P. standards and add-ons.

The NTWGs identify specific local adaptation and implementation challenges and develop guidelines, known as [national interpretation guidelines \(NIGs\)](#). These NIGs provide guidance to certification bodies (CBs) and producers on how to best implement and audit against GLOBALG.A.P. principles and criteria at a national level.

The NTWGs are also a valuable source of qualified information for the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat. By tapping into national networks of experts and stakeholders, the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat gains extensive knowledge about the different legal and structural conditions that exist around the world.

The NTWGs work in close cooperation with the [GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat](#) and the [technical committees \(TCs\)](#), who approve the NIGs developed by this growing number of groups.

2. What is a NIG and how is it developed?

An NIG is a document that provides guidance on the implementation and on auditing the compliance of a country's interpretation of the GLOBALG.A.P. criteria at a national level. The GLOBALG.A.P. criteria are the basis on which a country's interpretation is developed. The GLOBALG.A.P. principles are fixed and shall not be changed or interpreted.

A country's interpretation in a NIG always exists in conjunction with the GLOBALG.A.P. principles and criteria and cannot stand alone. Where there is **no country-specific addition** to the criteria that aids better understanding and implementation, the **original criteria are valid** and shall not be repeated in the country interpretation column.

Once approved, a country's interpretation of the criteria shall be audited together with the GLOBALG.A.P. principles and criteria. The country's interpretation **does not replace** the original criteria, but it is **a clarification** of them and exists in addition to the GLOBALG.A.P. principles and criteria.

The NIG is developed by a NTWG and goes through a transparent approval procedure and a peer review by relevant stakeholders in the country. After approval, the NIG becomes a GLOBALG.A.P. normative document. **This implies that all CBs that are working in the respective country shall include this NIG in their certification procedures.** It will also be indicated on the GLOBALG.A.P. certificate that an NIG has been implemented and that the CB audit took that into account.

The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat can withdraw or revise a NIG at any time on an individual basis if the global integrity of a GLOBALG.A.P. standard is challenged.

See the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations version 6 – Rules for individual producers/Rules for producer groups and multisite producers with QMS, section 2.1 e).

SEE THE NIG [APPROVAL PROCESS FLOWCHART HERE](#).

1. **Submission:** The NTWG submits the NIG to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat (email to: ntwg@globalgap.org) for internal technical review and approval. It is recommended to **check with the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat beforehand** to find the latest template for the respective NIG that shall be used. **The principles and criteria that refer to legislation have been highlighted and NTWGs should check these and refer to the relevant local legislation in the NIG.**

2. **Internal technical review:** The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat starts the internal technical review of the submitted NIG within two weeks of receiving the NIG. The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat **checks the NIG thoroughly in a timeframe of one month.**
 If any technical or formal discrepancies are detected in this review, the NIG will be returned to the NTWG, which has **one month** to propose amendments. The GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat shall **summarize all the consultation responses in an internal technical review report.** This report shall evaluate the proposed amendments, if any.
 After a second review, the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat checks whether the NTWG has implemented all the comments. If there are any additional comments, they will be sent to the NTWG within one month. The NTWG again has one month to implement the changes.

3. **Peer review:** Once the internal technical review requirements have been met, the NIG shall be subject to a **peer review for a period of four weeks.** The peer review shall be conducted via written consultation with the relevant GLOBALG.A.P. stakeholders, GLOBALG.A.P. Community Members, and CBs in the respective country or continent. The consulted parties shall be invited to make written technical comments in English only and shall provide justification. The comments shall be sent to ntwg@globalgap.org.
 If any technical or formal discrepancies are detected in this review, the NIG will be returned to the NTWG, which has **one month** to propose amendments to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat.

4. **Approval by TCs:** A final peer review report shall be prepared by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat, which shall summarize and evaluate the peer review comments and the proposed amendments, if any.
 The final NIG and peer review report shall be submitted to the relevant TC for provisional approval. The relevant TC shall make one of the following recommendations to the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat in their TC meeting or by written procedure:
 - a. NIG is recommended for approval
 - b. Rejection of the NIG – reasons given

5. **Final approval and publication:** After the provisional approval by the TC(s), the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat finally approves the NIG. The following steps are taken by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat in order to inform all the relevant stakeholders:
 - Uploading the NIG and announcement on the GLOBALG.A.P. website
 - Informing all GLOBALG.A.P. Community Members in the relevant country

- Informing all GLOBALG.A.P. approved CBs in the relevant country
- Informing all accreditation bodies in the relevant country
- Uploading information on the new NIG to CB Extranet

6. Consequences of the approval and publication of an NIG for:

CBs

- All CBs **shall confirm the receipt** of the approved NIG.
- CBs **shall inform all their clients** about the NIG.
- All CBs operating in the respective country shall include the NIG in their certification procedure **within three months of its publication.**
- After the three-month period, **CBs can be sanctioned for not applying the approved NIG.**

Producers

- There will be no major changes in the daily practice of producers. Rather, the NIG will facilitate the implementation of GLOBALG.A.P. principles and criteria, as it is adapted to the national circumstances, legal regulations, etc.
- Producers **will be informed about the NIG by their CBs.**
- Producers shall implement the GLOBALG.A.P. principles and criteria in accordance with the NIG **within three months of its publication.**

Accreditation bodies

- All accreditation bodies **shall confirm the receipt** of the approved NIG.
- **Accreditation bodies shall check whether all accredited CBs are applying** the NIG if they are certifying in the respective country within three months of its publication.
- After the three-month period, **CBs can be sanctioned for not applying the approved NIG.**

The implementation of the GLOBALG.A.P. IFA standard at a national level shall comply with the principles and criteria and the additional country-specific interpretation by the NTWG.

For certain criteria in this standard, the NTWG shall evaluate if they refer to national or regional legislation/regulations. If legislation exists, the NTWG shall make reference to these legal requirements and quote/explain the relevant parts of these legal requirements.

7. About producers implementing IFA principles and criteria in accordance with this NIG

During registration, producers may register with the CB by using their unique legal registration number for the country. This number is used for verification to avoid double registration in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems. The type of number may vary for each country (e.g., tax number, VAT number, producer number).

If required by this NIG, it is mandatory for the certificate holder (Option 1 and 3 individual producer and Option 2 and 4 producer group) and for the producer group members to share this unique legal registration number during registration with the CB.

If so decided by the NTWG, CBs shall record the type of number in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems as defined in this NIG.

For producers implementing this NIG in (Please enter country):

- ☐ The unique legal registration number is the (e.g., VAT number. Please enter name in the local language). It is mandatory to record individual producers and producer groups in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems using this number for unique identification in the country.
- ☒ There is no unique legal registration number, or it does not need to be recorded.

The CB may use the following non-exhaustive list of documents (issued by federal/state/local (e.g. county) agency) to verify that the producer/producer group is a legal entity:

Federal/State/Local (e.g. county)

Federal sales tax and employers' tax

Tax ID Number (TIN)

Employer Identification Number (EIN)

Operator Identification Number (OIN) – Required if using pesticide on crops – CA specific

SSN (if sole proprietorship)

Article of Incorporation

Business License

County registration or permit or other recorder deed, survey plat, rental, or lease agreement of the land, could also be local agency map outlining farm or ranch boundaries with acreage figures

Unified Business Identifier (UBI)

Trust Documents:

- Individual
- Partnership (includes wholly owned subsidiaries)
- Dba
- LLC (includes wholly owned subsidiaries)
- Inc. (includes wholly owned subsidiaries)

INTEGRATED FARM ASSURANCE GFS VERSION 6

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Section	Principle (Not to be changed or interpreted)	Criteria (Not to be changed)	Level	Country-specific interpretation of the criteria by NTWG
				ENGLISH
				CRITERIA
FV-GFS 01	INTERNAL DOCUMENTATION			
FV-GFS 01.01	A procedure is in place to manage and control documents and records.	<p>Documents and records affecting implementation of the requirements shall be managed and controlled.</p> <p>A documented procedure shall describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How documents and records are created, reviewed, approved, and updated - How reviews are undertaken and changes or amendments are made - How version updates take place - How relevant documentation is made available to relevant staff <p>Documentation shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identified with an issue number and/or date and appropriately paginated - Sufficiently detailed - Reviewed periodically to demonstrate ongoing compliance with the relevant requirements - Assigned to relevant staff - Revised to incorporate relevant modifications of the standard or normative documents within the period given by GLOBALG.A.P. - Approved by authorized staff prior to distribution - Effectively rescinded when obsolete 	Major Must	<p><i>This control point refers to the producer's internal documents. Policies and forms shall be the most recent. The producer may use version numbers, revision dates, document registry, or other methods to ensure the latest documents are available and used.</i></p> <p><i>Regularly is defined by the producer and varies by size and complexity of the farm. Regularly may be evident by changes to certain policies over rather than a prescribed review period.</i></p> <p><i>Use of self-assessment can be evidence of a review of documents.</i></p>

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V-GFS 01.02	Records for auditing purposes are up-to-date. Records are kept for a minimum period of two years, unless a longer period is required.	<p>All records generated or kept by the producer for auditing purposes shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be stored securely, readily accessible and kept up to date - Be retained for a minimum of two years, or longer if required by customers or prevailing regulations - Be valid and backed-up, if used in electronic format - Cover at least three months prior to the date of the initial certification body (CB) audit, or begin on the day of registration, whichever is longer - Reference full details of each area and all activities covered by the registration <p>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.</p>	Major Must	State records retention requirements may be longer. For those producers under FSMA PSR, consider the requirements of Subpart O § 112.164: 2 years after record is created, or 2 years after use (of instrument, test result, etc. is discontinued)
FV-GFS 01.03	The producer completes a minimum of one self-assessment/internal audit annually to the standard.	<p>The self-assessment/internal audit shall evaluate compliance, review implementation, and support identification of improvement opportunities. A program of site inspections ensures the site and equipment are maintained, in support of food safety. The frequency of inspections is based on assessed risk and type of activities.</p> <p>A documented self-assessment for individual producers or an internal farm and quality</p>	Major Must	<p>For site inspections: the annual self-assessment using the IFA checklist shall be considered as complaint, whereas all sites are reviewed as a part of that assessment. The producer may complete this as part of the review of their site risk assessment. The producer may utilize existing site assessments such as preharvest or harvest inspections, or equipment maintenance records to satisfy this requirement.</p> <p>For producers that choose to do more frequent site inspections, they may use only the relevant control points of this checklist.</p>

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		<p>management system (QMS) audit for multisite producers with QMS and producer groups shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Occur at least once a year and before the certification body (CB) audit - Be completed by the producer, assigned worker, or consultant, and/or as part of a QMS - Include all applicable topics covered by the standard/scope, even those addressed using subcontractors (including harvest and postharvest activities) - Assess all applicable sites and products <p>Self-assessments shall contain comments regarding the evidence observed for all not applicable and non-compliant Major Must and Minor Must principles and criteria. For internal farm audits, comments shall follow "GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations – Rules for producer groups and multisite producers with QMS."</p>		
FV-GFS 01.04	Effective corrective actions are taken to address non-conformances detected during the self-assessments/internal audits.	Corrective actions shall be documented. Any necessary changes shall be implemented. Compliance with all applicable Major Musts and at least 95% of applicable Minor Musts is required.	Major Must	Score after corrective actions must meet 100% Major musts and 95% minor musts

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FV-GFS 02	CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN			
FV-GFS 02.01	A continuous improvement plan is documented.	<p>The producer shall evaluate the farming operation and identify improvements to be undertaken as assessed by the standard. These improvements shall be included in a longer-term plan covering up to three years.</p> <p>The continuous improvement plan shall consist of relevant self-defined targets and describe how progress toward each target will be monitored. The plan may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Description of improvement objective - Current status, with date of initial target establishment - Planned activity - Target outcome with estimated date of achievement 	Major Must	<p>The producer chooses what the continuous improvement practices are included in this principle. Note for IFA v6 this control point is specific to the IFA checklist. Evidence may be documented in P&C so long as the improvement or intention of improvement is evident.</p> <p>For continuous improvement to be effective, the producer must establish a baseline.</p> <p>For support, the producer may utilize tools such as the SISC Calculator or Cool Farm Tool, etc. The SISC calculator and metrics provide producers the ability to baseline specific metrics and track improvement indicators of sustainability overtime “measure to manage”: Water, Energy, Habitat and Biodiversity, Nitrogen and Phosphorus Use, Soil Organic Matter, Food Loss</p> <p>Additional non-exhaustive examples: Increased producer training, increase in pack-out weights, e.g., less waste, due to production changes (variety, practices, employee training), reduction of pests in traps, improving IPM practices, reduction in accidents based on employee training programs, acquiring energy efficient equipment, or overall consumption, introducing solar, increased recycling efforts, if the producer has had complaints - reduction in annual complaints, etc.</p>
FV-GFS 02.02	There is evidence that a continuous improvement plan is implemented.	The implementation of identified points in the continuous improvement plan shall be supported by evidence.	Major Must	

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		<p>Evidence may include new procedures or policies, data sharing (to quantify changes), training, etc.</p> <p>The continuous improvement plan shall be supported by documented evidence. The evidence kept on file may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actual outcome of efforts, with date of evaluation - Comments on why the effort was successful or not successful - If one or more of the goals are not reached, justification and description of further action - Sharing of relevant data with the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat 		
FV-GFS 03	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING			
FV-GFS 03.01	The roles and responsibilities of workers whose jobs have an impact on the implementation of the standard are defined.	<p>Workers with assigned duties that affect food safety and the implementation of activities covered by the standard shall be identified, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Job function, responsibilities, and title - Position within organizational structure - Contact information - Alternate in case of absences <p>One worker shall be clearly identifiable as responsible for workers' health, safety, and welfare.</p>	Major Must	<p>The workers with assigned duties refers to key employees responsible, not all employees and workers. E.g., management, supervisors, persons responsible for development of food safety procedures, sanitation and cleaning, decisions for application, PHI, etc.</p> <p>Depending on the size and complexity of the company, the auditor may determine that a structure is in place through observation and interviews</p>
FV-GFS 03.02	Individuals responsible for technical decision-making on inputs can demonstrate competence.	Individuals responsible for technical decisions regarding treatments (quantity and type of fertilizer, pre- and postharvest plant protection product (PPP) applications, both organic and inorganic, etc.) shall demonstrate competence in such topics.	Major Must	Producers may use EPA and/or DPR and/or other state pesticide licenses where compliance requirements or evidences of compliance are provided by the appropriate state or federal agencies, where these requirements cover all

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		<p>If the individual responsible for technical decisions is the producer, a designated worker, or a technical expert, their experience shall be complemented by current technical knowledge (access to technical literature, specific training attendance, active PPP applicator license, etc.).</p> <p>If the individual responsible for technical decisions is an external qualified adviser, technical competence shall be demonstrated by official qualifications or specific training attendance certificates.</p>		hazards as required by the risk assessment and tailored for each operation.
FV-GFS 03.03	Worker training includes the necessary skills and competencies and is supported by records.	<p>Workers shall be able to demonstrate competence in their assigned tasks.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Evidence of training includes attendance records, certificates, or other relevant qualifications. Subcontractors shall either be trained by the producer or be able to demonstrate competence through previous training or certification.</p>	Major Must	
FV-GFS 03.04	Records of all training activities are kept.	Induction or refresher training shall be recorded. Training records relevant to the implementation of the standard and good agricultural practices shall include:	Major Must	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Date of training and duration - Topic(s) covered - Names of trainer(s) or training provider(s) - Names of trainee(s) (e.g., attendance list(s)) - Evidence of attendance (e.g., trainee signature) 		
FV-GFS 04	OUTSOURCED ACTIVITIES (SUBCONTRACTORS)			
FV-GFS 04.01	The producer ensures that outsourced activities comply with the principles and criteria of the standard which are relevant to the services provided.	<p>Outsourced processes and/or the use of subcontractors are identified and controlled.</p> <p>The producer shall oversee the activities undertaken by the subcontractors to ensure compliance with the relevant principles and criteria in the standard. This applies to each activity and season in which at least one subcontractor is used. Evidence of compliance with relevant principles and criteria shall be collected by means of an assessment and shall be available during the certification body (CB) audit.</p> <p>If such an assessment is undertaken by a producer, evidence of compliance with the relevant principles and criteria shall be available. The subcontractor shall agree to such assessment by a producer where relevant to the standard.</p> <p>A GLOBALG.A.P. approved CB may assess the subcontractor and may issue a letter of conformance with the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Date of assessment 	Major Must	<p><i>Subcontractor: The entity furnishing labor, equipment, and/or materials to perform specific farm operation(s) under contract with the producer (e.g., custom harvest, spraying, picking the fruit).</i></p> <p><i>Service provider: A commercial entity that provides work performed in an expert manner by an individual or team for the benefit of the producer (e.g. crop consultant, IPM advisor).</i></p> <p><i>The difference is that generally a service provider is included in a specific P&C for a task within an operation, whereas a subcontractor is an outsourced farming operation and applies to more than one to several P&Cs.</i></p> <p><i>Farm Labor Contractors with a FLC report and letter of conformance issued annually by a CB do not need to be reaudited by a CB</i></p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Name of the CB - CB auditor name - Details of the subcontractor - List of the assessed principles and criteria <p>Certificates issued to subcontractors for standards that are not officially approved by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat are not valid evidence of compliance with the standard.</p>		
FV-GFS 05	SPECIFICATIONS, SUPPLIERS, AND STOCK MANAGEMENT			
FV-GFS 05.01	Specifications and procedures for materials and services that are relevant to food safety are available.	<p>A procedure shall be implemented and maintained for the control of suppliers of inputs and services that may introduce a food safety risk. The procedure shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation, approval, and continued monitoring of suppliers - Procurement in emergency situations to ensure materials and services still conform to specifications - Availability of records of evaluations, investigations, and follow-up actions <p>Specifications supporting the implementation of the standard and customer compliance shall be available.</p> <p>Specifications shall be reviewed annually or when changes occur, whichever is sooner.</p> <p>These changes may include the following, where relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supplier specifications for packaging (where applicable) 	Major Must	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allowable and acceptable licenses or qualifications for service providers (pest control contractors, laboratory services, etc.) - Descriptions of customer requirements - Defined specifications for raw materials <p>Descriptions of how alternate suppliers will be evaluated in the event of emergency or supply chain disruptions shall also be available.</p>		
FV-GFS 05.02	An inventory is in place to manage stock on site.	<p>A stock inventory shall ensure that materials and products do not pose a risk to food safety and that those with limited shelf lives are used in the correct order. The inventories shall consider purchased materials (plant protection products (PPPs), ammonium fertilizer, etc.) and apply to both pre- and postharvest activities (e.g., chlorine tablets). Items considered to be stock may include cleaning agents, fertilizers, and PPPs.</p> <p>Monthly updates are not required, but a calculation of inventory shall occur within a month of any use or purchase. In months when there is no stock movement, there is no need to update the inventory. Where products are distributed by a central function, the records may be held by the quality management system (QMS).</p>	Major Must	

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FV-GFS 06	TRACEABILITY			
FV-GFS 06.01	All registered products are traceable back to and from the registered farm where they were produced and handled (where applicable).	<p>A documented identification and traceability system shall allow registered products to be traced back to the registered farm or supplier, or to the registered farms or suppliers of the Option 2 producer group, and traced forward to the immediate customer (one step forward and one step back).</p> <p>Harvest information shall link a batch or lot to the production records or the farms of specific producers. Product handling shall also be covered, where applicable.</p> <p>Records shall be available of the annual verification of the traceability system. This verification can occur through an actual recall and withdrawal or as part of a mock recall and withdrawal exercise.</p>	Major Must	
FV-GFS 07	PARALLEL OWNERSHIP, TRACEABILITY, AND SEGREGATION			
FV-GFS 07.01	An effective system is in place to identify all products originating from GLOBALG.A.P. certified processes and segregate them from products originating from noncertified processes.	It shall be possible to identify all products originating from GLOBALG.A.P. certified production processes and to keep them separate from products originating from noncertified production processes.	Major Must	<p>Not PO if all product is certified.</p> <p>Not PO if PHU is subcontractor for other growers.</p> <p>Distinction of PP/PO was important, note that V6 combines both into 1 definition.</p> <p>In situation in true case of PO, can there be an agreement that in the case that PHU has no control over packaging material, how show the grower conform to this requirement.</p> <p>This P&C can be non-applicable (N/A) when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The producer/the producer group only owns GLOBALG.A.P. products (no parallel ownership) or

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •When there is a written agreement available between the producer/ the producer group and the buyer not to use the GGN on producer's final product packaging or •When there is a market label specification that prevents the producer/ producer group from using the GGN on the producer's final product packaging. <p>In all cases where the GGN is not used on final product when there is parallel ownership, there shall be at minimum a system in place to identify the product originating from certified production. There shall be written information in place between the buyer and the producer/ producer group which explains the system. All agreements and communication shall be documented and available during the CB audits.</p>
FV-GFS 07.02	The GLOBALG.A.P. Number (GGN) is indicated on all final products originating from certified production processes when registered for parallel ownership.	Where the producer is registered for parallel ownership (i.e., where products originating from certified and noncertified production processes are owned in parallel by one legal entity), all products originating from certified production processes packed in final consumer packaging (either on the farm or after product handling) shall be identified with a GGN. It can be the GGN of the Option 2 producer group, the GGN of the producer group member, both GGNs, or the GGN of the Option 1 individual producer. The GGN shall not be used to label products originating from noncertified production processes.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 07.03	A final verification step is in place to ensure correct dispatch of products originating from certified	The check shall be documented to show that the products are correctly dispatched according to the certification status.	Major Must	

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	and noncertified production processes.			
FV-GFS 07.04	Products that are purchased from different sources are identified.	<p>Procedures (appropriate for the scale of the operation) shall be established, documented, and maintained for identifying quantities of products originating from certified and, where applicable, noncertified production processes purchased from different sources (i.e., other producers or traders) for all registered products.</p> <p>Records shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Product description - GLOBALG.A.P. certification status - Quantities of product(s) purchased - Supplier details - Copy of the GLOBALG.A.P. certificates, where applicable - Traceability data/codes related to the purchased products - Purchase orders and/or invoices received - List of approved suppliers 	Major Must	
FV-GFS 08	MASS BALANCE			CBs shall review evidences (transaction documents, delivery notes, etc.) regarding quantities received and sold/shipped as to verify the mass balance and keep a record of evidences reviewed and actual quantities in the CB checklist. However, in the case where final reports are uploaded with public visibility or published for redistribution, confidential business information, such as actual quantities, may be omitted from the final report. The CB shall retain this information in their records and be able to recall it upon request.

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FV-GFS 08.01	Sales records are available for all quantities sold for all registered products.	Sales details of the quantities of products originating from certified and, where applicable, noncertified production processes shall be recorded for all registered products, with particular attention paid to quantities sold and descriptions provided. The documents shall demonstrate the consistent balance between the input and the output of products originating from certified and noncertified production processes.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 08.02	Quantities (produced, stored, and/or purchased) are recorded and summarized for all products.	Quantities (including information on volumes or weight) of incoming (including purchased products), outgoing (including reject, waste, pulp, etc.), and stored products (both from certified and, where applicable, from noncertified production processes) shall be recorded and a summary maintained for all registered products, so as to facilitate the mass balance verification process, while accounting for industry acceptable gains and losses. The frequency of the mass balance verification shall be defined and be appropriate to the scale of the operation, but it shall be done at least annually for each product. Documents to demonstrate mass balance shall be clearly identified. If the certification body (CB) audit is done during the harvest season, mass balance data from last year's harvest may be reviewed. This shall be prepared prior to the CB audit. "N/A" is possible where a bulk product (e.g., potatoes sold to a buyer in bulk directly from the field) is handed from harvest directly to the buyer	Major Must	As example, a producer's "pack-out", or any other collection of documents which trace volumes/weights of products received, handled, shipped, loss, and current inventory, etc. and clearly show certified input to output values, are acceptable evidences. However, producers are not required to provide "pack-outs" as evidence, and may show evidence through other record keeping processes, such as inventory/sales software, or other producer recording forms that show product quantities from harvest to shipment. Mass balance frequencies shall be defined by the producer, such as daily/weekly/seasonal, etc. Mass balance is designed to check that what is shipped is what is harvested, this needs to be demonstrated. This calculation may not include waste, depending on the operation, and whether the field pack is sold directly to the customer.

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		and/or where a product is harvested directly into containers from the field and shipped to customers. Justification of why mass balance is not applicable shall be given.		
FV-GFS 09	RECALL AND WITHDRAWAL			
FV-GFS 09.01	Documented procedures are in place to manage the recall and withdrawal of products from the marketplace, and such procedures are tested annually.	<p>The producer shall have a documented procedure that identifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The types of events that may result in a recall and withdrawal - The persons responsible for making decisions on the possible recall and withdrawal - The mechanism for notifying the next step in the supply chain - The notification of relevant authorities when required - Steps taken to contact the certification body (CB), which in turn may contact the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat - The methods for reconciling stock <p>The procedure shall be tested annually for effectiveness and the results of the mock recall shall be recorded (e.g., selecting a lot and demonstrating that it can be effectively traced forward to the customer). Actual communications of the mock recall to the clients are not necessary. An up-to-date list of telephone numbers and email addresses is sufficient.</p>	Major Must	

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		If an actual recall and withdrawal occurred during the past year, documentation of these may be provided for compliance.		
FV-GFS 10	COMPLAINTS			
FV-GFS 10.01	A complaint procedure relating to both internal and external issues covered by the standard is available and implemented.	<p>A documented complaint procedure shall be available to facilitate the recording and follow-up of all received complaints relating to issues covered by the standard and to record actions taken with respect to such complaints.</p> <p>If the producer is informed by a competent and/or local authority that they are under investigation and/or has received a sanction within the scope of the certification, the complaint procedure shall require the producer to notify the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat via the certification body (CB).</p> <p>In case of complaints related to the standard (food safety, workers' well-being, environmental protection, etc.) that can endanger the reputation and credibility of the GLOBALG.A.P. brand, the certificate holder shall inform the CB immediately.</p> <p>In the case of producer groups, the producer group members do not need a complete complaint procedure, but only the parts that are relevant to them.</p>	Major Must	As clarification, this control point relates to food safety complaints and additional points including environmental and worker health and safety as they are covered by the IFA standard. The complaints are relevant from both workers and external persons affected by the farming operations. This P&C does not refer to quality issues of product, however, the compliant system/procedure can be the same.

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		Workers shall be permitted to file complaints to their employer on topics covered under the standard, and such complaints shall be documented and addressed by the certificate holder.		
FV-GFS 10.02	Workers are informed of their rights related to the standard, and there is a grievance mechanism available and implemented through which workers can file complaints confidentially and without fear of retaliation.	<p>Workers shall be informed (in the predominant workforce language) of the general topics covered by the standard, of legal rights granted by prevailing regulations, and of their ability to file complaints to their employer.</p> <p>The producer shall have a mechanism to resolve the claims and complaints suitable to the size of the farm, type of workers, and working conditions. The mechanism shall be confidential and simple to use, and a description (i.e., where to file, how to file, time expected to solve the issue) shall be available to the workers all the time that they are present on the farm. (The description can consist of pictograms or signs in the predominant workforce language describing the mechanism.)</p> <p>Records of the filed complaints shall be kept and checked.</p>	Major Must	<p>Worker complaints and non-retaliation are covered under OSHA and H-2A. OSHA standards and provisions related to employee rights, reporting unsafe conditions, and protection against retaliation. Some of these include:</p> <p>General Duty Clause (Section 5(a)(1)): This clause requires employers to provide a workplace that is free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees.</p> <p>Whistleblower Protection (Section 11(c)): This section prohibits employers from retaliating against employees who exercise their rights under the OSH Act. If an employee reports unsafe conditions or participates in an OSHA inspection, they are protected from retaliation.</p> <p>Right to File a Complaint (Section 8): This section allows employees to file a complaint with OSHA if they believe their workplace is unsafe or unhealthful. Complaints can be filed confidentially.</p> <p>Recordkeeping (Part 1904): Employers are required to keep records of work-related injuries and illnesses. This can be relevant in cases where employees are reporting unsafe conditions or hazards.</p> <p>Hazard Communication (HazCom) Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200): This standard requires employers to provide information to employees about hazardous chemicals in the workplace. Employees have the right to know about potential hazards they might be exposed to.</p>

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				Respiratory Protection (29 CFR 1910.134): This standard establishes requirements for using respirators to protect employees from breathing contaminated or oxygen-deficient air. Additionally requirements in the GLOBALG.A.P. criteria not covered by OSHA may be covered under the same reporting mechanisms. https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/complaint.htm
FV-GFS 11	NON-CONFORMING PRODUCTS			
FV-GFS 11.01	Procedures are in place to manage and handle non-conforming products.	<p>Documented procedures, including a hold-and-release process, shall be in place to prevent unintended use or delivery of non-conforming products.</p> <p>Products may be considered non-conforming because of food safety issues, quality issues, maximum residue limit exceedance(s), cross contamination issues, etc.</p> <p>Non-conforming products shall be identified during production and handling. Non-conforming products shall be segregated, appropriately handled, and potentially redirected to a suitable end use (processing, animal feed, etc.). If not redirected, the products shall be disposed of appropriately.</p>	Major Must	As of publishing this NIG, GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat defines non-conforming product as “final” product. Definition of non-conforming product is: “a product that does not fulfill food safety, legal, or a specified quality”.

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		<p>The non-conforming product procedures shall also address the treatment of dropped product, as per the risk assessment.</p> <p>Products that pose a risk to food safety shall not be harvested or shall be discarded. Discarded products and waste materials shall be stored in clearly designated areas to avoid contamination of products. Signs shall be used to identify waste products, where appropriate. These areas shall be routinely cleaned and/or disinfected according to the cleaning schedule.</p>		
FV-GFS 12	LABORATORY TESTING			
FV-GFS 12.01	Laboratory testing occurs in a manner consistent with industry requirements and prevailing regulations.	<p>There shall be documented evidence that laboratories used to analyze parameters impacting food safety are operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025.</p> <p>Analysis shall include water quality, plant protection product residues, environmental monitoring samples, and microbial, chemical, and physical contamination, as well as all other applicable tests. The laboratories shall show evidence of participation in proficiency tests or applicable certifications (e.g., the proficiency testing program provider FAPAS®).</p>	Major Must	<p><i>Equivalent standard and/or laboratories approved for water testing by the local competent authorities.</i></p> <p><i>NELA/state/government accreditations, where available, are acceptable. E.g., California ELAP</i></p>

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FV-GFS 13	EQUIPMENT AND DEVICES			
FV-GFS 13.01	Equipment, tools, and devices are fit for purpose and maintained.	<p>Equipment, tools, and devices coming into contact with products shall be made of materials that are safe for contact with products (nontoxic) and designed and constructed to ensure that they can be cleaned, disinfected, and maintained to avoid contamination.</p> <p>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 identified, maintained, routinely verified, and, where applicable, calibrated at least annually. Calibration shall be traceable to a national or international standard or method. Equipment maintenance, calibration (where applicable), and repairs shall be documented. Maintenance activities shall not present risks to food safety, the environment, or workers.</p> <p>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.</p>	Major Must	<p><i>Calibrations refer to a widely used industry-acceptable method, e.g., pesticide equipment calibration. Example: manufacturer provided, extension services best practices</i></p> <p><i>Refer to Worker Protection Standard (WPS) for calibration of equipment.</i></p> <p><i>If licensed commercial applicator or rented application equipment is used, the supplier can be considered as an independent calibrator.</i></p>

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		Irrigation/Fertigation equipment: At a minimum, annual maintenance records shall be kept for all methods of irrigation/fertigation machinery/techniques used.		
FV-GFS 13.02	Equipment is stored in such a way as to prevent product contamination.	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.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 13.03	Vehicles and equipment used for loading, transport, or storage of harvested products are cleaned, maintained, and appropriate for use.	Vehicles and equipment used for loading, transport, or storage of harvested products shall be cleaned and maintained and stored to prevent product contamination (animal manure, fuel spills, etc.). Vehicles and equipment shall be suitable for the intended purpose and stored to minimize food safety risk.	Major Must	<i>Transport equipment and vehicles used for harvested produce and not under the direct control/ownership of the producer should also be included in the risk assessment, inspected for cleanliness before loading, and rejected if contamination risk are observed.</i>
FV-GFS 14	FOOD SAFETY POLICY DECLARATION			
FV-GFS 14.01	The producer has completed and signed the food safety policy declaration.	The producer's food safety policy declaration shall: - Support the existence of a food safety culture, consisting of communication, training, feedback from workers, and measurable food safety objectives - Be annually completed and signed by the producer/manager responsible for food safety - Indicate people whose activities impact food safety	Major Must	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serve as documented evidence of commitment to continuous improvement, food safety culture, provision of resources, and adherence to relevant prevailing regulations - Serve as documented evidence of review by management of all elements of the food safety system, on an annual basis or whenever changes occur that impact food safety - Substantiate the self-assessment checklist (for Option 1 individual producers) - Be completed either by central management or on quality management system (QMS) level on behalf of Option 2 producer group members and Option 1 multisite producers with QMS 		
FV-GFS 15	FOOD DEFENSE			
FV-GFS 15.01	A food defense system is in place to address risks associated with malicious attack or contamination.	<p>The system shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A risk assessment to identify potential threats to the safety of products, taking into account risks from deliberate attempts to inflict contamination or damage - A documented food defense plan to specify the measures to control any risks identified in the risk assessment - Consideration of identification of tampering to the premises and products, monitoring of external storage and intake points, controlled access where relevant, receiving inputs from safe sources, and having available information for all employees and subcontractors 	Major Must	

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		- Worker, visitor, and subcontractor awareness of the need to support food defense measures, ensured through training, signs, pictograms, etc.		
FV-GFS 16	FOOD FRAUD			
FV-GFS 16.01	A system is in place to address risks associated with food fraud.	<p>The system shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A risk assessment to identify potential threats to the safety of the product, taking into account risks from fraudulent or adulterated materials - A documented food fraud plan to specify the measures to control any risks identified in the risk assessment - Consideration shall be given to potential impacts of intentional inaccurate information associated with a product for economical gain - Where applicable, risks associated with counterfeit PPP, unauthorized propagation material, origin of packaging, use of approved suppliers, control over access to packaging shall be considered 	Major Must	

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FV-GFS 17	LOGO USE			
FV-GFS 17.01	The GLOBALG.A.P. word, trademark, and QR code or logo, as well as the GLOBALG.A.P. Number (GGN) are used according to "GLOBALG.A.P. trademarks use: Policy and guidelines."	The producer shall use the GLOBALG.A.P. word, trademark, and QR code or logo, as well as the GGN, Global Location Number (GLN), or sub-GLN according to "GLOBALG.A.P. trademarks use: Policy and guidelines." The GLOBALG.A.P. word, trademark, or logo shall never appear on the final product, on the consumer packaging, or at the point of sale. However, the certificate holder can use any and/or all in business-to-business communications. The GLOBALG.A.P. word, trademark, or logo cannot be in use during the initial (first ever) certification body (CB) audit because the producer does not yet have certification, and the producer cannot refer to GLOBALG.A.P. certification status before the first positive certification decision.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 18	GLOBALG.A.P. STATUS			
FV-GFS 18.01	Transaction documentation includes reference to the GLOBALG.A.P. status and the GLOBALG.A.P. Number (GGN).	<p>Delivery notes, sales invoices, and, where appropriate, other documentation related to sales of materials and products originating from certified production processes shall include the GGN of the certificate holder and a reference to the GLOBALG.A.P. certification status. This is not obligatory in internal documentation.</p> <p>Where the producer has a Global Location Number (GLN), this shall replace the GGN issued by the</p>	Major Must	<i>N/A is acceptable when: Statement issued by client/seller to producer not to use GGN or identify GGN status signed by marketing and/or packing company is available</i>

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		<p>GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat during the registration process.</p> <p>Positive identification of the certification status is sufficient on transaction documentation (e.g., "GLOBALG.A.P. certified [product name]"). Products originating from noncertified production processes do not need to be identified as "noncertified."</p> <p>Indication of the certification status is obligatory regardless of whether the product originating from a certified production process was sold as such or not. This cannot be checked during the initial (first ever) certification body (CB) audit because the producer does not yet have certification and the producer cannot reference the GLOBALG.A.P. certification status before the first positive certification decision.</p> <p>"N/A" only if there is an up-to-date and documented bilateral agreement available between the certificate holder and their direct buyer that all shipments contain only products originating from certified production processes.</p>		
FV-GFS 19	HYGIENE			
FV-GFS 19.01	The farm has a documented hygiene risk assessment.	<p>A documented hygiene risk assessment covering production, harvesting, and handling, as applicable, shall cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical, chemical, and microbiological contaminants, spillage of bodily fluids (vomiting, 	Major Must	

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		<p>bleeding, etc.), and human transmissible diseases that are associated with the applicable products and processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workers, personal effects, equipment, clothing, packaging material, transport, vehicles, and product storage (including short-term storage on the farm) - The production environment, including design and layout for prevention of cross contamination and support of food safety - Measurement and monitoring of cleaning and hygiene activities 		
FV-GFS 19.02	Documented hygiene procedures are in place to minimize food safety risks.	<p>Hygiene procedures shall be aligned with the risk assessment and include applicable harvest and postharvest activities. Pictograms or signs in the predominant workforce language shall describe the appropriate hygiene measures for workers, visitors, and subcontractors.</p> <p>When protective equipment and clothing (smocks, aprons, sleeves, gloves, footwear, etc.) are required, they shall be provided by the employer and cleaned, maintained, and stored in a way that minimizes food safety risks.</p> <p>Hands shall be washed whenever they may be a source of contamination, including prior to the start of work and after using the toilet.</p> <p>The hygiene procedures shall address contamination of product with bodily fluids, reporting requirements for sick people (vomiting, jaundice,</p>	Major Must	

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		diarrhea, etc.), restricting ill persons' contact with products, and a return-to-work policy. Skin cuts shall be covered and gloves used, as appropriate. Visual evidence shall show that no violations of the hygiene procedures occur.		
FV-GFS 19.03	All persons working on the farm have received hygiene training.	Basic training on hygiene shall: - Be provided annually to all workers, including owners and managers that are working on the farm - Be provided to all new workers - Cover all necessary instructions - 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) - Specifically include training on hygiene procedures for harvesting and product handling activities, where applicable	Major Must	
FV-GFS 19.04	Smoking, eating, chewing, and drinking are confined to designated areas.	In order to prevent contamination of products, smoking, eating, chewing, and drinking shall be confined to designated areas and not be permitted in product handling or storage areas, unless indicated otherwise by the hygiene risk assessment. Drinking water is the exception.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 19.05	Clean toilets are provided for workers, visitors, and subcontractors in the vicinity of their work.	Toilets provided for production and handling activities (including stationary or mobile toilets) shall be: - Designed and located so as to minimize the potential risk for product contamination	Major Must	<i>Federal guidelines include: For every 20 workers, at least 1 restroom must be provided. Regarding separate facilities for gender, this is left to state regulation when/if separate facilities must be provided. 29 CFR (1928.110 (c)(1)(2)(3) and (4)); 21 CFR 117</i>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Constructed of material that is easy to clean and maintain (also applies to pit latrines) - Allow for direct accessibility for servicing - Located in reasonable proximity to the place of work, i.e., accessible on foot or by a readily available mode of transportation <p>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.</p>		
FV-GFS 19.06	Handwashing facilities are available for all workers, visitors, and subcontractors who come into direct contact with products.	<p>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.</p> <p>The facilities shall be situated as near as possible to the toilets without posing a risk of cross contamination.</p> <p>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.</p>	Major Must	

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		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.		
FV-GFS 19.07	Animal activity that may result in product contamination is managed.	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.	Major Must	

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FV-GFS 19.08	Containers used for production and harvesting are cleaned, maintained, and appropriate for use.	<p>Production and harvesting containers shall be made of nontoxic materials that do not pose a risk to food safety and be constructed to facilitate cleaning and maintenance.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Harvest containers shall be used exclusively for product (not used to store chemicals, lubricants, oil, trash, tools, etc.).</p>	Major Must	
FV-GFS 20	WORKERS' HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE			
FV-GFS 20.01	Risk assessment and training			
FV-GFS 20.01.01	There is a documented risk assessment for workers' health and safety.	<p>The documented risk assessment shall reflect conditions on the farm, including worker facilities and any on-farm worker housing. The risk assessment shall be reviewed and updated annually and when changes occur that impact workers' health and safety (new machinery, new plant protection products (PPPs), modified cultivation practices, new health risks, etc.). Incidents and accidents shall be recorded. Examples of hazards may include moving machine parts, electricity, vehicle traffic, flammable</p>	Major Must	<p>Producers may use OSHA and/or State Occupational Safety and Health Administration policies where procedures or evidence of compliance are provided by the appropriate state or federal agencies, where these policies cover all hazards as required by the risk assessment and tailored for each operation. E.g.,</p> <p>https://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/agriculturaloperations/hazards_controls.html</p> <p>https://www.osha.gov/dcsp/osp/index.html</p>

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		substances, fertilizer, chemical exposure, excessive noise, dust, vibrations, extreme temperatures, ladders, fuel storage, etc.		
FV-GFS 20.01.02	The farm has health and safety procedures.	<p>The health and safety procedures shall address the points identified in the risk assessment and be appropriate to the farming operations. The procedures shall be reviewed annually and updated when the risk assessment changes.</p> <p>The farm infrastructure, facilities, on-farm worker housing, and equipment shall be constructed and maintained to minimize health and safety hazards for workers.</p> <p>Accident and emergency procedures shall address work areas, worker facilities, and on-farm worker housing and include contingency plans, i.e., the ability of workers to remove themselves from unsafe situations. Where required by the risk assessment, emergency equipment shall be accessible and maintained. Consideration shall be given to workers at greater risk. Whenever accidents occur, the cause shall be reviewed and appropriate preventive actions included in revised health and safety procedures.</p>	Major Must	
FV-GFS 20.01.03	All staff have received health and safety training according to the risk assessment.	<p>Basic training on workers' health and safety shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be provided annually to staff, including owners and managers 	Major Must	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be provided to new staff and to established staff whenever they are reassigned to tasks requiring additional knowledge - Cover all necessary instructions - Be given in a format, either written or verbal, that ensures understanding (may only be in verbal and pictorial form without written explanatory content, where appropriate) - Include training on safety procedures for equipment, products, or new activities - Include training on topics related to accident response, natural disasters, and workers' health, including illnesses, exposure to chemicals, emergency response procedures, fire safety, and rights and responsibilities associated with workers' health protection 		
FV-GFS 20.02	Hazards and first aid			
FV-GFS 20.02.01	Accident and emergency procedures are displayed and communicated.	<p>Instructions based on the accident and emergency procedures shall be clearly displayed in accessible and visible location(s) for workers, visitors, and subcontractors. These instructions shall be available in the predominant language(s) of the workforce and/or in pictograms.</p> <p>The procedures shall cover/identify the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The farm address, map, or other location information (e.g., GPS coordinates) - Contact person(s) - An up-to-date list of relevant telephone numbers (i.e., police, ambulance, hospital, fire brigade, 	Major Must	

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		<p>access to emergency healthcare on site or by means of transport, and suppliers of electricity, water, and gas)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergency evacuation procedures, where applicable <p>Permanent and legible signs shall indicate potential hazards. Emergency exits and escape route signs shall 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. Warning signs shall be present and in the predominant language(s) of the workforce and/or in pictograms.</p> <p>Examples of other information that can be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The location of the nearest means of communication (telephone, radio) - How and where to contact local medical services, hospitals, and other emergency services - The location of fire extinguisher(s) and availability of water nearby - The location of large chemical, fuel, and fertilizer storages - The locations of emergency exits and operation of fire escapes - Emergency cutoffs for electricity, gas, and water lines 		

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		- How to report accidents and dangerous incidents (location, description of incident, number of injured people, type of injuries)		
FV-GFS 20.02.02	Safety advice for substances hazardous to workers' health and safety is immediately available and accessible.	Information related to safe handling of each hazardous substance shall be accessible (websites, telephone numbers, safety data sheets (SDSs), etc.).	Minor Must	<i>Safety information may be provided vja internet access where readily available to employees</i>
FV-GFS 20.02.03	First aid kits are accessible at all permanent sites and fields near the work.	Complete and maintained first aid kits (i.e., complete and maintained according to prevailing regulations and appropriate to the activities being carried out) shall be available and accessible at all permanent sites and present in selected vehicles (tractor, car, etc.) where required by the risk assessment.	Minor Must	<i>At minimum, items to control: minor wounds; materials are available to clean, disinfect, protect, and cover. Where materials have printed expiration dates, all materials within expiration dates. NTWG recommends Federal requirements are outlined in First Aid 29 CFR 1910.151 and Summary of ANSI Z308.1–1998</i>
FV-GFS 20.02.04	There is always at least one person trained in first aid present on the farm whenever on-farm activities are being carried out.	There shall always be at least one person trained in first aid (within the last five years) present at the location whenever production and handling activities are being carried out, including those mentioned in the relevant principles and criteria of the standard. As a guideline: one trained person per 50 workers.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 20.03	Personal protective equipment			
FV-GFS 20.03.01	Workers, visitors, and subcontractors are equipped with suitable personal protective equipment (PPE).	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	Major Must	

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		<p>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.</p> <p>PPE shall be provided whenever necessary to workers, subcontractors (acceptable when provided by subcontracting company), and visitors.</p>		

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FV-GFS 20.03.02	Personal protective equipment (PPE) is maintained in clean conditions and stored appropriately so as not to pose any contamination risk to personal items.	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.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 20.03.03	There is evidence that the provided personal protective equipment (PPE) is used by the workers.	There shall be evidence that the provided PPE is being used. If single-use PPE is used, the supply maintained on hand shall correspond to the needs of the workers, or records demonstrating that new PPE is promptly sourced and restocked shall be available.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 20.03.04	Suitable changing facilities are available where necessary.	The changing facilities (in line with local conditions) shall be used to change clothing and protective outer garments as required. Changing facilities may not be needed if personal protective equipment (PPE) is applied over existing clothing.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 20.04	Workers' welfare			
FV-GFS 20.04.01	There is communication between management and workers on issues related to their health, safety, and welfare.	Communication between management and workers about health, safety, and welfare issues shall be able to take place openly (i.e., without fear of intimidation or retaliation). The communication may be in the form of scheduled meetings, worker hotlines, anonymous comment boxes, daily prework briefings, or individual crew meetings.	Minor Must	

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		On very small operations, communication between a family or limited number of workers may occur continuously.		
FV-GFS 20.04.02	Workers have access to clean drinking water, food storage, and areas to eat and rest.	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.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 20.04.03	On-site living quarters are compliant with applicable local regulations, habitable, and equipped with basic services and facilities.	The on-site living quarters for the workers shall be habitable and have a sound roof, windows and doors, hygienic and safe food preparation areas, and the basic services of drinking water, toilets, and drains. If there are no drains, septic pits may be acceptable if compliant with prevailing regulations.	Major Must	<p><i>Where an employer provides housing, minimum expectations outlined in OSHA 1910.142 "Temporary Labor Camps" shall be complied with. For full text please visit CFR website. https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9791</i></p> <p><i>In the situation where the worker provides their own structure (e.g., an RV), but the farm still provides the space, drinking water, toilets, etc., must be separate from production area.</i></p> <p><i>Acceptable evidence includes, but is not limited to, state inspections by county or other government agency, whereas the inspection includes P&Cs..</i></p>
FV-GFS 20.04.04	Transportation provided to workers is safe.	Transportation shall be safe for workers and take into account applicable safety requirements and regulations.	Minor Must	<i>Producers shall follow federal, state, and local requirements. Examples of evidence include maintenance records and visual inspection</i>
FV-GFS 21	SITE MANAGEMENT			

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FV-GFS 21.01	A documented risk assessment is completed for all registered sites.	<p>The risk assessment shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Available for all production sites, including structures - Reviewed at least annually or when changes occur (new risks emerge or new sites or crops enter production) <p>It shall consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biological, physical, and chemical hazards (including allergens) - Risk of microbial cross contamination originating from neighboring or adjacent sites - Site history (minimum of one year, with five years recommended) - Impact of proposed activities on adjacent crops 	Major Must	
FV-GFS 21.02	A management plan that establishes strategies for minimizing the risks identified in the risk assessment for operation suitability has been developed and implemented and is reviewed regularly.	<p>A management plan shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be reviewed together with the risk assessment (annually or when changes occur) and address all risks identified in the risk assessment - Describe the control measures implemented for the risks identified - Be appropriate to farm operations - Support facility design, cleaning activities, pest control, and other activities to minimize food safety risks - Ensure that the layout and flow of operations are suitable for the intended purpose, consider applicable structures, and are designed to minimize food safety risks - Be effective and visibly implemented 	Major Must	<i>Auditor to consider site risk assessment. Structures include all buildings on the farm.</i>

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FV-GFS 21.03	The producer has a system for identifying sites and facilities used for production.	The producer shall have a system to identify: - All fields, orchards, vineyards, greenhouses, and other production areas - 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 Identification may be on a map or through the use of signs at each site.	Major Must	<i>State/Government or county maps/registrations or permits with acreage, product, location, etc. are acceptable evidences where all requirements of the P&C are included.</i>
FV-GFS 21.04	The site is kept in a tidy and orderly condition.	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 site(s) 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.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 21.05	The producer recognizes the farm as an agricultural ecosystem that interacts with neighboring landscapes (while the legal scope of the producer is on the farm).	Available evidence should indicate, for example, that: - In water management, the producer knows where the water for the farm comes from and where the water that leaves the farm goes to. - In biodiversity management, the producer knows how the farm can contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity via biotope corridors (e.g., trees) that connect habitats on the farms with the landscapes beyond the farm. - The producer shows awareness of or participation in projects, joint action, or collaboration with other	Recom.	

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		producers or stakeholders in sector- or crop-specific initiatives, etc.		
FV-GFS 21.06	Where the operation handles or stores allergens, the operation has a documented allergen management program.	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.	Major Must	<p><i>Consider here allergens declared by USA: milk, eggs, fish (e.g. bass, flounder, cod), crustacean shellfish (e.g. crab, lobster, shrimp), tree nuts (e.g. almonds, walnuts, pecans), peanuts, wheat, soybeans, and sesame.</i></p> <p><i>For postharvest handling and exporting, also consider allergens of countries of destination.</i></p>

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FV-GFS 22	BIODIVERSITY AND HABITATS			
FV-GFS 22.01	Management of biodiversity and habitats			
FV-GFS 22.01.01	Biodiversity is managed to enable its protection and enhancement.	<p>A documented biodiversity plan for the farm shall be available. This can be a generic plan that has been made farm-specific.</p> <p>This biodiversity plan shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take into account local legislation and tailor the plan contents to the on-farm reality (open field, greenhouse, vertical farming, etc.) - Contain at least the following sections: Baseline: initial situation of biodiversity Measures: how to enable protection and enhance biodiversity based on the baseline Monitoring: summary of results of the implementation of the measures Adjustment: refining the measures based on monitoring results - While recognizing that the legal scope of the producer is on the farm, take into account the landscape beyond the farm and encourage implementation of actions with other stakeholders, for example via informal collaboration, formal projects, sector and network initiatives, etc. <p>With regard to protection of biodiversity, the guideline provides reference.</p> <p>In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable.</p>	Minor Must	<p><i>As example, the producer may show evidence of participation in voluntary federal programs from Natural Resource Conservation Service or Farm Service Agency programs as evidence of compliance; OR participation in State/County/Government programs of the similar nature.</i></p> <p><i>The producer may show evidence of assessments by Fish and Wildlife, NRCS or State/County/Government agency if it includes flora/fauna.</i></p> <p><i>Tools such as the SISC habitat and biodiversity or others that enable the producer to meet the requirements in this section, including "Baseline, Measures, Monitoring, and Adjustment" may also be used. Important that these tools track, understand situational performance, report, and improve.</i></p>

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FV-GFS 22.01.02	Biodiversity is protected.	<p>The biodiversity plan shall be implemented in order to protect biodiversity, for example via one or more of the following practices or other similar practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated pest management (IPM) - Implementing measures to mitigate potential negative impact of artificial illumination on biodiversity, especially during the night (e.g., screens or painted glass that helps mitigate potential impacts on migratory birds or other nocturnal biodiversity) - Allowing for seasonal fallow - Creating shelters for beneficial predators - Leaving areas for habitat near fields or greenhouses - Creating buffer zones along aquatic ecosystems and between production areas or implementing other water management practices - Enabling soil health and soil biodiversity via crop rotation, reduced or no-tillage farming, erosion control, and/or other soil management practices - Optimizing and, if possible, reducing the use of agrochemicals and fertilizers - Implementing measures to protect species <p>With regard to protection of biodiversity, the guideline provides reference.</p> <p>In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable.</p>	Minor Must	

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FV-GFS 22.01.03	Biodiversity is enhanced.	<p>Available evidence, such as maps, aerial photos, on-farm visual evidence, documents issued by local or national authorities or authorized service providers, should indicate that the biodiversity plan is implemented to enhance biodiversity, for example via one or more of the following practices:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Restoring, improving, or enlarging fragments of any size of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Forests, wetlands, mangroves, grasslands, peatlands, etc. b) Areas with legal protection or areas effectively protected by other means (e.g., protected areas with relevant categories of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)) c) Areas recognized as "High Conservation Value" (HCV) areas 2) Avoiding or controlling invasive alien species 3) Other actions by the producer and partners <p>With regard to protection of biodiversity, the guideline provides reference.</p> <p>In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable.</p>	Recom.	<p>For those using SISC, the program would illustrate enhancement but since information is self-reported, verification as indicated in this P&C is not included</p>

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FV-GFS 22.02	Ecological upgrading of unproductive sites			
FV-GFS 22.02.01	Unproductive sites are used as ecological focus area to protect and enhance biodiversity.	<p>Available evidence should indicate that unproductive sites (low-lying wet areas, woodlands, headland strips, or areas of impoverished soil, etc.) are addressed in the biodiversity plan and used to protect or enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>The evidence used in the previous three principles and criteria on biodiversity, if applied in on-farm unproductive sites, can be accepted here too.</p>	Recom.	
FV-GFS 22.03	Natural ecosystems and habitats are not converted into agricultural areas			
FV-GFS 22.03.01	On the farm (within the farm boundaries), no areas with legally recognized conservation value (or effectively protected by other means) have been converted into agricultural areas or into other uses since 1 January 2014.	<p>Available evidence, such as maps, aerial photos, or documents issued by local or national authorities or authorized service providers, shall indicate that since 1 January 2014, no conversion into agricultural area or into other uses has occurred in parts of the farm (within the farm boundaries) that fulfils the following characteristic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Areas where legal protection prevents such conversions (protected areas recognized by national or local legislation, areas with relevant categories of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), areas that are protected via other effective means, etc.) 	Major Must	<p>National conservation areas are listed here: https://www.doi.gov/blog/americas-public-lands-explained, these include lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, or other federal conservation areas (wilderness area, forest reserve, etc.), additional state or local lands should also be considered.</p> <p>EPA has also developed the Pesticide Use Limitation Area (PULA) monitored by "Bulletins Live! Two", which show geographically specific areas that require pesticide use limitations for the protection of threatened or endangered species and their designated critical habitat.</p> <p>Each state may have additional requirements, as example for WA state.</p>

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FV-GFS 22.03.02	On the farm (within the farm boundaries), areas with legally recognized conservation value (or effectively protected by other means) which had been converted into agricultural areas or into other uses between 1 January 2008 and 1 January 2014 are already restored, under restoration, or will enter binding restoration.	Available evidence, such as maps, aerial photos, or documents issued by local or national authorities or authorized service providers, shall indicate that restoration has been completed, or is in implementation or under planning for binding implementation, to recover the entire extent of the parts of the farm (within the farm boundaries) that fulfils the characteristic below, where those parts of the farm had been converted into agricultural area or into other uses between 1 January 2008 and 1 January 2014: - Areas where legal protection prevents such conversions (protected areas recognized by national or local legislation, areas with relevant categories of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), areas that are protected via other effective means, etc.)	Major Must	Same as above.
FV-GFS 22.03.03	Management of biodiversity is supported with metrics.	Acceptable metrics allow calculating, at minimum, the following: - The total area (in ha or m2) of natural or seminatural ecosystems and habitats, legally recognized protected areas, or areas effectively protected by other means (on 1 January of the certification body (CB) audit year) - The total area (in ha or m2) converted into agricultural use or into other uses between 1 January 2008 and 1 January 2014 (on 1 January of the CB audit year) - The total area (in ha or m2) that has already been restored (on 1 January of the CB audit year)	Recom.	Using maps, or for example, producers may show calculations or reports derived from existing platforms such as Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops (SISC) habitat and biodiversity metric or other tools with existing metrics of sustainability performance and reporting for specialty crops in North America..

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The total area (in ha or m2) that is under restoration (on 1 January of the CB audit year) - The total area (in ha or m2) that is planned for binding restoration (on 1 January of the CB audit year) <p>Additional biodiversity aspects/metrics can also be calculated, where applicable.</p> <p>In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable. Results (data) on metrics at producer group and farm level should be available to indicate compliance.</p>		
FV-GFS 23	ENERGY EFFICIENCY			
FV-GFS 23.01	On-farm energy use is monitored.	There shall be records of on-farm energy use (e.g., invoices detailing energy consumption). The producer (or, where applicable, the quality management system (QMS) manager) shall be aware of where and how energy is consumed on the farm and through farming practices. In the absence of energy meters (e.g., for small producers), estimations are acceptable. In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at QMS level is acceptable.	Major Must	<i>Bills/invoices from local power/diesel providers that are tracked and/or monitored may be accepted as evidence. For producers using the SISC Calculator, the energy use metric calculates total energy use on farm, renewable vs. nonrenewable, grid mix in each location.</i>
FV-GFS 23.02	Based on the results of the monitoring, there is a plan to improve energy efficiency on the farm.	A documented plan identifying opportunities to improve energy efficiency shall be available. The plan can be a multiyear plan if the specific reality of the producer requires it.	Minor Must	

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FV-GFS 23.03	The plan to improve energy efficiency considers minimizing the use of nonrenewable energy.	The producer shall consider reducing the use of nonrenewable energy to the lowest possible and using renewable energy instead.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 23.04	Management of energy is supported with metrics.	<p>Acceptable metrics allow calculating, at minimum, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The total energy use on the farm for each energy source/month - The proportion of renewable vs. nonrenewable energy in the energy source <p>Additional calculations can include, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The amount of energy imported into the farm (e.g., from the grid) - The amount of energy generated at producer level (e.g., through solar panels, with fuels) - The amount of energy exported (e.g., to the grid) <p>Metrics should refer to sources of energy, the farm's various production sites, ha of land under cultivation, units of time (e.g., growing cycle), nonrenewable and renewable energy sources, the amounts of energy per kg of product and ha of production, and/or the amounts listed above per kg of product.</p> <p>In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable. Results (data) on metrics at producer group and</p>	Recom.	For example, producers may show calculations or reports derived from existing platforms such as Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops (SISC) energy use/GHG metric or other tools with existing metrics of sustainability performance and reporting for specialty crops in North America.

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		farm level should be available to indicate compliance.		
FV-GFS 24	GREENHOUSE GASES AND CLIMATE CHANGE			
FV-GFS 24.01	<p>The farm contributes to reducing GHG* emissions and removing them from the atmosphere.</p> <p>*Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions refer to carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and fluorinated gases. Due to their varying potential to contribute to global warming, they are sometimes calculated as CO₂ equivalents (CO₂e).</p>	<p>Available evidence should indicate that the producer has awareness and knowledge of how on-farm practices can contribute to reducing GHG emissions and removing them from the atmosphere, for example in connection to energy, soil health, fertilizers, and food waste.</p> <p>In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable.</p>	Recom.	

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FV-GFS 24.02	The farm enables the formation of organic carbon in soils and in biomass.	Available evidence should indicate that the producer is preparing to implement, or already implementing, agricultural practices that enable the formation of organic carbon in soils and in biomass, for example: - Crop residue management (burying residues, seeding on residues) - Use of cover crops in crop rotation, diversification of crop rotation, minimum or no tillage - Reduction of nutrient release in fertilizer management - Restoration of ecosystems - Carbon farming and practices to capture carbon in soil and biomass In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable.	Recom.	
FV-GFS 24.03	The farm's contribution to reducing and removing greenhouse gases (GHGs) from the atmosphere is supported with metrics.	Acceptable metrics include the following: At minimum, the GHG equivalence of the total amount of energy use on the farm (in CO ₂ e/ha/month and CO ₂ e/kg/month). Additional calculations can include, for example: - GHG equivalence of other amounts of energy that have been calculated for the farm - GHG equivalence as related to, for example, soil and biomass, carbon farming, or environmental footprint Metrics should refer to the farm's various production sites, units of time (e.g., growing cycles), and to GHG per kg of product and ha of production.	Recom.	For example, producers may show calculations or reports derived from existing platforms such as Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops (SISC) energy use/GHG Metric, Cool Farm Tool or other tools with performance metrics of sustainability or carbon accounting for specialty crops in North America.

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		In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable. Results (data) on metrics at group and farm level should be available to indicate compliance.		
FV-GFS 25	WASTE MANAGEMENT			
FV-GFS 25.01	A waste management system is implemented.	A waste management system addressing potential contamination of product or the environment (air, soil, substrate, and water) shall: - Be documented and current - Address collection, storage, and disposal of waste material, including plant protection products, fertilizers, wastewater, drainage, and packaging material, where applicable - Addresses potential for contamination of nearby water sources, roadways, and adjacent land	Major Must	
FV-GFS 25.02	Waste products and sources of pollution are identified in all areas of the farm.	Possible waste products (paper, cardboard, plastic, oil, etc.) and sources of pollution (fertilizer excess, exhaust smoke, oil, fuel, noise, effluent, chemicals, etc.) associated with farm processes shall be identified. In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 25.03	All forklifts and other driven transport trolleys are clean and well maintained and of a suitable type to avoid	Internal transport should be maintained so as to avoid product contamination, with special attention to fume emissions. Forklifts and other driven transport trolleys should be electric or gas-driven.	Recom.	

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	contamination through emissions.			
FV-GFS 25.04	Holding areas for diesel and other fuel oil tanks are environmentally safe.	Holding areas shall be maintained in a manner that mitigates risks to the environment. The minimum requirement is a bunded, impervious area able to contain at least 110% of the volume of the largest tank stored within it. In an environmentally sensitive area, the capacity shall be 165% of the volume of the largest tank.	Minor Must	Refer to EPA requirements for Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) for Agriculture: https://www.epa.gov/oil-spills-prevention-and-preparedness-regulations/spill-prevention-control-and-countermeasure-13 for containers larger than 1,320 gallons. For holding areas more than 55 gallons i.e., “bulk containers”, but less than a total of 1,320 gallons, the producer shall have steps prevent chemicals from being discharged into navigable waters or adjoining shorelines. Additionally, the producer shall have the ability to contain spills at or near their source to minimize the potential for discharge, until such time as local spill and/or hazardous materials response agencies can intervene. Examples include dikes, curbs, berms, drain covers, and absorbent material, if allowed locally, etc.
FV-GFS 25.05	Organic waste is managed in an appropriate manner to reduce the risk of contamination of the environment.	Organic waste material should be composted and used for soil conditioning. The composting method should mitigate the risk of pest, disease, or weed carryover.	Recom.	Trimming left in the field is an acceptable practice. Trimmings contribute to soil conditioning, water retention, and weed control. However, this practice is not considered “composting” and this question would be answered N/A.
FV-GFS 25.06	The water used for washing and cleaning purposes is disposed of in a manner that minimizes the environmental, health, and safety impact.	Wastewater resulting from washing of contaminated machinery (spray equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), hydrocoolers, etc.) shall be disposed of in a way that does not pose a risk to the environment or human health. Drainage shall not pose a risk to water sources or contaminate the delivery systems.	Minor Must	

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FV-GFS 25.07	Fragments and small pieces of packaging material and other nonproduct waste are removed from the field.	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.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 25.08	Plastics are managed in a responsible way.	<p>There shall be visual evidence that for durable plastic products and for single-use plastic products (seasonal plastics) used in agricultural production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operators have been trained in appropriate operating procedures and practices that minimize release of plastics into the environment. - Manufacturer specifications are observed to maintain the integrity of plastics throughout their use and retrieval. This refers, for example, to plastics inspection, maintenance, and replacement. - Retrieved used plastic is stored securely and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. - After use, recycling or reusing of plastics is implemented wherever possible. - Where possible, adoption of alternatives that are more environmentally sustainable than plastics are considered. <p>In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable.</p>	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 25.09	<p>Food waste* is prevented and managed.</p> <p>*Food waste: food that is not channeled for human</p>	<p>Available evidence indicates that:</p> <p>Surplus produce** should be redirected for one of the following purposes, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human consumption (for processing, social food services, etc.) 	Recom.	<p>Where product is not harvestable – consider if this is considered food loss and should be calculated.</p> <p>For product that is not marketable but edible would be in scope. However, product left on field dumped on ground – not considered in this calculation.</p>

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	consumption, animal feed, or bio-based materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Animal feed - Bio-based materials <p>Food waste should be redirected in one of the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recycling, composting, and/or land applications - Repurposing (e.g., incineration of waste with energy recovery) - Other forms of disposal <p>Evidence of food surplus and food waste management should be based on quantitative records (estimations are accepted).</p> <p>In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable.</p> <p>**Surplus produce: produce of the farm that is grown and harvested (or unharvested and left in the field) but not distributed to customers.</p>		<p>Calculation can be done in house.</p> <p>Additional resources: producers may show calculations or reports derived from existing platforms such as Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops (SISC) or other tools with existing metrics of sustainability performance and reporting for specialty crops in North America.</p>

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FV-GFS 26	PLANT PROPAGATION MATERIAL			
FV-GFS 26.01	Propagation materials are obtained in compliance with variety registration laws, where applicable.	There shall be available documentation (empty seed package, plant passport, packing list, invoice, etc.) that states, at minimum, the variety name, batch number, propagation material vendor, and, where available, additional information on seed quality (germination, genetic purity, physical purity, seed health, etc.). Material coming from nurseries that have GLOBALG.A.P. certification for plant propagation material is considered compliant.	Major Must	<i>Certificates of Protection from Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO) are voluntary. The burden of establishing invalidity of a plant variety protection shall rest on the party asserting invalidity. Where propagation materials are received, and guarantees are provided, auditors may review issued certificate found at: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/plant-variety-protection/issued-certificates or the producer can provide seller certificates as evidence.</i>
FV-GFS 26.02	Propagation materials are obtained in compliance with intellectual property laws.	Where the producer uses registered varieties or rootstock, documents shall be available on request that prove that the propagation materials have been purchased or otherwise obtained in accordance with applicable intellectual property rights regulations. The documents may be the license contract (for starting materials that do not originate from seed, but from vegetative origin), a document or empty seed package that states the variety name, batch number, propagation material vendor, and packing list/delivery note or invoice to demonstrate the amount obtained and identity of all propagation materials used in the last 24 months. Note: The PLUTO database of UPOV (http://www.upov.int/pluto/en) and the Variety Finder on the website of CPVO (https://cpvoextranet.cpvo.europa.eu/) list all varieties in the world, providing their registration	Major Must	<i>Any document issued by the supplier, considered as formal transaction document (e.g., delivery note, invoice, statement, etc. which includes variety name, batch number, propagation material vendor and packing list to demonstrate size and identity of all propagation material), can be used as evidence of compliance.</i>

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		details and the intellectual property protection details for each variety and country.		
FV-GFS 26.03	Plant health quality control systems are implemented and recorded for in-house propagation materials.	A quality control system that contains a monitoring system for visible signs of pests and diseases shall be in place and current records of the monitoring system shall be available. The term “nursery” shall refer to any place where propagation materials are produced, including in-house selection of grafting materials. The monitoring system shall include the recording and identification of the mother plant or field of origin crop, as applicable. Recording shall occur at regular, established intervals. If the cultivated trees or plants are intended for own use only (i.e., not sold), in-house records for monitoring and propagation activities shall suffice. Where rootstocks are used, special attention shall be paid to the origin of the rootstocks through documentation.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 26.04	Up-to-date records on all chemical treatments applied on in-house propagation materials are available.	Records of all plant protection product treatments applied during the plant propagation period for in-house plant nursery propagation shall be available and include: - Location - Date - Trade name, active ingredient, and preharvest interval of each product - Name of applicator - Justification for application - Quantity - Machinery used	Major Must	

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		This principle and the respective criteria apply primarily to short cycle crops, where the treatment of propagation materials affect food safety. It would not apply to most fruit trees, where propagation and active production are separated by longer periods of time.		
FV-GFS 26.05	Information on chemical treatments is available for purchased propagation materials.	<p>Records with the name(s) of chemical product(s) applied on propagation materials by the supplier shall be available on request. This can be in the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application records maintained by the supplier - Information on seed packages - List with names of plant protection products applied <p>Producers sourcing from suppliers who have GLOBALG.A.P. certification for plant propagation material, or for an equivalent or GLOBALG.A.P. recognized certification is considered compliant. "N/A" for perennial crops.</p>	Major Must	

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FV-GFS 27	GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS			
FV-GFS 27.01	A procedure for use and handling of genetically modified (GM) materials is available.	An implemented documented procedure that explains how GM materials (crops and trials) are grown and handled shall be available.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 27.02	Growing of genetically modified crops and/or trials is subject to the prevailing regulations in the country of production.	The producer shall have a copy of the prevailing regulations in the country of production and comply accordingly. Records shall be kept of the specific modification and/or the unique identifier. Specific husbandry and management advice shall be obtained.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 27.03	The producer's direct clients have been informed of the genetically modified organism (GMO) status of the product.	Documented evidence of communication shall be kept and shall allow verification that all products supplied to direct clients meet the agreed requirements.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 27.04	Adventitious mixing of genetically modified (GM) crops with conventional crops is avoided.	A visual assessment of the identification of GM crops and the integrity of the storage shall be made.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 28	SOIL AND SUBSTRATE MANAGEMENT			
FV-GFS 28.01	Soil management and conservation			
FV-GFS 28.01.01	To improve and optimize soil health, the producer	The producer shall demonstrate that consideration has been given to the nutritional needs of the crop and to maintaining soil fertility. Records of soil	Major Must	

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	has a soil management plan.	analyses and crop-specific information shall be available as evidence.		
FV-GFS 28.01.02	Soil maps have been prepared for the farm.	The types of soil should be identified for each site, based on a soil profile, soil analysis, or local (regional) cartographic soil type map.	Recom.	<i>NRCS provides soil maps and data online and accessible to the producer.</i>
FV-GFS 28.01.03	Crop rotation for annual crops is implemented, where feasible.	When rotations of annual crops to improve soil structure and minimize soil-borne pests and diseases are carried out, this shall be verifiable from planting dates or crop or field records. Records shall exist for the previous two-year rotation.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 28.01.04	Techniques have been used to improve or maintain soil structure and avoid soil compaction.	There shall be evidence of the application of techniques (use of deep-rooting green crops, drainage, subsoiling, use of low-pressure tires, tramlines, permanent row marking, etc.) that are suitable for use on the land and, where possible, minimize, isolate, or eliminate soil compaction.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 28.01.05	The producer uses techniques to reduce the possibility of soil erosion.	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.).	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 28.02	Soil fumigation			

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FV-GFS 28.02.01	There is documented justification for the use of soil fumigants.	There shall be documented evidence and justification for the use of soil fumigants, including targeted problem, location, date, active ingredient, doses, method of application, and operator. Methyl bromide shall never be used as a soil fumigant.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 28.02.02	The preplanting interval is complied with.	The preplanting interval shall be recorded.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 28.03	Substrates			
FV-GFS 28.03.01	The producer participates in substrate recycling.	The producer should keep records documenting dates and quantities of recycled substrate. Invoices/Loading dockets are acceptable. If there is no participation in an available recycling program, it should be justified. Participation in an off-farm recycling program is acceptable.	Recom.	
FV-GFS 28.03.02	Records are kept of any chemicals used to sterilize substrates for reuse.	<p>If substrates are sterilized on the farm, the name or reference of the field, orchard, or greenhouse shall be recorded.</p> <p>If substrates are sterilized off-farm, the name and location of the company that sterilizes the substrate shall be recorded.</p> <p>In all cases, the following shall all be correctly recorded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dates of sterilization (day/month/year) - Name and active ingredient used - Machinery used (e.g., 1000l tank) - Method used (drenching, fogging, etc.) - Operator's name (person who actually applied the chemicals and performed the sterilization) 	Minor Must	

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		- Preplanting interval Where applicable and feasible, steaming or nonchemical alternatives shall be used for sterilizing substrates that will be reused.		
FV-GFS 28.03.03	Substrates of natural origins do not come from designated conservation areas.	There shall be records that attest to the source of the substrate of natural origin being used. These records shall demonstrate that the substrate does not come from designated conservation areas. Opportunities to decrease the use of peat shall be considered.	Minor Must	

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FV-GFS 29	FERTILIZERS AND BIOSTIMULANTS			
FV-GFS 29.01	Application records			
FV-GFS 29.01.01	Up-to-date records of all fertilizer and biostimulant applications are kept.	Records shall be kept of each fertilizer (organic and inorganic) and biostimulant application, including in hydroponic and fertigation systems.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 29.01.02	The records of all fertilizer applications shall include:	Geographical area and the name or reference of the field, orchard, or greenhouse	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 29.01.03	The records of all fertilizer applications shall include:	Date(s)	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 29.01.04	The records of all fertilizer applications shall include:	Name and type	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 29.01.05	The records of all fertilizer applications shall include:	Amount (rate or concentration as applicable)	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 29.01.06	The records of all fertilizer applications shall include:	Name of the applicator to clearly identify the individual or team of workers performing the fertilization	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 29.01.07	Management of fertilizers is supported with metrics.	Acceptable metrics allow calculating the following: The total amounts of potassium, nitrogen, and phosphorus applied on the farm (in kg/crop, kg/month, and kg/ha/month). Metrics should refer to inorganic and organic fertilizers, units of time (e.g., growing cycle), and amounts of fertilizer per kg of product and ha of production.	Recom.	For example, producers may show calculations or reports derived from existing platforms such as Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops (SISC) or other tools with existing metrics of sustainability performance and reporting for specialty crops in North America.

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		In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable. Results (data) on metrics at producer group and farm level should be available to indicate compliance.		
FV-GFS 29.02	Storage			
FV-GFS 29.02.01	Fertilizers and biostimulants are stored in an appropriate manner that does not compromise food safety.	Fertilizers and biostimulants shall be stored in a designated area separate from plant protection products (PPPs) and harvested or packed products. 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. 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.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 29.02.02	Fertilizers and biostimulants are stored in an appropriate manner that reduces the risk of environmental contamination.	Fertilizers (organic and inorganic) 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. 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	Minor Must	<i>The producer (and auditor) shall consider the distance of fertilizer tank(s) from water sources, whether water sources are open or closed, and if storage is long term/permanent or only used immediately before and during applications. Ventilation: As example, if the main entrance to the facility allows sufficient air into the facility during use, for example, bay/garage doors that would allow a car to drive into the storage where no observable odors are present upon walking into the storage.</i>

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		(fertilizer type, weather conditions, storage duration and location), plastic coverage may be acceptable. It is permitted to store lime and gypsum in the field. 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. 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.		
FV-GFS 29.03	Organic fertilizers			
FV-GFS 29.03.01	A risk assessment for organic fertilizer is conducted as per intended use.	<p>A risk assessment for organic fertilizer shall be documented, conducted prior to use of the organic fertilizer, and it shall consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Type of organic fertilizer - Method of treatment - Microbial contamination - Weed/Seed content - Heavy metal content - Timing of application - Placement of application (e.g., in contact with edible portion of the crop) <p>Procedures shall take into consideration World Health Organization (WHO) guidance. This also applies to substrates from biogas plants.</p>	Major Must	

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		For commercially available organic fertilizers, accompanying documentation and certifications of quality and content may be substituted for a risk assessment.		
FV-GFS 29.03.02	The interval between the application of organic fertilizer and harvest does not compromise food safety.	<p>Records shall show that the interval between the use of composted organic fertilizers and harvest does not compromise food safety.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. - Leafy greens: Raw manure shall never be applied after planting, regardless of any harvest interval. - For other crops: Raw manure shall be applied at least 60 days prior to harvest. 	Major Must	
FV-GFS 29.03.03	The use of human sewage sludge is 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	Major Must	

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		is not permitted, regardless of lawful use according to prevailing regulations.		
FV-GFS 29.04	Nutrient content			
FV-GFS 29.04.01	The content of major nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) in applied fertilizers is known.	Documented evidence/labels detailing major nutrient content (or recognized standard values) shall be available for all fertilizers (organic and inorganic) used on registered crops within the last 24 months.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 29.04.02	Purchased inorganic fertilizers are accompanied by documented evidence of chemical content, including heavy metals.	Documented evidence detailing chemical content, including heavy metals, should be available for all inorganic fertilizers used on registered crops within the last 12 months.	Recom.	

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FV-GFS 30	WATER MANAGEMENT			
FV-GFS 30.01	Water use risk assessments and management plan			
FV-GFS 30.01.01	There is a risk assessment to assess food safety risks for pre- and postharvest water used.	<p>There shall be a documented risk assessment for water used for indoor and outdoor production and postharvest activities. The assessment shall cover, at minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of water sources by means of maps, photographs, drawings (hand drawings are acceptable), or other depictions to identify the location of water source(s), permanent fixtures, and the flow of the water system (including holding systems, reservoirs, or any water captured for reuse), the depiction shall be linked with site maps and an on-farm reference system - Historical analysis results, where applicable - The timing of water use (crop growth stage or postharvest) - The risk of physical, chemical, and microbial contamination - Methods to address risk associated with water delivery mechanisms, mitigating the risk of cross contamination - The contact of water with the crop - The characteristics of the crop and the growth stage or handling - The quality of the water used for fertilizer, plant protection product, or postharvest applications 	Major Must	<p><i>Water that must meet microbial water standard for drinking water, per Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA):</i> <i>For microorganisms: https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/national-primary-drinking-water-regulations#Microorganisms</i> <i>For Chemicals: https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/national-primary-drinking-water-regulations - Inorganic</i> <i>For producers that fall under the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule, refer to FSMA PSR add-on for additional criteria to be included in agricultural water risk assessments for those uses where water is considered “agricultural water”</i></p>

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		<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 - Control of water not intended for use in food production (stored water for grounds maintenance, etc.) - A minimum requirement of one analysis per season or certification cycle for water used in postharvest activities that comes in contact with the product, the sample to be taken as near the point of application as possible (minimum of one analysis required even when using municipal water sources). The risk assessment shall be reviewed annually and whenever risks change due to operational changes. 		
FV-GFS 30.01.02	A risk assessment has been undertaken to evaluate environmental issues for water management on the farm (pre- and postharvest).	<p>There shall be a documented risk assessment for water used for indoor and outdoor production and postharvest activities. At minimum, the assessment shall identify environmental impacts on and of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water sources - Distribution systems - Irrigation methods - Significant water uses for other activities on the farm - Impact of own farming activities on off-farm environments <p>The risk assessment shall be reviewed annually or whenever changes to risks occur.</p>	Major Must	

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FV-GFS 30.01.03	A water management plan is available.	A documented water management plan shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be reviewed at least annually, based on the reviewed risk assessments - 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 - Include corrective actions taken related to water quality 	Major Must	
FV-GFS 30.01.04	Actions are taken to complement on-farm water management with off-farm activities (while recognizing that the legal scope of the producer is on the farm).	Available evidence should indicate awareness of the producer on (or participation in) projects, joint action, or collaboration on water management with stakeholders in the neighboring catchment area, watershed, landscape, or beyond, for example with other producers, sector- or crop-specific initiatives, nongovernmental organizations, etc.	Recom.	

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FV-GFS 30.02	Water sources			
FV-GFS 30.02.01	Water use at farm level has valid permits/licenses where legally required.	<p>Valid permits/licenses issued by the competent authority shall be available for all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farm water extraction - Water storage infrastructure - On-farm water usage including but not limited to irrigation, product washing, and flotation processes - Water discharge into river courses or other environmentally sensitive areas, where legally required <p>These permits/licenses shall be available for the certification body (CB) audit and have valid dates. If these are not available where required, there shall be evidence that the producer has actively applied for the permit(s), the approval is in process, and there is no clear evidence of an official prohibition for using the relevant water source(s).</p>	Major Must	<p><i>Where district allotments or water allotments are given by an entity or water district, for example, and a license or permit is not required, then this question is not applicable. Where the water is controlled by the water district, additional evidence can be in form of payments, etc.</i></p>
FV-GFS 30.02.02	Restrictions indicated in water permits/licenses are complied with.	It is not unusual for specific conditions to be set in the permits/licenses, such as hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly extraction volumes or usage rates. Equipment used for monitoring extraction volumes shall be in the correct location to provide accurate readings. Records shall be maintained and available to demonstrate that these conditions are being met.	Major Must	<p><i>If producer is served by an irrigation district or ditch company this P&C may be N/A if the district controls water distribution. Where meters are installed, the districts control/monitor the water usage per farm/producer. Where meters are not installed, but water allotment is controlled by ditch/canal association, the district is responsible for water diverting, this P&C is N/A, not responsible for water distribution.</i></p> <p><i>For other water sources, producers must show they observe the rate and annual total:</i></p>

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				<p><i>-Auditors must assess compliance but will treat numbers for irrigation records as confidential in the checklist, - e.g., annual totals- only the producer has documents (records) with the rate/annuals. OR</i></p> <p><i>- if no irrigation records, the producer signs an annual statement referring the rate and annual total according to their current water rights and confirm they have not exceeded them, AND Records are available in the case where more than what was allotted is used and paid for and this part of the program as stipulated in the water management procedure.</i></p>
FV-GFS 30.03	Efficient water use on the farm			
FV-GFS 30.03.01	Where feasible, measures have been implemented to collect water and, where appropriate, to recycle.	Water collection and/or recycling shall be implemented where economically and practically feasible (from building roofs, greenhouses, etc.). Water collection or recycling does not refer only to rainwater. Collection from watercourses is not encouraged.	Minor Must	<i>Refer to individual state requirements. May not be legal in all areas, e.g., drought conditions, emergency water declarations.</i>
FV-GFS 30.04	Water storage			
FV-GFS 30.04.01	Water storage facilities are present and well maintained to take advantage of periods of maximum water availability.	Where the farm is located in areas of seasonal water availability, there should be water storage facilities for water use during periods when water availability is low. These should be in a good state of repair and appropriately fenced/secured to prevent accidents.	Recom.	
FV-GFS 30.04.02	Storage of water does not pose any food safety risks.	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	Major Must	

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		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.		

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FV-GFS 30.05	Water quality			
FV-GFS 30.05.01	Water is analyzed for food safety, in accordance with the risk assessment.	<p>Water shall be analyzed for food safety at a frequency consistent with the risk assessment and current sector-specific standards or relevant regulations. Water analysis shall be part of the water management plan and completed at least once per year, or more frequently if required by the risk assessment (e.g., in controlled environment agriculture (CEA) production).</p> <p>A minimum of one analysis per season or certification cycle shall be required on water that comes into contact with products during postharvest processing, with samples taken as near the point of application as possible. A minimum of one analysis shall be required even when using municipal water sources.</p> <p>The water analysis shall reflect the nature and extent of the water system, the scope of production (type of product, applications, harvesting, handling, water sources, etc.). Where different water sources are used, they shall each be sampled. Samples shall be taken from locations that are representative of the water source, usually as close to the point of application as possible.</p> <p>Analysis shall be performed during the time of water use on products and during the period of highest risk.</p>	Major Must	

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		<p>There shall be a documented procedure for water analysis, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frequency of sampling - Person responsible for sampling - Method of sample collection - Laboratory analyzing the samples - Location sampled <p>Records of all analysis shall be maintained.</p>		
FV-GFS 30.05.02	Corrective actions are taken based on results from the risk assessment and results of the water analysis.	<p>There shall be available documentation of corrective actions as identified and required by the water risk assessment and current sector-specific standards or relevant regulations. Action shall be taken based upon the level of the risk.</p> <p>Possible strategies to reduce the risk of product contamination arising from water use include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Treating water before use - Preventing water coming into contact with the harvestable portion of the crop - Reducing the vulnerability of the water supply - Allowing sufficient time between application and harvest to ensure decline in pathogen concentrations <p>Producers implementing these strategies shall verify that the risk of product contamination is addressed.</p>	Major Must	
FV-GFS 30.05.03	The use of treated sewage water does not pose a food safety risk.	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	Major Must	

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		<p>edible portions of the crop shall be considered. Analysis of water shall occur at appropriate intervals to verify that the treatment is consistently effective.</p> <p>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. 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. <i>Escherichia coli</i> (<i>E. coli</i>) 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 <i>E. coli</i> 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 thresholds shall be addressed in risk assessments and supporting documentation.</p>		

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		<p>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. Untreated sewage water shall never be used on crops.</p> <p>"N/A" if treated sewage water is not used.</p>		
FV-GFS 30.05.04	Water that comes into contact with products during harvest and postharvest meets the microbial standard for drinking water.	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	Major Must	

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FV-GFS 30.05.05	Recirculated water used during production, harvest, and postharvest is changed or replenished at an appropriate frequency.	If water used during production, harvest, and postharvest activities is recirculated, an appropriate frequency for changing the water shall have been established based on applicable parameters (pH, efficacy of antimicrobial water additives, turbidity, visual evaluation, etc.). “N/A” if recirculated water is not used.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 30.05.06	Treated water used during harvest or postharvest is monitored appropriately.	Treated water (antimicrobial water additives, ozone, etc.) used during harvest and postharvest activities (e.g., cooling) shall adhere to a documented monitoring system for the treatment process and routine verification of acceptable parameters. Monitoring shall be executed at a frequency established according to a risk assessment. The values measured during monitoring shall be compared to the established allowable parameters. Corrective actions shall be taken for analysis results outside of the allowable thresholds.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 30.06	Irrigation predictions and record keeping			
FV-GFS 30.06.01	Tools are routinely used to calculate and optimize crop irrigation.	The producer shall be able to demonstrate that crop irrigation requirements are calculated based on data (local agricultural institute data, farm rain gauges, drainage trays for substrate growing, evaporation meters, water tension meters for the percentage of soil moisture content, etc.). Where on-farm tools are in place, these shall be maintained to ensure that they are effective and in a good state of repair. “N/A” only for rain-fed crops.	Minor Must	<i>For example, producers may show calculations or reports derived from existing platforms such as Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops (SISC) simple irrigation efficiency metric or other tools with existing metrics of sustainability performance and reporting for specialty crops in North America.</i>

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FV-GFS 30.06.02	Measures are taken to understand the amount of water used and actions identified for how to increase water use efficiency.	Records of the use of crop irrigation/fertigation water shall be kept, offering estimates of the amount of water needed to support their production. Where possible, ways to increase water efficiency shall be identified. In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 30.06.03	Management of water is supported with metrics.	Acceptable metrics allow calculating the following: At minimum, the total monthly amount of water used on the farm in agricultural production (in m3/site/month). The amount of water abstracted from specific sources should also be listed. Additional metrics may include, for example: - The monthly amount of water used in irrigation/ha. Indicators should refer to water sources (excluding rainwater), units of time (e.g., growing cycle), and the amounts of water used per kg of product and ha of production. In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable. Results (data) on metrics at producer group and farm level should be available to indicate compliance.	Recom.	<i>For example, producers may show calculations or reports derived from existing platforms such as Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops (SISC) Applied Water Use Efficiency or other tools with performance metrics of sustainability specialty crops in North America.</i>

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FV-GFS 31	INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT			
FV-GFS 31.01	Implementation of integrated pest management (IPM) is assisted through training or advice.	Where the technically responsible person is the producer, experience shall be complemented by technical knowledge (access to IPM technical literature, specific training attendance, etc.) or the use of tools (software, on-farm detection methods, etc.). Where an external adviser has provided assistance, training and technical competence shall be demonstrated via official qualifications, specific training, etc., unless this person has been employed for that purpose by a competent organization. In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 31.02	The producer is informed about the relevant pests, diseases, and weeds that affect their registered crops.	The producer shall 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 crop(s). In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable.	Major Must	

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FV-GFS 31.03	There is an integrated pest management (IPM) plan describing the measures used at farm level to manage the relevant pests, diseases, and weeds that affect the registered crop(s).	The IPM plan shall describe the measures the producer uses or would consider using to manage the pests, diseases, and weeds relevant to the registered crop(s). It shall include: - A stepwise approach based on the preventive, nonchemical, and chemical methods which shall be applied depending on the crop and the specific situation as per judgement of the producer or expert adviser - Monitoring of pests, diseases, and weeds to determine whether interventions are needed, with action thresholds defined by the producer In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 31.04	The producer implements prevention measures.	The producer shall show evidence of implementing at least two activities for the registered crops (individually or per group of crops) that include the adoption of production practices which maintain the vitality of the crops and could reduce the incidence and intensity of pest attacks, thereby reducing the need for intervention.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 31.05	The producer practices monitoring of their registered crops to plan pest and disease management.	The producer shall show evidence of implementing at least two activities for the registered crops that will determine when and to what extent pests and their natural enemies are present, and using this information to plan what pest management techniques are required.	Major Must	

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FV-GFS 31.06	The producer makes interventions to manage pests.	The producer shall show evidence for situations in which specific interventions were made against pests adversely affecting the economic value of a crop. The producer may elect to take no action against the pest and incur the economic loss. Where possible, nonchemical approaches shall be considered. “N/A” if the producer did not intervene.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 31.07	Anti-resistance recommendations have been followed to maintain the effectiveness of available plant protection products (PPPs).	If the level of a pest, disease, or weed requires repeated controls in the crops, there shall 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. The resistance management strategy shall be documented and consider the following points: - Always follow the recommendations on the product label. - Avoid lower dose rates to ensure optimal application quality. - Use rotation programs and mixtures of PPPs with different modes of action that are effective against the target, where available.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 31.08	The producer uses the results of integrated pest management (IPM) to	There shall be evidence that the producer evaluates the IPM plan on a yearly basis and introduces improvements if these were identified as necessary.	Minor Must	

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	learn and to improve the IPM plan.	In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable.		
FV-GFS 32	PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS			
FV-GFS 32.01	Plant protection product management			
FV-GFS 32.01.01	Only treatments with plant protection products (PPPs) authorized for the country of production are used.	<p>A system shall be in place to ensure that PPPs are used as authorized for the country of production.</p> <p>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 shall refer to "International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides" of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).</p> <p>Extrapolated PPP use is allowed as per local registration scheme (see guideline).</p> <p>An up-to-date documented list that takes into account any change in local and national legislation for biocides, waxes, and postharvest PPPs shall be available for commercial brand products (including any active ingredient compositions) used.</p>	Major Must	<i>Authorization from the EPA or local pesticide agency (e.g., county) for off-label use would be acceptable</i>
FV-GFS 32.01.02	Plant protection products (PPPs) and other treatments are applied appropriately and as	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	Major Must	Same as above.

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	recommended on the product label.	intervention) and as per label recommendation or official registration body publication. 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. All PPPs shall be correctly and properly labeled.		
FV-GFS 32.01.03	The producer takes active measures to prevent plant protection product (PPP) drift to neighboring plots.	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.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 32.01.04	The producer takes active measures to prevent plant protection product (PPP) drift from neighboring plots.	The producer should take active measures to avoid the risk of PPP drift from adjacent plots e.g., by making agreements and organizing communication with producers from neighboring plots in order to eliminate the risk of undesired PPP drift, by planting vegetative buffers at the edges of cropped fields, and by increasing PPP sampling on such fields.	Recom.	

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FV-GFS 32.02	Application records			
FV-GFS 32.02.01	Records of plant protection product (PPP) applications are kept.	<p>Records shall be kept for all applications of PPPs, biocontrol agents, and postharvest treatments and shall specify the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crop and/or variety treated - Application location (geographical area, the name or reference of the farm, and the field, orchard, greenhouse, or facility where the crop is located) - 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 reentry intervals are calculated using the start of the next calendar day.) - Registered trade name and active ingredient or beneficial organism with scientific name - Preharvest interval as per the product label or, if not on the label, as stated by an official source - Amount of product applied (weight or volume) and concentration or rate - Type of machinery or application equipment used (backpack sprayer, aerial application, chemigation, etc.) - Reason for application (target pest, disease, weed, condition, etc.) - Full name of the applicator (person applying) - 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) 	Major Must	

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FV-GFS 32.02.02	Weather conditions at time of application are recorded.	Local weather conditions (wind, sunny/overcast, humidity, etc.) affecting effectiveness of treatment or drift to neighboring crops shall be recorded for all plant protection product (PPP) applications. This may be in the form of pictograms with tick boxes, text information, or another viable system on the record. “N/A” for covered crops.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 32.02.03	Management of plant protection products (PPPs) is supported with metrics.	Acceptable metrics allow calculating the following: - List of active ingredients used - The total amount of active ingredients applied (in kg/crop, kg/month, and kg/ha/month) Metrics should refer to the farm’s various production sites, units of time (e.g., growing cycles), and the active ingredient amounts per kg of product and ha of production. In Option 2 producer groups, evidence at quality management system (QMS) level is acceptable. Results (data) on metrics at producer group and farm level should be available to indicate compliance.	Recom.	

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FV-GFS 32.03	Plant protection product preharvest intervals			
FV-GFS 32.03.01	There is evidence that the registered preharvest intervals have been complied with.	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.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 32.04	Empty containers			
FV-GFS 32.04.01	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>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	Major Must	

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FV-GFS 32.04.02	The reuse of empty plant protection product (PPP) containers for purposes other than containing and transporting identical products is avoided.	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.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 32.04.03	Empty containers are kept secure until disposal is possible.	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.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 32.04.04	Empty plant protection product (PPP) containers are disposed of in such a way as to mitigate the risk to humans and the environment.	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).	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 32.04.05	Official collection and disposal systems are used, when available, and the empty containers are then adequately stored, labeled, and handled according to the rules of that collection system.	Where official collection and disposal systems exist, there shall be records of participation by the producer. All empty plant protection product (PPP) containers, once emptied, shall be adequately stored, labeled, handled, and disposed of according to the requirements of the official collection and disposal schemes, where applicable.	Minor Must	

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FV-GFS 32.04.06	All local regulations regarding disposal or destruction of plant protection product (PPP) containers are complied with.	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.	Major Must	Local requirements vary too widely by county and state.
FV-GFS 32.05	Obsolete plant protection products			
FV-GFS 32.05.01	Obsolete plant protection products (PPPs) are securely maintained, identified, and disposed of via authorized or approved channels.	There shall be records indicating that obsolete PPPs have been disposed of via officially authorized channels. If this is not possible, obsolete PPPs shall be securely maintained and identifiable.	Minor Must	Where provided by local authorities.
FV-GFS 32.06	Disposal of surplus application mix			
FV-GFS 32.06.01	Surplus application mixes or tank washings are disposed of responsibly.	Applying surplus spray and tank washings to the crop shall be the first method of disposal, providing that the overall label dose rate is not exceeded. Surplus mix or tank washings shall be disposed of in a manner that does not pose a risk to the environment. No agrochemical wastewater shall be released into the open environment. Records shall be kept.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 32.07	Residue analysis			

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FV-GFS 32.07.01	Information regarding maximum residue levels (MRLs) is available for the destination markets in which products will be traded.	The producer or the producer's customer shall have a list of currently applicable MRLs for all markets in which products are intended to be traded (domestic and/or international). The MRLs shall 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.	Major Must	In the case where producers are not responsible for sales, shipment or export of product, the producer is still responsible to obtain destination market information. Unless the producer has specific controls at the farm level or the seller has specific MRL controls for countries of destination, then the product sold by the seller can only be sold as compliant to the national market. The liability of the certificated producer concerning product not sold by the producer, rather sold externally, is stipulated by local law. Where the GLOBALG.A.P. certification status of the member is concerned, the certified producer is still responsible.
FV-GFS 32.07.02	A risk assessment for all registered products has been completed and the maximum residue level (MRL) requirements of the applicable market(s) are met.	<p>The risk assessment shall cover all registered crops and the potential risk of MRL exceedance based on plant protection product (PPP) usage.</p> <p>Residues of agricultural chemicals shall not exceed levels established by applicable and prevailing legislation (in both countries of production and intended sale), or by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.</p> <p>Risk assessment may conclude that analyses are not required when all of the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No use of PPPs during the production season or during postharvest handling - Evidence of residue testing by the customer (processor or other) 	Major Must	<i>For products not covered by EPA, or Codex, a risk assessment must be developed. MRL must not be detected</i>

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		<p>- A risk assessment validated by an independent third party (e.g., certification body (CB) auditor) or the customer</p> <p>Where the risk assessment concludes an analysis is required, the number, type, location, and frequency of sampling shall be recorded.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Documentation shall support export decisions based upon PPP use and MRL analysis results to maintain compliance with country-of-destination regulations.</p> <p>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 shall be verified.</p> <p>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 CB.</p>		
FV-GFS 32.07.03	The correct maximum residue level (MRL)	Documented evidence shall be available demonstrating compliance with applicable sampling procedures.	Major Must	

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	sampling and testing procedures are followed.			
FV-GFS 32.07.04	A documented action plan is available that describes the steps to be taken if an unauthorized plant protection product (PPP) is detected in the maximum residue level (MRL) sampling.	<p>A documented action plan shall be available that describes the steps to be taken in the event that the MRL analysis detects the presence of a PPP that is not authorized for use on the product (not registered in the country of production, not labeled for use on the product, etc.).</p> <p>The plan shall detail the steps taken to investigate the cause, to ensure all food safety risks are mitigated, and to arrange for disposal of the product, if needed.</p>	Major Must	
FV-GFS 32.07.05	A documented action plan is available that describes the steps to be taken if a maximum residue level (MRL) is exceeded.	A documented action plan shall be available that describes the steps and actions to be taken in the event that a plant protection product residue analysis indicates a MRL has been exceeded (MRL of both country of production and countries of destination, if different). The action plan shall include communication to customers and may be part of the recall and withdrawal procedure.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 32.08	Application of other substances			
FV-GFS 32.08.01	Up-to-date application records are kept of all other substances not covered under any of the sections.	Records of other substances applied to water, soil, and hydroponic/fertigation systems (plant growth promoters, soil conditioners, pH adjusters, homemade and purchased remedies, etc.) shall be kept. Records shall contain the name of the substance, the crop, the field, the date, and the	Minor Must	

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		<p>amount applied. In the case of purchased products, the trade or commercial name, where applicable, and the active substance or ingredient, or the main source (plant, algae, mineral, etc.) shall be recorded. If a registration scheme for this substance(s) exists in the country of production, the substance shall be approved.</p> <p>Where the substances do not require authorization for use in the country of production, the producer shall ensure use does not compromise food safety. Records shall contain information about the ingredients, where available.</p>		
FV-GFS 32.09	Plant protection product and postharvest treatment product storage			
FV-GFS 32.09.01	Plant protection products (PPPs), biocontrol agents, and any other treatment products are stored in a manner that ensures the associated risks are managed.	<p>The PPP storage shall:</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 shall be kept clean for the safe 	Major Must	

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		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 shall contain all the information of the original label.)		
FV-GFS 32.09.02	The plant protection product (PPP) storage is structurally sound and robust.	Storage capacity shall be sufficient to contain all PPPs during the peak application season. The storage space shall be sturdy.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 32.09.03	Plant protection product (PPP) storage does not pose a risk to workers or create opportunities for cross contamination.	The PPPs and postharvest treatment product storage shall mitigate health and safety risks to workers and the risk of cross contamination. Liquids shall never be stored above powders or granular formulations.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 32.09.04	Plant protection products (PPPs) are stored at appropriate temperatures.	Storage temperatures shall be in accordance with label requirements.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 32.09.05	Plant protection product (PPP) storage is illuminated.	The storage shall be sufficiently illuminated by natural or artificial lighting to ensure that all product labels can be easily read.	Minor Must	

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FV-GFS 32.09.06	The plant protection product (PPP) storage is able to retain and manage spillage.	Shelving shall not be absorbent in case of spillage (metal, rigid plastic, or covered with impermeable liner, etc.). 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.	Minor Must	Regarding shelving, <i>wooden pallets are acceptable inside of the storage, not as shelving, if the product is contained in its original container, and was received from the vendor on the pallet.</i>
FV-GFS 32.10	Mixing and handling			
FV-GFS 32.10.01	Access to health checks is available to workers with exposure to applicable plant protection products (PPPs) according to the risk assessment or exposure and toxicity of products.	The producer shall provide workers who come into contact with PPPs the option of receiving health checks annually or according to the workers' health and safety risk assessment. The health checks shall honor the privacy of personal information. The risk assessment shall identify the specific chemical exposure that would warrant the health check. Where health checks exist through government farm worker programs or other systems, these may be used as justification in the risk assessment that health care for high-exposure workers is readily available. Workers shall be informed of how to access these health services.	Minor Must	<i>The risk assessment shall be based on local legislation and included in the worker health and safety risk assessment. The risk assessment may conclude that health checks or blood tests are not required based on local legislation, chemicals used, or hours of application. In the case where workers are not available to interview, signed documentation is acceptable evidence. Health questionnaire for respirator fit test is not an acceptable evidence, unless the fit test is conducted by a medical professional. A physical examination is sufficient if blood tests are not considered necessary according to risk assessment. This information is available at the state level, per department of pesticide regulation or other local equivalent. As example, CA Dept. of Pesticide Regulation, within the CA Code of</i>

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				<i>Regulations 6278 specifies the employers' responsibility for medical supervision.</i>
FV-GFS 32.10.02	Plant protection products (PPPs) are mixed and handled according to label requirements.	Appropriate measuring equipment shall be adequate for mixing PPPs, and the correct handling and filling procedures shall be followed.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 32.10.03	An accident procedure is available near the plant protection product (PPP)/chemical storage.	An accident procedure containing all appropriate information and emergency contact telephone numbers shall be present and display the basic steps of primary accident care. The procedure shall be accessible by all persons working near the PPP/chemical storage(s) and designated mixing area(s).	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 32.10.04	Facilities are available to deal with operator contamination.	All plant protection product (PPP)/chemical storage and filling/mixing areas present on the farm shall have eyewash amenities, a source of clean water near the work area, and a first aid kit containing the relevant first aid material.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 32.10.05	Plant protection products (PPPs) are transported between production sites in a safe and secure manner.	The producer shall ensure that the PPPs are transported in a way that mitigates risk to the environment or the health of the worker(s) and shall follow best industry practices.	Minor Must	
FV-GFS 32.10.06	The farm has documented procedures addressing re-entry times after plant protection product (PPP) application.	Based on the PPP label instructions there shall 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,	Major Must	

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		exceptions to entering during interval, and equipment and time in the field required, etc.). Special attention shall be paid to workers at greater risk. Where no re-entry period is stated, re-entry shall not be allowed until the chemical has dried on the crop.		
FV-GFS 32.11	Invoices and procurement documentation			
FV-GFS 32.11.01	Invoices and/or procurement documentation of all plant protection products (PPPs) and postharvest treatments are kept.	Efforts shall be made to avoid illegal and counterfeit PPPs. Invoices, procurement documentation, or packing slips of all PPPs used and/or stored shall be retained.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 33	POSTHARVEST HANDLING			
FV-GFS 33.01	Packing (in-field or facility) and storage areas			
FV-GFS 33.01.01	Harvested and packed products are stored to minimize food safety risks.	All harvested products (packed products, bulk) are stored appropriately and protected from contamination in accordance with the hygiene risk assessment.	Major Must	<i>Produce that is harvested but is not field packed may be stored overnight in the field, E.g. onions in bags, apples in field bins. The risk assessment and accompanying management procedures must address the overnight storage. E.g. temperature variation, food defense such as theft, tampering, etc.</i>
FV-GFS 33.01.02	All locations for collection, storage, and distribution of packed products are cleaned and maintained.	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	Major Must	

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		documented cleaning and maintenance schedule. Maintenance shall not introduce food safety risks. Records of cleaning and maintenance shall be kept.		
FV-GFS 33.01.03	Packaging materials are appropriate for their intended use and stored under conditions that protect the materials from contamination.	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).	Major Must	
FV-GFS 33.01.04	Cleaning equipment, agents, lubricants, etc. are stored and used to prevent chemical contamination of products and are approved for application in the food industry.	To avoid chemical contamination of products, cleaning equipment, agents, lubricants, etc. shall be kept in a designated secure area, away from products. Documented evidence (specific label mention or technical data sheet) shall exist authorizing use for the food industry of all cleaning agents, lubricants, etc. that may come into contact with products. Chemicals shall be applied according to the product label instructions.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 33.02	Foreign bodies			
FV-GFS 33.02.01	Systems are in place to ensure that foreign materials do not contaminate products.	Systems shall be in place to ensure that foreign materials, including insects, stones, debris, glass, and hard plastic, do not contaminate products. Glass, hard plastic, and similar materials (light bulbs, fixtures, etc.) suspended above products or	Major Must	

Section	Principle (Not to be changed or interpreted)	Criteria (Not to be changed)	Level	Country-specific interpretation of the criteria by NTWG
				ENGLISH
				CRITERIA
		used for product handling shall be of a safety design or protected/shielded.		
FV-GFS 33.02.02	A procedure is in place for handling foreign material contamination.	A documented procedure for handling foreign material contamination, including glass and hard plastic breakages (in greenhouses, product handling, preparation and storage areas, etc.) shall be in place.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 33.03	Temperature and humidity control			
FV-GFS 33.03.01	Controlled storage conditions are maintained.	Temperature-, humidity- (where relevant), and atmosphere-controlled storage areas shall be monitored and maintained. Records of monitoring shall be kept.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 33.04	Pest control			
FV-GFS 33.04.01	A pest management plan is in place and implemented.	A pest management plan for monitoring and control of pests in the packing and storage areas shall be in place. There shall be visual evidence that the pest monitoring and correcting processes are effective.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 33.04.02	Records are kept of pest control inspections and corrective actions taken.	Monitoring shall take place and records of pest control inspections and follow-up action plan(s) shall be kept.	Major Must	

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				ENGLISH
				CRITERIA
FV-GFS 33.05	Product labeling			
FV-GFS 33.05.01	Final product labeling is appropriate.	Where final product packing is included in the scope of certification, product labeling shall be done according to applicable prevailing regulations in the country of intended sale and any customer specifications. Packaging may be provided by the customer, indicating compliance with customer specifications.	Major Must	<i>Consider allergens under country of destination requirements.</i>
FV-GFS 33.06	Environmental monitoring program			
FV-GFS 33.06.01	A risk-based microbial environmental monitoring program is in place for product handling areas.	Where postharvest activities are included in an operation, there shall be a risk-based microbial environmental monitoring program in place for the product handling areas. The program shall allow for assessment of effectiveness of cleaning procedures in reducing food safety risks and identify sources of potential contamination (in water, on surfaces, etc.). The risk assessment shall determine the areas of possible contamination (e.g., high traffic or difficult-to-clean locations). Controlled environment agriculture (CEA) with environmental monitoring programs shall show documentation for applicable production activities and not be limited to product handling.	Major Must	
FV-GFS 33.07	Air and compressed gases			
FV-GFS 33.07.01	Air and compressed gases are monitored,	Air and compressed gases used in product handling (e.g., for drying) and which could affect food safety	Major Must	

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				ENGLISH
				CRITERIA
	stored, and handled so as to minimize food safety risks.	shall be regularly monitored, appropriately stored, and handled so as to minimize the risk of product contamination. Based on a risk assessment, the degree of monitoring appropriate for compressed air that comes into contact with the product shall be defined. Risk mitigation activities may include monitoring of filters and do not necessarily require laboratory analysis of air samples.		

VERSION/EDITION UPDATE REGISTER

New document	Replaced document	Date of publication	Description of modifications
221216_IFA_GFS_PCs_FV_v6_0_Sep22_NIG_template	230913_IFA_GFS_PCs_FV_v6_0_Sep23_NIG_template_en	13 September 2023	Added new section 7.

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