



Description of difference	GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations		SwissGAP FGK scheme management rules	
	Reference	Text of general regulations	Reference	Text of scheme management rules
In the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, the certificate holder is the producer, while in the SwissGAP scheme management rules, the certificate holder is the trader.	GR_IP_v6.0: 2	Whenever the term “producer” is used, it shall refer to persons (individuals) or businesses (companies, individual producers, or producer groups) that are legally responsible for the production processes and the products of the respective scope, sold by those persons or businesses.	2 Inspection and certification concept	<p>2.1 Producer: Company that produces fruit, vegetables or potatoes and may process, sort or refine them. Note: - Producers may be marketers/packers at the same time (see definition of ‘marketer/packer’) - Producers also need the marketer/packer status in order to buy produce from other approved companies and sell them under SwissGAP.</p> <p>2.2 Marketers/Packers: Companies that supply produce directly to wholesalers and/or refine or sort produce bought from other companies in order to market them under SwissGAP.</p>

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<p>GLOBALG.A.P. certification options include single-site producers, where the producer is certified individually.</p> <p>SwissGAP certification is carried out at the trader level, and there is no certification at producer level. Individual producers that pass the inspection by an inspection body are listed as “SwissGAP approved companies”.</p>	GR_IP_v6.0 3.1.1	<p>Single site producer</p> <p>a) An individual producer (single legal entity) applies for certification to a GLOBALG.A.P. standard (Option 1) or to a benchmarked scheme/checklist (Option 3).</p> <p>b) The individual producer is the certificate holder once certified.</p>	3 Inspection and certification concept	<p>The SwissGAP system requires inspections at three levels:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Self-assessment by the company</li> <li>2) Inspections through accredited inspection bodies</li> <li>3) Surveillance by the certification body (Surveillance Inspections on the farm level and audit of the SwissGAP QMS, see chapter 9)</li> </ol> <p>The SwissGAP certification is carried out at marketer/packer level. There is no certification at producer level. Producer farms that pass the inspection by an inspection body will be listed as ‘SwissGAP approved companies’.</p>
<p>In the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, the certificate holder is the producer. In the SwissGAP scheme management rules, the certificate holder is the trader, who is not necessarily responsible for production.</p>	GR_IP_v6.0 4.1 d)	<p>The certificate holder is legally responsible for all the registered production, including placing the product on the market.</p>	2 Inspection and certification concept	<p>2.2 Marketers/packers: Companies that supply produce directly to wholesalers and/or refine or sort produce bought from other companies in order to market them under SwissGAP.</p>
<p>The registration process for SwissGAP certification is handled by a third party. As a result, not all points mentioned in the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations are applicable,</p>	GR_IP_v6.0 5.2.1 i)	<p>Table 1 Registration</p> <p>An applicant may or may not:</p> <p>Register the same product with more than one CB (May not)</p>	1 Application	<p>The applicant confirms by signing the intention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- not to register any products for SwissGAP for which he already has a GLOBALG.A.P. certification</li> <li>- not to register any sites outside the Swiss Customs Area.</li> </ul>

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e.g., it is not possible to register with different certification bodies (CBs).		<p>Register the same product under more than one option (as individual producer and member of a producer group) (May not)</p> <p>Register production sites in different countries (exceptions granted by the GLOBALG.A.P. Secretariat only on a case-by-case basis) (May not)*</p> <p>Register same or different products under different standards (May)</p> <p>Choose to register only parts of the production for certification (May) (PO**)</p>		
GLOBALG.A.P. certification generally does not allow cross-border certification (exceptions may apply), while SwissGAP certification allows cultivation abroad.	GR_IP_v6.0 5.2.1 i)	<p>*Cross-border (international) certification (i.e., where one certificate covers production in more than one country) is generally not allowed. Exceptions may apply. Where the certified producer is located in country #1 but has sites in country #2 (owned or rented), and country #2 allows this without creating a legal entity in/for country #2, these sites can be certified under the legal entity in country #1.</p> <p>Where legislation indicates a minimum/maximum distance of the sites from the country border, this distance shall be complied with. For the sites in country #2, the legislation of country #2 applies (e.g., regarding plant protection</p>	1 Application	However, it is possible to cultivate individual plots abroad.

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		product registration, plant protection product application). Sites in different countries shall always be registered as at least one different site per country, even if it is in reality only one production site. In this case (and cross-border certification generally) is considered a producer with multisites.		
As per the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, the producer can achieve certification through self-assessment and audits by the chosen CB. The SwissGAP scheme management rules do not include certification at producer level, but require the producer to conduct self-assessments and undergo inspection and surveillance by inspection bodies.	GR_IP_v6.0 6	In order to achieve certification, the producer shall perform a self-assessment and be audited by the chosen CB.	3 Inspection and certification concept	The SwissGAP system requires inspections at three levels: 1) Self-assessment by the company 2) Inspections through accredited inspection bodies 3) Surveillance by the certification body (Surveillance inspections on the farm level and audit of the SwissGAP QMS, see chapter 9)  The SwissGAP certification is carried out at marketer/packer level. There is no certification at producer level. Producer farms that pass the inspection by an inspection body will be listed as 'SwissGAP approved companies'.
For GLOBALG.A.P. certification, producers undergo annual audits after one initial CB audit. For SwissGAP certification, fully compliant producers are inspected at least once	GR_IP_v6.0 6.2.1	Each producer shall undergo one announced initial CB audit and thereafter one CB audit per annum.	7.1 Inspection and certification concept	If a producer meets all requirements at an inspection then the next inspection has to take place within the next three years. If a producer does not meet all SwissGAP requirements at an inspection (first or subsequent) then that

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every three years, while those with non-compliances are re-inspected the following year.				producer will be assessed in the next calendar year. If during an unannounced surveillance inspection by the CB a producer does not meet all SwissGAP requirements then that producer must be inspected during the following year.
As per the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, a producer has a 10% chance of receiving an unannounced audit during the CB audit window. In the SwissGAP scheme management rules, a square-root formula and risk-based criteria are applied to determine random annual surveillance checks, which may include witness inspections as part of the sample.	GR_IP_v6.0 6.2.2 a)	A producer has a 10% chance of receiving a subsequent CB audit as unannounced audit during the CB audit window, as described in section 6.3.2 c) and d).	7.7 & 7.8 Inspection and certification concept	Registered producers (incl. handling activities or not) will be subject to random checks by the SwissGAP CB(s), based on their SwissGAP checklist. The minimum sample size for farms to be checked during surveillance inspections is the square root of registered and recognized producers. Calculation is based by 1 January for the current calendar year, the result is rounded up. Results from CIPRO audits through GLOBALG.A.P can be taken in account for the number of surveillance inspections per year.  After determining the square-root, risk-based criteria are applied to select farms to be sampled, such as - ensuring adequate representation in the sample of farms with covered production - ensuring adequate representation in the sample of companies that are producers as well as marketers/packers - Companies with newly registered product categories

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Companies where the first inspection has not been done close to the harvest</li> <li>- Companies with new potatoes or other specific crops</li> <li>- Reporting/registration by Agrosolution / by the RMS</li> <li>- Previous inspection by specific inspectors</li> <li>- Production method</li> <li>- random selection</li> </ul> <p>7.8 Witnessing inspectors at producer level: As an alternative to surveillance inspections by the certification body, the certification body's auditors can witness inspection visits to producers. Producers visited during a witness inspection may count towards the sample number of surveillance inspections.</p>
As per the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, the portion of allowable Minor Must non-compliances is 5% of the applicable Minor Must control points. The SwissGAP scheme management rules require that 95% of applicable Minor Must criteria must be fulfilled, with a	GR_IP_v6.0 7.1.2 a)	The maximum allowable Minor Must non-compliance is calculated using the following formula: $\{(Total\ number\ of\ Minor\ Must\ P\&Cs) - (Not\ applicable\ Minor\ Must\ P\&Cs)\} \times 5\% = (Total\ Minor\ Must\ P\&Cs\ non-compliance\ allowed)$	4.2 Inspection and certification concept	Total number of all minor must criteria – minor must criteria that are non-applicable for the company = total minor must criteria for the company. 95% of these must be met. A non-conformity of one minor must criteria is accepted in any case. In general, a minimum tolerance of 1 minor must criteria applies.

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minimum tolerance of one non-conformity allowed (specifically applicable to packhouses/traders because there may be less than 20 Minor Musts in this checklist).				
As per the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, the CB shall provide the full CB audit report within five working days to the producer upon request, while in the SwissGAP scheme management rules, there is no comparable requirement.	GR_IP_v6.0 7.1.3 c)	Additionally, if any producer requests it, the CB shall provide the full CB audit report including the completed audit checklist, within five working days of the certification decision. It is not obligatory for the CB to send out a report before it has been through the internal technical review. If the automatically generated CB audit report (including the checklist) is available from the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems, this report shall be used.	-	n/a
As per the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, the CB shall provide the final CB audit report to the producer, while in the SwissGAP scheme management rules, there is no comparable requirement (country of destination is not relevant).	GR_IP_v6.0 7.1.3 d)	Where the country of destination (as registered in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems) includes the USA and/or Canada, the CB shall provide the final CB audit report including the completed audit checklist to the producer, at the latest by the time of the certification decision.	-	n/a
The validity of a GLOBALG.A.P. certificate is 12 months, subject to any sanctions and	GR_IP_v6.0 7.2 d)	The certification validity is 12 months, subject to any sanctions and extensions in accordance with the applicable requirements.	8.2 Inspection and certification concept	SwissGAP certificates for marketers/packers are valid until the 31st of December of the next calendar year.

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extensions in accordance with the applicable requirements. A SwissGAP certificate is issued on the packhouse level and valid until 31 December of the following year.				
According to the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, the CB may shorten the certificate validity if the validity dates need to be adjusted to meet the CB audit timing requirements, while in the SwissGAP scheme management rules, there is no such rule because certification is on the packhouse level.	GR_IP_v6.0 7.2 f)	In case there is a need to change the certificate validity dates to be able to do the CB audits according to the CB audit timing requirements described in the scope-specific rules, the CB may shorten the certificate validity.	-	n/a
According to the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, an extension of a certificate's validity for up to four months is permitted, whereas under the SwissGAP scheme management rules, no extension is allowed.	GR_IP_v6.0 7.3 a)	The validity of the certificate may be extended beyond the usual 12 months for a maximum period of 4 months.	-	n/a
According to the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, if a non-	GR_IP_v6.0 7.4.3.1 b)	If a non-conformance is detected during the CB audit, the producer shall be given a warning when the audit is finalized. This	-	n/a

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conformance is detected during the CB audit, the producer shall receive a provisional warning, which can be overridden by the certification committee. According to the SwissGAP scheme management rules, the certification committee, not the inspector, decides on sanctions.		is a provisional report that can be overridden by the CB decision-making committee.		
According to the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, if a suspension is applied, the CB shall set a corrective action period of no more than 12 months. According to the SwissGAP scheme management rules, approval or certification is suspended for 6 months if certain requirements are not met.	GR_IP_v6.0 7.4.3.2 g)	If a suspension is applied, the CB shall set the period allowed for corrective actions (not longer than 12 months).	4.6 Sanktionsreglement	If failure to satisfy certain requirements is detected by Agrosolution Ltd., the inspection bodies, the certification bodies, the SwissGAP Association and/or external persons, the approval/certification is suspended for 6 months from the date on which the suspension decision is communicated to the company in writing.
According to the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, the product status “self-declared suspension” can be set if producers declare a suspension.	GR_IP_v6.0 7.4.3.3 d)	In the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems the product status “self-declared suspension” shall be set for the respective products.	4.7 Sanktionsreglement	4.7 Temporary Approval A temporary approval is granted in cases where, following a warning, it is not possible to implement within the set period corrective measures that achieve the required performance levels.

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According to the SwissGAP scheme management rules, temporary approval is granted if corrective actions cannot be implemented within the set period. The temporary approval is valid until the next inspection and cannot be invoked in cases of repeated non-conformance.				<p>Definition of “not possible to implement within the set period”: The identified non-conformance cannot be rectified within the period because the task to which it refers would only re-occur after the set period (such as observation of waiting periods for agro-chemicals).</p> <p>In order to qualify for a temporary approval a participant has to apply for temporary approval within the warning period with Agrosolution AG (producers); or with the relevant certification body (marketers/packers). This needs to include a written explanation of what caused the non-conformance.</p> <p>The participant has to demonstrate taking measures suited to avoid that the non-conformance occurs again.</p> <p>A temporary approval can only be granted on the basis of a complete application from the participant. The decision to approve the application lies with the SwissGAP Association in the case of producers, and with the relevant certification body in the case of marketers/packers.</p> <p>A temporary approval is valid until the next inspection by an inspection body. A participant cannot be approved temporarily if there is a repeated non-conformance against the same control</p>

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				point. A suspension of the approval needs to be issued in this case. Definition of repeated non-conformance: if the same control point is judged again as non-conform to end of the following calendar year.
GLOBALG.A.P. fees are based on production area and number of harvests. SwissGAP fees are based on the production area alone, without number of harvests.	GR_RDR_V6.0 3.3 d)	(i) Plants: Total area of production (ha) The GLOBALG.A.P. system participation fee is based on the production area registered in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems, separated into two categories: Noncovered and covered production (production in a controlled environment). The production area and number of harvests are required for each as applicable:	Annex "Kulturen"	Area open field and area greenhouse (covered crops)
According to the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, the producer is responsible for declaring certified or non-certified products when product handling is included. Under SwissGAP scheme management rules, the producer has to have trader status to sell certified products.	GR_RDR_V6.0 3.3 h)	(v) Plants and aquaculture: If product handling is included, the producer shall declare whether the same product is also packed for other certified or noncertified producers.	2 Inspection and certification concept	Producers also need the marketer/packer status in order to buy produce from other approved companies and sell them under SwissGAP
Products from GLOBALG.A.P. certified production shall be listed with detailed information	GR_PO_V6.0 5	Certified products shall always be listed according to the GLOBALG.A.P. product list. In the case of PO, more detailed information shall be included: Variety	2.3 Inspection and certification concept	The parallel ownership information is included in the SwissGAP inspection reports and is displayed on the

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(variety or species) in the case of parallel ownership. Under SwissGAP scheme management rules, parallel ownership is only allowed for packhouses/traders, and therefore, general information on parallel ownership is sufficient, rather than for each product.		(e.g., banana – Cavendish) or species (e.g., indoor grown flowers – roses).		SwissGAP certificate by the certification body.
According to the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, only producer groups or individual producers may apply for certification. SwissGAP certification is carried out at the trader level, not at the producer level.	GR_CB's_V6.0 6.1 c)	Only producer groups or individual producers may apply to register their production process for GLOBALG.A.P. certification.	3 Inspection and certification concept	The SwissGAP certification is carried out at marketer/packer level. There is no certification at producer level. Producer farms that pass the inspection by an inspection body will be listed as 'SwissGAP approved companies'.
In the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, the producer is the certificate holder, while in the SwissGAP scheme management rules, the trader is the certificate holder.	GR_CB's_V6.0 6.1 d)	A certificate and sublicense are issued to the registered producer for production sites where the products are produced (and packed or handled if applicable) and for the products declared.	8.8 GR SGAP FGK	SwissGAP certificates are issued at marketer/packer level for the registered products.
According to the GLOBALG.A.P. general	GR_CB's_V6.0 7.4 a)	During subsequent CB audits, a minimum of 10% of all certificate holders of the CB	7.7	Registered producers (incl. handling activities or not) will be subject to

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<p>regulations, at least 10% of all certificate holders for each standard shall receive unannounced audits.</p> <p>According to the SwissGAP scheme management rules, random checks are conducted with a minimum sample size equivalent to the square root of all registered and recognized producers.</p>		<p>shall be audited unannounced. The calculation of the 10% shall be carried out for each scope and for each standard covered by these GR (IFA v6 Smart, IFA v6 GFS, HPSS, and PHA).</p>	<p>Inspection and certification concept</p>	<p>random checks by the SwissGAP CB(s), based on their SwissGAP checklist. The minimum sample size for farms to be checked during surveillance inspections is the square root of registered and recognized producers.</p>
<p>According to the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, at least 10% of all certificate holders are selected for audits, considering possible risk factors.</p> <p>According to the SwissGAP scheme management rules, the sample size is determined by the square root of the total number of registered producers, taking into account risk-based criteria.</p>	<p>GR_CB's_V6.0 7.4 b)</p>	<p>The selection of the 10% shall not only take into account total numbers but shall also be based on the possible risk and factors such as geography, legislation (where several jurisdictions are covered by the CB), crop type, compliance history, etc.</p>	<p>7.7 &amp; 7.8 Inspection and certification concept</p>	<p>Results from CIPRO audits through GLOBALG.A.P. can be taken in account for the number of surveillance inspections per year.</p> <p>After determining the square root, risk-based criteria are applied to select farms to be sampled, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ensuring adequate representation in the sample of farms with covered production</li> <li>- ensuring adequate representation in the sample of companies that are producers as well as marketers/packers</li> <li>- Companies with newly registered product categories</li> <li>- Companies where the first inspection has not been done close to the harvest</li> </ul>

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According to the GLOBALG.A.P. general regulations, a collection point is considered as storage only if the product is stored overnight or longer. According to the SwissGAP scheme management rules, it is regarded as short-term storage if products are stored for less than two working days.	GR_Plants_V6.0 2.3 b)	If a product stays in a collection point in the farm during the day, waiting to be picked up, this is not considered storage. If product is stored overnight or longer, this is considered storage and the relevant requirements apply.	KHB	Short-term storage spaces are storage spaces that are occupied by products for less than 2 working days. Chapter 10.6 does not apply to these.

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The minimum audit duration under the simplest circumstances for GLOBALG.A.P. certification is three hours, while for SwissGAP certification, it is two hours.	GR_Plants_V6.0 3.3 c)	The minimum duration of three hours shall apply to the simplest circumstances (one production site, one or few products, simple machinery, few workers, no product handling, subsequent CB farm audit, well-organized documentation, etc.). This minimum duration excludes preparation, travel (during the CB audit) and the GRASP assessment or any other add-on CB audit included in the registration scope.	7.4 Inspection and certification concept	The duration of a SwissGAP inspection should be approximately 2 hours in the simplest thinkable case (only one or few crops, only one production site, no post-harvest product handling, subsequent inspection, no employees, correctly filled in General Declaration and well-kept records).

If you have any further questions on the differences between GLOBALG.A.P. IFA v6.0 and SwissGAP FGK version 2026-V1.0, please contact the scheme owner Verein SwissGAP (info@swissgap.ch) or the GLOBALG.A.P. Benchmarking Administration (benchmarking@agraya.com).