

INFORMATIVE CIRCULAR Ref. DC2023OC060

DATE Milan, 18-07-2023

To all PRD accredited/applicant certification bodies
To the Associations of Conformity Assessment Bodies
To all Assessors/Experts of the DC Department

SUBJECT **Certification and Inspection Department**

Informative Circular DC n. 32/2023 - Provisions regarding the transition of the accreditations of the Certification Bodies (CBs) which certify against the GlobalGAP IFA and GlobalGAP CoC certification scheme.

We inform you with this Circular that GlobalGAP has renewed its IFA standard by starting to issue the new version 6, although it is still being completed.

The new version has brought about a change in the structure and a small modification to the contents.

The general rules of the previous version have been divided into the following regulations:

- rules for individual producers;
- rules for producer groups and multi-site producers with QMS;
- rules for Certification Bodies;
- rules for parallel ownership;
- rules for flexible distribution;
- rules for the plants scope;
- rules for the aquaculture scope;
- GlobalGAP Full Remote.

The part of the standard undergoing GFSI recognition was also consolidated, separating it from the classic standard, creating the SMART version and the GFS version.

Both have been divided into scopes and categories as indicated in the table below.

Table 1

Version	Scope	Categories
GlobalGAP IFA v.6 SMART	Plants	Fruit and vegetables
		Flower and ornamental plants
		Combinable crops
		Tea
		Vegetative propagation material
		Hops
	Aquaculture	Finfish, crustaceans, molluscs, seaweed
GlobalGAP IFA v.6 GFS	Plants	Fruit and vegetables
	Aquaculture	Finfish, crustaceans, molluscs, seaweed

To date, the standards issued and for which ACCREDIA is starting the transition are those colored in green.

The categories colored in yellow indicate the categories for which the Scheme Owner has not yet published the related checklists, while the GFS standard (colored in orange) has not yet received recognition from the GFSI.

For this latter part, the accreditation activities will begin as soon as the standard is recognized.

For the still non-applicable parts of the scheme, the old versions shown below remain in force, until new provisions are introduced:

- GLOBALG.A.P. IFA v. 5.2 CC, PPM, TEA;
- GLOBALG.A.P. IFA 5.4-1 GFS FV, Aquaculture.

The Livestock standard does not appear in the table as it will be discontinued on December 31, 2023.

We would like to underline that to date the accreditability of the new IFA standard has been evaluated at national level by ACCREDIA, since the IAF evaluation of the standard is still ongoing.

Certificates issued against version 6 will therefore not be permitted to carry any references to IAF.

Certification activity for GlobalGAP IFA v.6 SMART Plants and Aquaculture (applicable checklists as per table 1).

In accordance with the provisions of the Scheme Owner, the new version is already usable and will become mandatory from 1 January 2024; therefore, starting from Jan. 1, all activities against the schemes indicated in green in table 1 must be undertaken in accordance with the new version 6.

For schemes not yet applicable, the old versions shown below remain in force until further communication:

- GLOBALG.A.P. IFA v. 5.2 CC, PPM, TEA, LIVESTOCK (expiry December 2023);
- GLOBALG.A.P. IFA 5.4-1 GFS FV, Aquaculture.

New applications for accreditation and extension for the certification scheme

Starting from the publication date of this Circular, ACCREDIA will accept new applications for accreditation and extension of accreditations already granted only against version 6 of the schemes highlighted in green in table 1.

For schemes not yet applicable, the old versions shown below remain in force until further communication:

- GLOBALG.A.P. IFA v. 5.2 CC, PPM, TEA;
- GLOBALG.A.P. IFA 5.4-1 GFS FV, Aquaculture.

For the scheme GLOBALG.A.P. IFA v. 5.2 LIVESTOCK no new applications for or applications for extension will be accepted.

CBs already accredited – transition management

All Bodies already accredited against the previous version of the schemes highlighted in green in table 1 shall evaluate the changes made with the new version and implement them in their organization.

At the end of the activities described above, the Bodies must formalize the transition request to the new version of the scheme to ACCREDIA by sending at least the information required by annex 1 to this Circular by 31 October.

ACCREDIA will carry out a document review of a duration of 0.5 days regarding the evidence transmitted, the cost of which is met by the Body. The outcome of the review will be communicated to the Body for the implementation of any need for integration/modification/correction of the evidence transmitted.

ACCREDIA reserves the right to perform any further investigations, if considered necessary.

The Body will be authorized to issue certificates against the new version of the standard with reference to accreditation only following a positive decision regarding the transition by the competent Sector Accreditation Committee.

The correct implementation of the changes introduced will be assessed during the ordinary surveillance activities carried out by ACCREDIA.

Finally, we inform you that from 1 January 2024 all accreditations issued against the previous version, in the absence of evidence of transition, will be withdrawn.

Further communications will follow regarding the accreditation of the parties which are not yet applicable.

GLOBALGAP Chain of Custody

GlobalGAP has issued version 6.1 of the GlobalGAP Chain of Custody standard.

We inform you that the standard is still being evaluated at the EA level. For this reason it is not yet accreditable.

The transition process has therefore not begun yet. Therefore, no new applications or requests for extension will be accepted for the new version.

We will keep you updated on developments.

For any clarification, the reference technical officer is Marco Zanardi (m.zanardi@accredia.it)

Kind regards,

Dott.ssa Mariagrazia Lanzanova

Vice Director Department
Certification and Inspection

Annex 1 – Actions required for managing the transition to version 6 of the GlobalGAP IFA certification scheme

Return this Annex, duly completed, and the requested evidence to the reference technical officers.

Required action	Evidence - Annex n.	Implementation times
Detailed analysis of the changes introduced by the new version of the Standard (Gap Analysis), specifying the related implementation actions in the management system, and implementation times.		
List of documents (including forms) modified or updated to incorporate the changes introduced by the new version of the Standard, and with an indication of the modification introduced.		
Training plan for all personnel involved in managing the certification process, specifying training times for each person involved. Also, provide evidence of requalification of the auditors with regard to the new version.		
Communication to certified companies regarding the changes introduced by the new version of the standard and the policy defined for managing the transition.		