GLOBALG.A.P. IFA v6

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GLOBALG.A.P. Integrated Farm Assurance version 6

What is changing and why?

On 1 January 2024, the Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) standard version 6 – the newest version of the flagship GLOBALG.A.P. IFA standard – replaced IFA version 5.2 for fruit and vegetables, flowers and ornamentals, hops, and aquaculture. The aim is to make the IFA standard more streamlined and easier to use, with a focus on outcomes.

A wide range of add-on solutions have been updated to align with the standard. New tools are also available to support producers of aquaculture, fruit, vegetables, flowers, and ornamentals in their transition to IFA v6. The IFA standard for livestock is discontinued because market analysis suggested that it was unlikely to become the sector's reference standard.

On 6 August 2024, the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) granted recognition of IFA v6.0 Principles and Criteria for Aquaculture and Principles and Criteria for Fruit and Vegetables against GFSI Benchmarking Requirements v2020.

Timeline

IFA v6 is now available in two editions: IFA v6 Smart and IFA v6 GFS. The latter is designed for producers who require certification with a GFSI benchmarked standard.

IFA v6 Smart

- From 1 January 2024, IFA v6 Smart replaced IFA v5.2 for fruit and vegetables, flowers and ornamentals, hops, and aquaculture, and v5.3-GFS for hops.
- The IFA standard for livestock was discontinued. The last date for audits against the v5.2 livestock standard was 31 December 2023. Certification bodies can still issue certificates for the livestock standard during 2024 if the audit was conducted before 31 December 2023. Certificate validity cannot exceed 31 December 2024.
- For combinable crops and plant propagation material, IFA v5.2 will remain available for audit until the launch of the updated IFA v6, scheduled for 2024.

IFA v6 GFS

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- GFSI recognition of the IFA v6 for fruit and vegetables and aquaculture v6 standards is valid from 6 August 2024, and replaces IFA v5.4-1-GFS.
- For stakeholders currently certified under IFA v5.4-1-GFS, they remain valid and GFSI-benchmarked for the life of the certificate.
- To allow for an orderly transition period, IFA v5.4-1 audits may still be conducted until 31 December 2024. The certificates issued will be valid for the full life cycle of the certificate.
- From 1 January 2025, all IFA audits for aquaculture and fruit and vegetables must be audited against IFA v6 Smart, or IFA v6 GFS when GFSI recognition is required. No further audits to IFA v5.4-1 may take place.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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