

Comparison Of BRC Global Standard Food Issue 3 (March 2003) and BRC Global Standard Food Issue 4 (January 2005)

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to allow the reader to understand the differences between Issue 3 and Issue 4 of the BRC Global Food Standard.

Background

Issue 4 of the BRC Global Standard-Food was published on the 1st January 2005. Following extensive consultation with stakeholders throughout 2004, Issue 4 of the Global Food Standard has some major differences from Issue 3; for example, there is now only one level for certification and there has been recognition that there are fundamental requirements, which must be continually maintained in order to gain or retain certification.

The transition period for the phasing out Issue 3 of the Standard will be 1st January 2005 to 30th June 2005 and after 1st July 2005 only evaluation against Issue 4 will be accepted.

Issue 4 of the Standard is a culmination of many months of work undertaken by a significant number of members and other stakeholder organisations and provides a unique opportunity to take forward the requirements of the UK retailers.

Summary of Significant Changes To The Standard

- one level Standard – the removal of Foundation and Higher level status
- 'Recommendations on Good Practice' removed
- inclusion of a grading system based on number and severity of non conformities
- recognition of specific requirements that are classified as being 'fundamental' and have special status in relation to granting or maintenance of certification
- expanded Introduction and Protocol sections with detailed information and diagrams

Summary of Types of Changes To The Standard's Requirements

- the classification of ten fundamental clauses
- requirements realigned to the evaluation process
- consolidation of requirements
- enhancement of specific requirements

Summary of Changes To The Standards Protocol

- notification of problems to Certification Body
- details on preparation for the Evaluation visit
- duration of evaluation specified and criteria to lengthen/shortened defined
- highly defined requirements in relation to non conformance and corrective action
- specific requirements defined for reporting format, certificates and grading
- details on Evaluation frequency in relation to grading and non conformance; 6 month and 12 month frequency
- the requirement for announced and unannounced visits
- Product Categorisation-no requirement for Product Rating

Detailed Summary of Changes To The Standards Introduction

Section- Issue 4	Summary of Change
Legislative Requirements	Inclusion of information relating to UK legislative requirements
Principles of the Standard	Inclusion of information relating to the principles supporting the Standard
Management of the Standard	Inclusion of information relating to management committee structure and remit
Scope of the Standard	Clarification on the scope of products and exclusions
The Format of the Standard	Exclusion of Foundation, Higher and Recommendations sections Inclusion of explanation on fundamental requirements and listing of fundamental clauses
Accreditation and Certification	Explanation of accreditation and certification processes with diagrammatic representation

Detailed Summary of Changes To The Standards Content

Section- Issue 4	Summary of Change
2.14	Addition of Product Withdrawal
3.1 External & 3.2 Internal Environment Standards	Realigned to produce specific sections
3.2.1 Layout, Product Flow and Segregation	Inclusion of Segregation requirements within this section
3.3 Services	Realigned as main section rather than a sub section
Section 4	Additional sections and realigned Handling Requirements for Specific Materials from Process Control section and renamed Product Inspection and Analysis renamed
Section 5	Removal of Specific Handling Requirements to Handling Requirements for Specific Materials and incorporated in section 4
Section 6	Reordered in line with evaluation process. Training is now section 6.1

Detailed Summary of Changes To The Standards Requirements

Section- Issue 4	Summary of Change
1 HACCP Statement of Intent	Inclusion to reference made to relevant legislation, codes of practice or guidelines
1.2	Revised requirement for team from previous Higher level requirement and day to day management of the HACCP system clarified if third party expertise used.
1.3	HACCP team leader competence. Section realigned
1.4	HACCP team training competence. Section realigned
1.5	Requirement for prerequisite programmes emphasised
1.6.6	Additional wording to emphasis on auditing of HACCP system
2.1 Quality Management System-General Requirements	Removal of sections 2.1.1 to 2.1.4 from Issue 3 and requirements placed in other sections with Issue 4
2.2 Quality Policy Statement Statement of Intent	Authorised added to statement of intent
2.4.3	Availability of information
2.4.4	Applicability of food safety information for country of production and country of sale.
2.4.5	General work instructions availability and use
2.5.2	Previous Higher level requirement is no mandatory. Change from forum to process
2.7.3	Requirements bullet pointed
2.8 Resource Management Statement of Intent	Previous 2.8.1 removed and statement of intent meeting requirement
2.9.2	Expansion of previous requirement 2.9.5 Issue 3
2.9.4	Expansion of requirement to record and reference to non conformities
2.9.5	Records of internal audits for conformity and non conformity
2.10 Purchasing Statement of Intent	Addition of service procurement
2.10.1.1	Addition of continual assessment programme
2.10.1.3	Addition of traceability system assessment
2.11.1.1	Previous 2.11.1.1 removed
2.11.1.2	Addition requirements on documentation
2.11.1.5	Requirement on retention of documentation
2.11.2	Additional requirement for product or service that will affect the integrity of finished product
2.11.2.2	Additional requirement on authorisation and specification approval
2.11.2.3	Review of specifications
2.11.3.1	Clarification of documentation requirement
2.11.4.1	Authorisation and retention period for records
2.11.4.3	Alterations to records defined
2.12 Corrective Action Statement of Intent	Removal of word significant form Statement of intent
2.12.1	Removal of 'timely manner' requirement
2.13 Traceability Statement of Intent	Significant changes to statement of intent
2.13.1	Backward and forward testing requirement
2.13.2	IP control requirement

Section- Issue 4	Summary of Change
2.14 Management of Incidents, Product Withdrawal and Product Recall Statement of Intent	Reference to product withdrawal
2.14.3	Reference to product withdrawal
2.14.4	Retention of testing results
2.14.5	Corrective action review
3.1.1	Inclusion of environment and inclusion of previous 3.1.3 Issue 3
3.1.2.1	Removal of requirement for cleaning schedules for external environment
3.1.2.3	Clarification of requirement
3.2.1 Layout, Product Flow and Segregation Statement and section	Inclusion of segregation requirements
3.2.1.1	Security requirement
3.2.1.3	General contamination requirement
3.2.1.6	Segregation for IP and specific product requirements
3.2.1.7	High risk requirement
3.2.1.8	High care requirement
3.2.2.5	Door and dock leveller requirements
3.2.2.6.2	Requirement in relation to shatterproof protective coating
3.2.2.7.1	Addition of extraction units
3.2.2.7.3	Requirement for positive pressure systems
3.3 Services Statement of Intent	Addition of services within production and storage areas
3.3.1	Clarification of water supply requirements
3.3.2	Additional requirements on air and compressed air
3.4.1	Additional requirement on purchase of equipment
3.5 Maintenance Statement of Intent	Statement of intent to include plant
3.5.1	Additional requirement upon commissioning of equipment
3.5.3	Clarification on temporary repairs
3.5.4	Inclusion of brittle plastics
3.6.1	Requirement for designated areas
3.6.3	Clarification on location of toilets
3.6.4	Clarification non smoking provision
3.6.7	Clarification on location of changing facilities
3.6.8	Clarification for requirement for high care and high risk operations
3.7.3	Additional requirement for brittle plastics and risk assessment
3.7.4	Additional requirement for detailed written procedures
3.8 Housekeeping and Hygiene Statement of Intent	New statement of intent
3.8.1	Additional requirement for documented cleaning schedules
3.8.3	Recording of cleaning
3.8.4	Additional requirement for chemicals control
3.8.6	Disinfection process control requirement emphasised
3.9.4	Additional requirement for secure product and waste disposal
3.10 Pest Control	Consolidation of Foundation and Higher level requirements
3.10.10	Addition of other materials other than baits

3.11 Transport	Significant change in statement of intent to accommodate third party practice. Throughout this section requirements have been changed to focus on generic procedures and systems rather than just refrigerated transportation.
Section- Issue 4	Summary of Change
4.1.1	Emphasis on though testing
4.1.5	Shelf life trials recording requirement
4.2 Handling Requirements for Specific Materials	Sectioned renamed
4.2.1	Emphasis on risk assessment on contamination or loss of IP status
4.2.2	Emphasis on risk of cross contamination
4.3.1	Emphasis on placement of metal or foreign body detectors
4.3.3	Requirements of detection systems defined Requirement for documented corrective action
4.3.4	Requirement for calibration of metal and foreign body detectords
4.4 Packaging	Realignment of clauses from recommendations to mandatory requirement
4.5 Product Inspection and Analysis	Section renamed and statement of intent amended to include inspection
4.5.1	Requirement for risk assessment and frequency of inspection
4.5.2	Requirement for use of recognised laboratory accreditation
4.5.3	Amendment to laboratory tests
4.8.2	Requirement for effective control and quarantine procedures
5.1 Control of Operations Statement of Intent	Statement of intent amended
5.1 Control of Operations All clauses	All clauses have been amended
5.2 Quantity Control Statement of Intent	Amendment of statement of intent concerning where product is sold
5.2.1	Examples of quantity control amplified
5.2.3	Requirement to conform to customer specification
6 Personnel	Requirement sections realigned to place Training as section 6.1
6.1 Training Statement of Intent	Inclusion of requirement for personnel to be demonstrably competent
6.1.2	Requirement for documented training procedures and records
6.1.3	Requirement to train personnel responsible for activities related to CCP's
6.1.4	Recommendation in Issue 3 is now a requirement
6.1.5	Requirement for refresher training
6.2.2	Appropriateness of monitoring of hand washing
6.2.3	Requirement for segregation of smoking, drinking and eating areas
6.2.4	Requirement to control medicines
6.2.5	Requirement for the wearing a finger stall
6.2.6	Requirement to test finger plasters
6.2.8	Requirement for jewellery wearing policy
6.2.9	Requirements for jewellery revised completely
6.2.10	Requirement for the wearing of perfume and aftershave specified
6.3 Medical Screening Statement of Intent	Inclusion of requirements for visitors
6.3.2	Requirement for the notification of relevant infectious diseases
6.3.3	Requirements with respect to questionnaires clarified
6.4.1	Requirement on adequacy of protective clothing
6.4.2	Requirements for high risk and high care protective clothing and laundering requirement

6.4.3	Requirement on wearing of protective clothing with respect to smoking, eating and drinking
6.4.4	Requirement for single use of hairnets
Section- Issue 4	Summary of Change
6.4.7	Requirement for laundering of low risk operations
6.4.8	Requirement for gloves and other protective clothing control

Detailed Summary of Changes to the Glossary of Terms

Section- Issue 4	Summary of Change
'accreditation'	Defined
'certification'	Defined
'certification body'	Defined
"Company"	Amendment to definition
'fundamental requirement'	Defined
"high care area"	Defined
'high risk area'	Defined
"preparation of primary product"	Defined
"Processed Food"	Amendment to definition with the inclusion of packing
"recognised laboratory accreditation"	Defined
"suspension"	Defined
"the Standard"	Amendment to definition
"where appropriate"	Defined
"withdrawal"	Defined
"user"	Defined

Detailed Summary of Changes to the Protocol

Section- Issue 4	Summary of Change
8.1	Reference to amendment on BRC website
8.2	Implications for company faces possible prosecution and product recall
8.4	Listing of registered certification bodies on BRC website
8.6	Section changed significantly to provide more information
8.7	Section changed significantly to provide more information with respect to criteria to lengthen and shorten duration. Typical duration defined
8.9	Section changed significantly to provide more information defining non conformance and corrective actions. Summary tables included
8.10.1	Section changed significantly to provide more information with respect to report format and grading criteria.
8.10.2	Section changed significantly to provide more information with respect to certificate format
8.11	Section changed significantly to provide more information on grading and evaluation frequency relationship. Example tables given.
8.13	Stipulation on announced and unannounced visits
Appendix 1	Diagrammatic representation of certification process
Appendix 2	Several subcategories revised and added (gases)