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Questions and answers about BRC Global Standard certifications

Our experts are happy to answer your most important questions about certification under the BRC Global Standard for Food Safety? **Contact us directly to learn more!**

1. WHO CAN OBTAIN A BRC GLOBAL STANDARD CERTIFICATION?

BRC GS certifications are available to any business that produces, processes, or packages foodstuffs (including primary commodities such as animal products).

2. WHAT ARE THE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE BRC GLOBAL STANDARD?

Your company must have a concept in place for Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP). In addition, you need:

- a proven quality management system; and
- regular hygiene inspections on products, processes, and staff.

3. WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF A BRC GLOBAL STANDARD CERTIFICATION?

The benefits of a BRC GS food safety certificate are manifold; to name a few:

- Increase product quality and food safety
- Expand into new international markets
- Meet the requirements of your trading partners
- Build confidence and trust for your customers and business partners
- Limit warranty claims and minimize risks
- Implement safety requirements
- Optimize product and process quality

4. WHAT ARE THE SEVEN SECTIONS OF THE BRC GLOBAL STANDARD?

- **Commitment:**
A strong commitment to continual development from senior management.
- **HACCP:**
A functional and effective Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) program based on the international Codex Alimentarius.
- **Quality Management:**
A food safety and quality management system based on the ISO 9001 standard.
- **Site Standards:**
Expectations for the production environment, including the layout and maintenance of buildings and facilities, cleaning, pest control, waste management, and foreign body controls.
- **Product Control:**
Requirements for product inspection and testing, design, and development.
- **Process Control:**
Establishment of safe process controls, weight/volume control, and equipment calibration.
- **Personnel:**
Standards for protective clothing, personal hygiene, and staff training.

5. IS THE BRC GLOBAL STANDARD A PREREQUISITE FOR ENTERING THE BRITISH MARKET?

Yes, the BRC GS is especially prevalent in English-speaking Europe and in large parts of Asia and the United States. A certification is expected in English-speaking markets, above all for British retailers. The standard was developed by the British Retail Consortium (BRC) and has been recognized by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI).

6. WHAT STEPS ARE NEEDED TO OBTAIN A BRC GLOBAL STANDARD CERTIFICATION?

Your certification proceeds as follows:

OUR EXPERTS ARE AT YOUR SERVICE. PLEASE CONTACT US FOR A FREE CONSULTATION!

ONLINE CONTACT

1. Pre-audit (optional)

Pre-audits are the ideal way to prepare for an upcoming BRC certification audit. By determining your strengths and weaknesses early on, you are able to take targeted steps towards a BRC Global Standard certification. Our auditors conduct a preliminary evaluation during the pre-audit to determine whether existing processes already satisfy the requirements of the BRC Global Standard.

2. Certification audit

An audit team checks your documentation for compliance with the BRC Global Standard's requirements. Our auditors further demonstrate the practical applicability of your management system and evaluate the effectiveness of these measures.

3. Issuance of certification

Once all criteria are met, your company is issued a BRC certificate, which is valid for one year to certify conformity with GS specifications and a functional management system. In addition, your company gains an entry in Certipedia, the online database of certificates. Learn more about this topic under "Promoting your products with TÜV Rheinland".

4. Re-certification

Our full annual audits support your organization in the ongoing optimization of processes and re-certification.

7. WHICH BRC GLOBAL STANDARD CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE?

BRC GS Food certifies your food safety, while BRC GS Packaging enables packaging manufacturers to certify their products.

8. IS IT POSSIBLE TO EXCLUDE CERTAIN PRODUCTS FROM THE SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION?

No. Products from the same branch of production may not be excluded, even if they use different means of production.

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