

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

GFSI

CERTIFICATIONS

CONTACT BUREAU VERITAS TODAY FOR ASSISTANCE



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At Bureau Veritas, we take pride in offering comprehensive certification services to businesses aiming to achieve GFSI benchmarked standards. We are fully equipped to support you in realizing your certification goals. We encourage you to reach out to us without delay and embark on your certification journey today!



WHAT IS GFSI CERTIFICATION?

GFSI - Once Certified, Accepted Everywhere.

The Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) is an organization with the ambition of ensuring safe food to consumer worldwide through internationally recognized benchmarked audit standards. It is currently the gold standard that many retailers and brands require throughout their supply chains. If your company is considering certification to a GFSI scheme, this guide and the team at Bureau Veritas will help you determine a path forward.

Due to a rising number of food safety crises and lack of confidence in the food industry, GFSI was launched in 2000 and a benchmarking system for food safety criteria was developed.

Prior to GFSI, there was no single audit standard that could be adopted by all stakeholders. This resulted in companies having to undergo multiple audits, which required time and costs.

Companies do not get “GFSI certified” per se, instead food companies are certified to a GFSI benchmarked certification program. GFSI has created benchmark requirements for Certification Program Owners (CPO) to meet in order for the respective program to receive GFSI recognition.

The three most common CPOs in North America are BRGS, FSSC 22000 and SQF, and for this reason, these three options will be the focus of this guide.

Benefits to becoming certified to a GFSI benchmarked audit standard include:

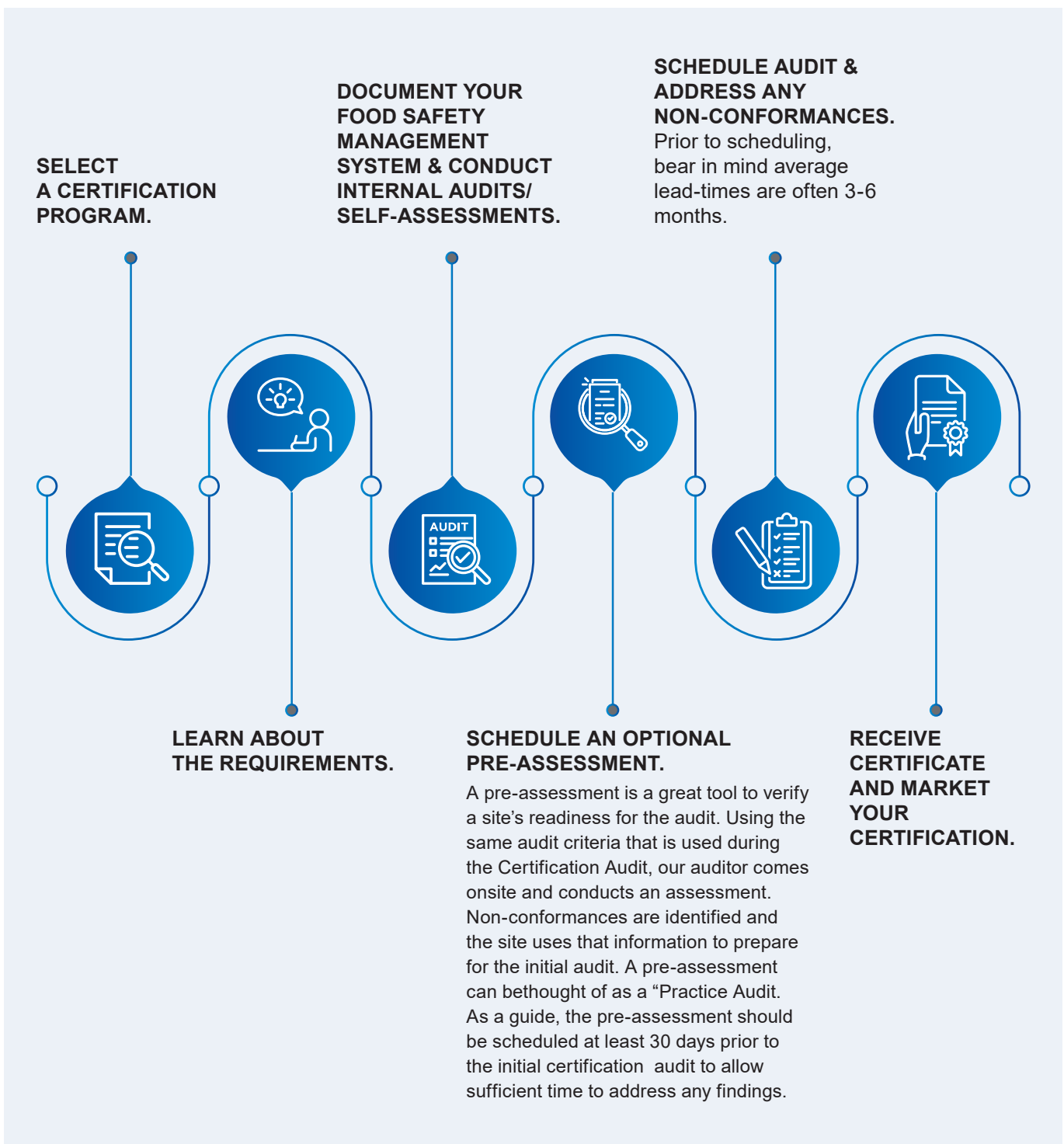
- Continuous improvement of your food safety management systems
- Market Access
- Fewer audits, saving time and costs

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FOOD SAFETY AUDITING & CERTIFICATION

STEPS TO CERTIFICATION

THE BASICS

Depending on which Certification Program is selected, there are some differences when creating a specific action plan. However, the primary steps are the same.



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WHICH CERTIFICATION PROGRAM IS RIGHT FOR ME?

Not all certification programs are suitable for every sector within the food industry. To determine which GFSI benchmarked program is the right fit for your site, please visit the GFSI website at [GFSI-Recognised Certification Programme Owners - MyGFSI](#). Here, you can easily choose the scope of your site's activities by selecting the appropriate industry scope. Once you've made your selection, a list of viable Certification Programs will be displayed. The scope selection includes the following options.

- All Scopes
- BII - Farming of Grains and Pulses
- CII - Processing of Perishable Plant Products
- E - Catering
- I - Production-of-Food-Packaging
- JII - Hygienic Design (Food Businesses)
- AI - Farming of Animals for Meat /Milk / Eggs / Honey
- BIII - Pre-process Handling of Plant Products
- CIII - Processing of Perishable Animal & Plant Products (Mixed Products)
- FI - Retail / Wholesale
- K - Production of (Bio) Chemicals & Bio-Cultures Used as Food Ingredients or Processing Aids in Food Production
- All - Farming of Fish and Seafood
- CO - Animal Primary Conversion
- CIV - Processing of Ambient Stable Animal and Plant Products (Mixed Products)
- FII - Food Broker / Agent
- H - Provision of Food Safety Services
- BI - Farming of Plants (Other Than Grains and Pulses)
- CII - Processing of Perishable Plant Products
- D - Production of Feed
- G - Provision of Storage and Distribution Services
- JI - Hygienic Design (Equipment and Building Providers)

To choose the right program, it's essential to look over the audit criteria and program requirements. Though it might take time, this understanding of the rules and requirements for each program will guide your decision-making.

SQF Code

BRCGS Standards

FSSC 22000

Need help verifying which sections or documents apply to your site? Let us help confirm; please reach out to:

USA | KIM KNOLL | 346.269.2991 | kimberly.knoll@bureauveritas.com

CANADA | RYAN MORRIS | ryan.morris@bureauveritas.com

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GFSI CERTIFICATION COMPARISON CHART

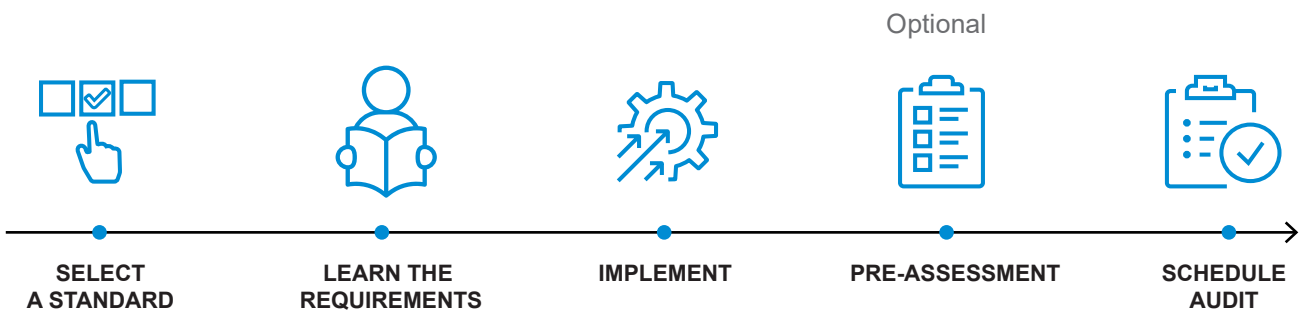


Audit Delivery	<p>Initial Certification (no stages; one activity)</p> <p>Recertification (+/- 30 days on the anniversary of the initial certification audit (last day of audit))</p> <p>Surveillance (+/- 6 mts. (last day of audit) After audit if "Complies" rating)</p>	<p>Initial Certification (no stages; one activity)</p> <p>Recertification (-28 days from the first day of the initial certification audit; AA to B ratings – 12 months; C & D ratings – 6 months)</p>	<p>Stage 1 (to be done on-site)</p> <p>Stage 2 (within 6 months of the last day of the Stage 1 audit)</p> <p>Annual Surveillance (ideally +/- 30 days from the last day of the anniversary of the certification audit)</p> <p>Recertification (at least 4 months prior to certificate expiration)</p>
Auditor Rotation	3 years	3 years	6 years
Non-Conformity Definition	Minor, Major, Critical	Minor, Major, Critical	Areas Of Concerns (Stage 1); Minor, Major, Critical
Non-Conformity Closure	30 days for closure	28 days for closure	28 days for closure
Audit Scoring	Point Scoring System	A*-D Audit grading	No Scoring/Grading
Certificate Delivery	Due by day 55 after last day of audit	Due by day 49 from last day of audit	Due by day 60 from last day of audit
Certificate Validity	1 year	1 year	3 years
Unannounced Audits	<p>Yes, one in every 3 certification audits.</p> <p>Select Site program for sites that want all unannounced.</p>	<p>Yes, one in every 3 certification audits.</p> <p>Sites can request all unannounced and receive a "+" after their rating.</p>	<p>Yes, One of two surveillance audits unless site requests an unannounced recertification audit.</p>
Audit Window	+/- 30 days from Recertification Due Date/anniversary date	28 days prior to the due date, or 4 months if site is due for Unannounced Audit.	Calendar Year
Quality Requirements	Separate Quality Code	Included	Included

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REMEMBER, WE ARE HERE TO HELP WITH YOUR GFSI CERTIFICATION NEEDS

WE CAN ASSIST YOU IN THIS PROCESS:



OUR KNOWLEDGEABLE, CUSTOMER FOCUSED TEAM OFFERS THE MOST RESPONSIVE SERVICE.

- Fair, Thorough Audits
- Global Capabilities
- Advanced Scheduling Practices
- Local Auditors in US and Canada

Learn More About Our Food Safety Training

FOOD SAFETY AUDITING & CERTIFICATION

LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN SUPPORT YOU WITH FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVES.

USA | KIM KNOLL | 346.269.2991
KIMBERLY.KNOLL@BUREAUVERITAS.COM

CANADA | RYAN MORRIS
RYAN.MORRIS@BUREAUVERITAS.COM



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Bureau Veritas is a Business to Business to Society company, contributing to transforming the world we live in. A world leader in testing, inspection and certification, we help clients across all industries address challenges in quality, health & safety, environmental protection and social responsibility.

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