

## **Demands of retailers**

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### **1. Introduction**

For GLOBALG.A.P. retailers are a vital part of the whole operation.

GLOBALG.A.P.'s roots began in 1997 as EUREPGAP, an initiative by retailers belonging to the Euro-Retailer Produce Working Group. British retailers working together with supermarkets in continental Europe become aware of consumers' growing concerns regarding product safety, environmental impact and the health, safety and welfare of workers and animals.

The outcome was to harmonize their own standards and procedures and develop an independent certification system for Good Agricultural Practice (G.A.P.).

The EUREPGAP standards helped producers comply with Europe-wide accepted criteria for food safety, sustainable production methods, worker and animal welfare, and responsible use of water, compound feed and plant propagation materials.

To reflect both its global reach and its goal of becoming the leading international G.A.P. standard, EUREPGAP changed its name to GLOBALG.A.P. in 2007.

GLOBALG.A.P. today is the world's leading farm assurance program, translating consumer requirements into Good Agricultural Practice in a rapidly growing list of countries – currently more than 135.

### **2. Chapter 2 Demands of Retailers**

#### *2.1. Early Days*

From the very beginning Traceability was a key requirement. Here in Version 2.1-Oct04:

##### *1. TRACEABILITY*

###### *1.1*

*Is EUREPGAP registered product traceable back to and trackable from the registered farm where it has been grown?*

*There is a documented traceability system that allows EUREPGAP registered product to be traced back to the registered farm or, in a Farmer Group, group of registered farms, and tracked forward to the immediate customer. No N/A. Major*

This requirement is part of every version ever since.

Also, a basic requirement is Food Safety. In order to facilitate this, a number of "Risk Assessments" have to be performed by the producer.

The use of water, fertilizers, plant protection products, harvest activities, personal hygiene, just to name a few, must be considered.

## 2.2. Labelling

The use of labels for GLOBALG.A.P. certified products was not possible in the beginning. It was a strict B2B system. The reason being, that the certification took place at producer level. Trading further up the supply chain could not be controlled by GLOBALG.A.P.

After introducing the "Chain of Custody" (CoC) certification in Aquaculture, the first labelling was possible. The reason was, that the fish has to be slaughtered, and the slaughterhouse must ensure that the producer receives the fish which was delivered.

With this tool the supply chain becomes transparent and a statement of the origin of the product can be made.

The next step was the product group "Flowers and Ornamentals". Here the supply chain is mostly rather short, so the "Chain of Custody" certification is not involving many parties.

These two product groups had their own logo.

In 2021 a new approach was made: the GLOBALG.A.P. logo (GGN Label) for all certified products.

The GGN label is GLOBALG.A.P.'s consumer label. It stands for certified, responsible farming and transparency.

Found on both packed and loose products, the GGN label exists to offer consumers consistent, relevant assurance and orientation throughout the store. It does so by confirming that the products were farmed in line with certified, responsible farming practices that cover food safety, environmental protection, animal welfare, social responsibility, and supply chain transparency. The GGN label may be applied to:

- Fruit and vegetables
- Farmed seafood and algae
- Flowers and plants

The GGN label initiative assures certified, responsible farming with transparency.

The farmer is at the centre of the GGN label initiative, and therefore at the centre of the GGN label logo.



The magnifying glass symbolizes the transparency we enable and the trust that the GGN label can

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build through this transparency.

The prominent check mark provides assurance of the farmer's adherence to responsible farming practices and the quality goods they produce according to internationally recognized standards.

The portal ([www.ggn.org](http://www.ggn.org)) is at the heart of the transparency which the GGN label promises. It is home to the profiles of all the producers and traders whose products carry the GGN label logo. Profiles are matched with the unique GGNs or CoC Numbers, and each profile is verified by the GGN label team before publication. The portal also provides information on responsible farming practices and how certification works.

### 2.3. GLOBALG.A.P.+ Add-on

In response to growing demand for even stronger quality assurance in specific aspects of agricultural production and the supply chain, GLOBALG.A.P. has developed add-ons that enhance your GLOBALG.A.P. certification.

These made-to-measure add-ons upgrade your status as a producer and offer buyers specific assurance tailored to their interests and preferences.

Here a few examples:

- GRASP, GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment on Social Practice.
- BioDiversity Add-on: Promoting biodiversity in conventional agriculture
- SPRING - Sustainable Program for Irrigation and Groundwater Use
- Coop Italia Pesticide Transparency Add-on

### 2.4. Environmental Sustainability

To facilitate the development and finalization of the environmental sustainability module of GLOBALG.A.P. V6, a focus group was established. This focus group is called "Environmental Sustainability in Crop Production" (Sustainability FG).

The focus group incorporates the latest scientific research as well as evaluate the data-driven and outcome-based approach for implementation at farm level. The focus group is discussing ways of how GLOBALG.A.P. can embrace sustainability under the principles of no duplication on farm level in terms of certifications, and harmonization with existing sustainability programs as well as cost-effective adoption of G.A.P. in partnership with them.

In phase 1, the goal of this focus was to evaluate and define:

- The criteria and aspects GLOBALG.A.P. already covered (gap analysis).
- The criteria and aspects GLOBALG.A.P. Certification should cover.
- The best strategies and plans for GLOBALG.A.P. to cover the missing elements.
- The role metrics and data confidentiality play.
- Methods and procedures to monitor the impact.

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In phase 2, the goal of the focus group is to fine-tune the content, which includes shifting the style format from control points and compliance criteria into, respectively, principles and criteria to complete the environmental sustainability theme of v6.

Phase 3 of the focus group focuses on incorporating the feedback received during public consultation four and any other outstanding issues. The final draft will then be presented to the Advisory Board.

### 2.5. Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) Standard Version 6

This Standard is available for:

- Fruit and Vegetables,
- Flowers and Ornamentals,
- Hops, and
- Aquaculture

For the first time two parallel editions of the IFA standard are available:

**IFA v6 Smart**, which fully embodies the GLOBALG.A.P. philosophy and is appropriate for most producers, and

**IFA v6 GFS** for those who require certification with GFSI recognition.

The features of the v6 are:

- Smarter, customized checklists available from the IFA v6 documents generator
- Journey towards an outcome-oriented, impact-driven approach
- Simplified benchmarking options
- Complete audit reports generated by Audit Online Hub in a paperless, uniform design
- Enhanced integrity through uniform certificate templates available in real time in Validation Service
- Mandatory continuous improvement plans introduced at producer level
- New and updated sustainability criteria on topics such as plastics, waste, carbon neutrality, deforestation, and animal welfare

## 2. Chapter 3 Summary

- Over time the demands of retailers have changed. In the early days in the 90's, traceability and food safety were the main topics.
- Requirements for labelling followed.
- Company specific requirements are covered in GLOBALG.A.P.+ Add-ons.
- GRASP, GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment on Social Practice is now a must for most

GLOBALG.A.P. certified producers.

- Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) Standard Version 6 is covering current retailer requirements.