



GLOBAL STANDARD **CONSUMER PRODUCTS**



QUICK GUIDE FOR **ISSUE 4**

WHY CHOOSE THE BRC GLOBAL STANDARD?

BENEFITS

- globally recognised as a benchmark for the supply of products that are safe, legal and of agreed quality
- takes a common sense, risk based approach, providing companies with a clear path towards certification
- increases customer confidence, opening new market opportunities
- comprehensive support tools
- product safety improvements reduce recalls, complaints, and rejected product
- marketing tools and public recognition on the BRC Directory
- a global network of trained approved certification bodies, auditors and training partners

BENEFITS OF NEW ISSUE 4

- wider scope that now includes manufacturers of raw materials and wholesale products
- more risk based approach to the requirements of the Standard
- aligned to ISO 9001 and ISO 22716 good manufacturing practice guidelines
- new voluntary modules to reduce multiple customer audits
- increased auditing time on the production floor
- new interim reporting to speed up information transfer to potential customers
- simplified audit frequency
- revised auditor selection programme

REFLECTING MARKET NEEDS

The new Standard is designed to align with the buying expectations of major specifier retailers and manufacturers and has now split into Personal Care & Household (PCH) and General Merchandise standards (GM). Both can be certificated at Foundation Level and Higher Level as required by specifiers and sites.

PERSONAL CARE & HOUSEHOLD

Typically, products requiring a greater control of the processing and storage environment and management of production contamination risks. Requirements reflect this.

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Typically, products where design approval, product safety and process control have a greater significance than the processing environment.

Foundation Level Certification

- entry level compliance for lower risk, simpler processes and developing areas
- based on risk assessment and management principles for products and processes
- minimum requirements for safety, legality and specified quality for product, process, records and documentation
- demonstrable control of production processes
- audits are typically 1 day in duration
- pass Certificate on successful audit

Higher Level Certification

- compliance for higher risk products and more advanced product management systems
- based on risk assessment and management principles for products and processes
- fully documented quality management system
- demonstrable control of well documented processes
- audits are typically 2 days in duration
- pass Certificate with grades on successful audit

STEPS TO CERTIFICATION

1 LEARN

- Visit the BRC Global Standards website
- Select appropriate Standard (PCH or GM)
 - Obtain a copy of the Standard and study it
- Interpretation Guidelines may be useful

2 REVIEW

- Perform a self-assessment gap analysis to find out what is missing/inadequate
- Assemble and train a team
 - Obtain consultancy if needed

3 PREPARE

- Carry out risk assessments
- Establish necessary control points
- Prepare procedures
- Confirm site is capable of meeting BRC requirements at chosen level of certification
- Undertake internal audits

4 PLAN

- Select and contact a suitable certification body
- Arrange a pre-assessment visit (optional)
 - Implement any identified corrective actions

5 AUDIT AND CERTIFICATION

- Arrange an audit visit
- Make sure staff are available and preparations made
- Audit is conducted
- Carry out corrective action
- Certification body presents audit report and determines whether the site can achieve certification

6 MAINTAIN

- Continue to meet requirements
- Arrange new audit before expiry
 - Continual development

REQUIREMENTS

1. SENIOR MANAGEMENT COMMITMENT

The starting point for effective implementation of the Standard requires the active support of the full management team across all departments to provide human and financial resource, guide activities and ensure continual development.

2. PRODUCT RISK MANAGEMENT

This section requires an evaluation of risks that a product could present to the consumer, a risk assessment and verification of product safety, legality and claims before production.

3. PRODUCT SAFETY AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

This section ensures the company works in a systematic way that forms the basis for the product and process controls necessary to produce safe products, and meet customer expectations.

4. SITE STANDARDS

This covers the suitability, cleanliness and control of the site and includes topics such as factory conditions, cleaning, equipment, pest control, storage, dispatch, transport and site security.

5. PRODUCT INSPECTION & TESTING

This section requires a programme in place to establish controls for product inspection and testing during and after production, and for maintaining sample references.

6. PROCESS CONTROL

This section uses risk assessment principles to identify, manage and control potential risks in the manufacturing and packing process on a daily basis, together with effective procedures to consistently manufacture safe, legal product to the correct quality.

7. PERSONNEL

This section covers staff training and competency, and as applicable, protective clothing and hygiene practices.

SUPPORT



To download your FREE copy of the Standard please visit www.brcparticipate.com

TRAINING

BRC Academy provides a wide range of courses around the world and in the local languages through its network of qualified trainers, including:

- Understanding the requirements
- How to implement
- Risk Assessment & Management training

More information on the BRC website www.brctrainingacademy.com

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more details, visit our website www.brcglobalstandards.com

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