





COMPARING GFSI BENCHMARKED CERTIFICATIONS?






Each GFSI scheme has unique benefits, requirements, criteria and scopes. Use the tables below to get a better understanding of the schemes and determine which certification is most appropriate for your business.

All GFSI recognized schemes provide:

- > Increased protection of your brand and minimized risks
- > Proof that food safety systems are independently verified and meet international standards of food safety
- > Greater confidence to your customers that your products have been processed, prepared and handled according to the highest standards in food safety
- > Help in fostering a culture of safety in your organization and aligning your company with the most up-to-date regulations for food safety

	 BRC	 FSSC 22000	 IFS	 SQF
SCOPE	BRC	FSSC 22000	IFS	SQF
Food manufacturing	X	X	X	X
Food packaging manufacturing	X	X	X	X
Consumer products packaging (spoons, napkins, etc.)	X	-	X	X
Storage, distribution, transports, logistics	X	X	X	X
Animal feed manufacturing	-	X	-	X
Pet food	-	X	X	X
Agents and brokers	X	-	X	-
Biochemical manufacturing	-	X	-	-
Catering	-	X	-	X
Agricultural packinghouse	-	-	-	X
Farming	-	X	-	X

Additional Considerations

	 BRC	 FSSC 22000	 IFS	 SQF
SCOPE	BRC	FSSC 22000	IFS	SQF
Criteria Averages and estimates. True audit duration will be dependent on a number of factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-2.5 days • On-site only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 1 (document review): 1-2 days • Stage 2 (facility): 1.5-2.5 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-2.5 days • On-site only days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 1 (desk): 1.5 days • Stage 2 (facility): 2-2.5 days
Unannounced audits	Voluntary	Once every 3-year certification cycle	Voluntary	Once every 3-year certification cycle
Grading	<p>A, B, C grades. If the audit is voluntarily unannounced, a "+" is added, e.g. B+.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A and B are 12-month certification durations • C is 6 months 	Ungraded, no criteria for follow-up audits	<p>Points are deducted for non-conformities based on degree of non-conformance, resulting in a numerical score. Final grade is either certificate issue, no certificate issue, or certificate issue with follow-up in 6 months.</p>	<p>Facility starts at 100 points. Points are deducted for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96 – 100 E : Excellent • 85 – 95: G: Good • 70 – 84 C: Complies • <70 F: Fails to comply
Certification validity duration	Grade C and D re-audited in 6 months. Grade D will be revisited within 28 days to verify corrective actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three years • Annual surveillance audits 	One year	One year
Non-accredited audit program	BRC Start – Meats, dairy, vegetables	• Global Markets Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Markets • Food/Household Products/Logistics 	SQF Fundamentals
Quality	Included	<p>Separate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSSC-Q certification 	• Included	Separate Level 3 - Quality
Voluntary modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASDA, • GLOBALG.A.P. • Cultural Excellence • FSMA • Meat • Agents and Brokers • Gluten Free 	-	-	-

Why NSF?

NSF International is the leading global certifier of Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) benchmarked certifications. Our innovative food safety audit and certification services are built upon a world-class integrity program, customer focused approach, and technical and operational excellence to deliver confidence and brand protection with local understanding and global reach.

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