

# Food Safety and Quality

We understand you may have some questions for us. With this in mind, we have compiled a list of those we are asked most frequently to assist with:

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### What is HARPs?

HARPs represents the:

#### Harmonised Australian Retailer Produce Scheme

HARPs is a project developed to harmonise food safety certification requirements for five (5) major grocery retailers in Australia being ALDI, Coles, Costco and Woolworths. The objective is to adopt, maintain and audit multiple food safety systems by individual suppliers to the multiple retail customers.

### What do I need to do?

To become certified to HARPs, the first step is to get to know the standard, visit:

<http://harpsonline.com.au/document-library/>

Certification to HARPs must be linked to another standard called the base/external standard, which includes Global Gap & Freshcare (Growers or Grower-Packers), BRC (Packhouses and applicable services) and SQF Level 3 (Growers, Grower-Packers, Packhouses and applicable services).

Prior to your first audit, you should contact your retailer to ensure they will accept your base standard with HARPs certification and submit a Pre-Assessment Checklist to your Certification Body two weeks before your audit date.

### What is a GFSI/base standard?

The Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) is an industry-driven initiative which recognises the following GFSI base standards being:

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| BRC        | <a href="http://www.brcglobalstandards.com/">http://www.brcglobalstandards.com/</a> |
| Global Gap | <a href="http://www.globalgap.org/uk_en/">http://www.globalgap.org/uk_en/</a>       |
| Freshcare  | <a href="https://www.freshcare.com.au/">https://www.freshcare.com.au/</a>           |
| SQF        | <a href="http://www.sqfi.com/">http://www.sqfi.com/</a>                             |

### Who is eligible?

Any business that is involved in the supply of unprocessed produce to a retailer may be certified to the HARPs Standard. This may include farmers, grading facilities, packhouses, storage, distributors or agent/brokers. If you are unsure, you can check with the retailer you are supplying to or your buyer, to confirm that they will accept this as a part of their Approved Supplier Program.

### How will my audits change?

If you are currently certified by BSI to GlobalGap, Freshcare, BRC or SQF and currently supplying produce to any of the retailers, then you will only need a HARPS audit, instead of the other additional audits, such as WQA v8 Produce or Aldi Supplier Program audits. Our Planning Team can book this in for you.

If you are not currently certified to GlobalGap, Freshcare, BRC or SQF, then you will need to arrange certification to one of these standards, along with the HARPS certification. Our Sales Team will be able to help you with this.

### Are there any changes to the cost structure?

BSI will be auditing and charging for the audits in accordance with our current costing structure. AU\$245.00 HARPS Administration Fee will be included with your Annual Management Fee (AMF) and passed through to the Produce Marketing Association.

### Who do I contact to book a HARPS audit?

If you are a current client of BSI and already certified to a base standard, then you can email our Planning Team to arrange your audit

[foodplanning.au@bisgroup.com](mailto:foodplanning.au@bisgroup.com)

Otherwise, please contact our Sales team so that they can assist with your HARPS certification process.

[sales.aus@bsigroup.com](mailto:sales.aus@bsigroup.com)

### How do two-part audits work?

A two part audit process allows for the use of different certification bodies to audit the GFSI/base standard and the HARPs Standard. This is because not all Certification Bodies are eligible to audit under every base standard. Furthermore not all Certification Bodies are accepted by every customer/retailer. The two part audit process is permitted within a 28 day window.

Please ensure you select a Certification Body that is both eligible to audit the base standard you have selected AND is accepted by ALL your customers/retailers.

### How do I get a certificate?

A Certificate of Attainment will be issued by BSI on behalf of PMA Australia-New Zealand. The certificate may be issued upon closing of all non-conformances raised from the HARPS and GFSI/base standard.