




BRCGS Global Standard Packaging Materials

Guide to certification



**Engage with your
chosen certification
body as early in the
process as you can.**

**For more than
25 years, BRCGS
has been at the
forefront of
standards**

**With over 2,500
auditors worldwide,
BRCGS certification is
accessible no matter
where you are located.**

THE BENCHMARK FOR PACKAGING EXCELLENCE WORLDWIDE

For more than 25 years, BRCGS has been at the forefront of standards, and at the heart of our work is a mission to deliver the most rigorous third-party certification schemes for the best results possible. BRCGS certification provides vital assurance and confidence in the supply chain, and ensures high levels of safety and quality to guarantee consumer protection. As the most established global market leader across both food and non-food categories, BRCGS is the most recognised certification of its type and is accepted globally by brands, retailers and specifiers.

With over 35,000 certificated sites in more than 130 countries, BRCGS certification delivers trusted results and assurance of product integrity, which is why it is often the preferred choice when it comes to GFSI benchmarked certification.

THE BRCGS GLOBAL STANDARD PACKAGING MATERIALS IS SUITABLE FOR:

Manufacturers of packaging and packaging materials for food and non-food applications.

This includes organisations that:

- Produce packaging materials for conversion or printing.
- Supply packaging materials.
- Manufacture or supply raw materials used in packaging.



**LEARN WITH THE
EXPERTS AT THE BRCGS ACADEMY**
Over 65 interactive courses available all
delivered by experts worldwide in
a range of languages.



WHY CHOOSE THE BRCGS GLOBAL STANDARD PACKAGING MATERIALS?



- Increased market access as BRCGS certification is the leading global standard recognised by retailers and specifiers worldwide.
- Compliance with a standard that is GFSI benchmarked, accredited and internationally recognised through IAF.
- Protect your company reputation, brand and image by reducing risk across your operations and minimising the cost of failure.
- Contains product safety, quality and operational criteria, assisting businesses in meeting the legislative requirements for product safety.
- Demonstrate increased regulatory compliance through one audit.
- Demonstrate your commitment to sustainable practices with the plastic pellet loss prevention additional module, which focuses on preventing pre-production plastic waste from entering the environment.

**The standard can be
accessed free of charge
via the BRCGS Store.**

MORE THAN CERTIFICATION – THE PROVEN ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Independent Research carried out by the University of Birkbeck found that sites certificated to a BRCGS Standard see benefits that go beyond compliance.

Commercial benefits

50%

benefit from
domestic growth

60%

benefit from
export growth

28%

benefit from
greater
profitability

47%

benefit from
fewer customer
audits

7.5%

average sales
growth

6%

average increase
in profitability

Operational efficiencies and improvements in productivity

70%

have achieved
efficiencies and
greater productivity

30%

have benefited
from product
innovation

63%

reported
production
improvements

40%

reduction in
food recalls

STEPS TO CERTIFICATION

1

GETTING STARTED

Read the Standard and Interpretation Guideline publications thoroughly to familiarise yourself with the Standard and its requirements. Contact your chosen BRCGS-approved certification body to discuss your application.



2

LEARN

Attend training with the BRCGS Academy to gain a practical understanding of implementing the requirements.



3

REVIEW

Perform a self-assessment gap analysis with the Standard (gap-analysis tool available on the BRCGS website). Assemble and train a team for implementation. Obtain consultancy if needed.



4

PREPARE

Use the outputs of the self-assessment to develop an action plan to implement the Standard requirements in your operation. Carry out risk assessments where needed and establish necessary control points. Prepare your procedures and undertake internal audits.



5

PLAN AUDIT

BRCGS certification audits are delivered by our network of approved certification bodies. A list is available in the BRCGS Directory. Contact your chosen certification body to arrange an audit. Make sure you plan ahead so that staff are available and preparations are made.



6

ON-SITE AUDIT

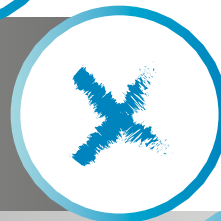
The audit will assess the practical implementation of the Standard requirements. Observation of procedures and processes, review of documentation, and staff interviews will all take place.



7

NON-CONFORMITIES AND CORRECTIVE ACTION

If non-conformities are identified, you will need to carry out any corrective action, root cause analysis and plan preventive action. These will be closed out within 28 days following the audit.



8

CERTIFICATION

Your certification body will review the non-conformities and finalise the audit report to determine whether certification be awarded. If certification is achieved, the certification body will issue your certificate within 42 calendar days from the first day of your audit.





TRAINING FOR SITES PREPARING FOR CERTIFICATION

Kick-start your preparation by attending a BRCGS training course, which will provide you with the essential knowledge and insights required for a successful certification audit.

PACKAGING MATERIALS SITES TRAINING COURSE (2 days)

By the end of this course you will:

- Understand the requirements including the objectives of fundamental clauses and statements of intent.
- Have practical knowledge of the standard requirements and be able to identify what is needed to comply with each requirement.
- Know how BRCGS audits operate and how to prepare.
- Be familiar with the actions required post-audit including non-conformities, corrective actions, root cause analysis and certificate issue.

Find out more and book your place at
www.brcgs.com/training/overview

THE ADDED VALUE OF BRCGS CERTIFICATION

Once certificated, you will have exclusive access to the BRCGS Service Package. This features a range of tools to help sites continuously improve and maintain compliance, providing added value outside of the audit process.

- Access to Participate, an online library of all BRCGS Standards, best practice guidance and supporting materials.
- Unlimited enrolments for BRCGS Professional, a globally recognised learning and development programme to build skills and knowledge within your business.
- Ethical appraisal tools to help you to respond to increasing market requirements around ethical operations and sustainability.
- A taster of our culture measurement and analysis tool, FSCE Basic, to drive culture improvements in your business.
- Valuable insights into your audit performance through BRCGS Horizon.



All certificated sites feature in the BRCGS Directory, the 'shop window' for brands and retailers looking for trusted suppliers.

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TIP FOR BEST SUCCESS
Use the Interpretation Guideline alongside the Standard when implementing the requirements. It will help you to understand each requirement and ways to comply.





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To learn more about BRCGS and certification,
please visit **[brcgs.com](https://www.brcgs.com)**.

To access or purchase a BRCGS Global Standard or to book training,
please visit **[brcgs.com/store](https://www.brcgs.com/store)**.

To find a BRCGS-approved certification body,
please visit **[directory.brcgs.com](https://www.brcgs.com/directory)**.