



REGULATORY REFERENCE

BRC Food Standard (BRCGS)

Global Standard for Food Safety, Issue 9 (mandatory since February 2023)

GLOBAL · BRCGS · BRAND REPUTATION COMPLIANCE GLOBAL
STANDARDS · LONDON · RECOGNIZED BY GFSI

May 13, 2026

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JURISDICTION	TYPE	CATEGORY
BRCGS · Brand Reputation Compliance Global Standards · London · recognized by GFSI	Certification	Food safety
DARWIN PRODUCTS	LAST OFFICIAL UPDATE	DOCUMENT VERSION
Captia · Tracium	July 24, 2024	v1.0.0 · 13/05/2026

1. What is it?

The **BRC Food Standard** (*BRCGS Global Standard for Food Safety*) is a private food safety and quality certification scheme issued by **BRCGS** (Brand Reputation Compliance Global Standards), originating in the United Kingdom. It is recognized by the **Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI)** and required by major UK retail chains and many global retailers as proof of a robust food safety system. The current version is **Issue 9**, published in August 2022 and mandatory for every audit since **February 1, 2023**. Certification renews annually.

2. Who does it apply to?

Covered actors:

- Food manufacturers and processors.
- Sites packing private-label products for retailers.
- Plants processing both private-label and third-party-branded products.
- LATAM exporters shipping to the UK, EU or U.S. when the retailer buyer requires BRC.

Covered products: processed and partially processed foods (meat, dairy, bakery, canned, frozen, beverages, condiments, ingredients). Scope is defined per

production site.

Markets: globally recognized standard. Dominant adoption in the **United Kingdom, Ireland and UK-bound export markets** (South America, Africa, Asia, Australia). It is one of the most demanded schemes alongside IFS, FSSC 22000 and SQF; they are GFSI-interoperable but buyers usually require a specific certificate per country of origin.

Scope by exclusion: certifies the **production site**, not the product. Each plant of a corporate group certifies independently. BRCGS publishes sister standards for other activities (Packaging, Storage and Distribution, Agents and Brokers, Consumer Products), outside the scope of this document.

3. Key requirements

The standard is organized into **9 sections** covering everything from management to operational control. Within those sections, **12 fundamental requirements** apply (Issue 9 expanded from 8 in Issue 8 to 12).

The 12 fundamentals (Issue 9)

A **major non-conformity** on any fundamental requirement **blocks initial certification** or **causes withdrawal** of an existing certificate at subsequent audits.

ID	Clause	Fundamental requirement
F-1	1.1	Senior management commitment and continual improvement.
F-2	2	Food safety plan and HACCP .
F-3	3.4	Internal audits.
F-4	3.5.1	Management of suppliers of raw materials and packaging.
F-5	3.7	Corrective and preventive actions.
F-6	3.9	Traceability .
F-7	4.3	Layout, product flow and segregation.
F-8	4.11	Housekeeping and hygiene.
F-9	5.3	Allergen management.
F-10	6.1	Control of operations.
F-11	6.2	Labelling and pack control.
F-12	7	Training.

Non-conformity classification

Type	Description
Critical	Critical failure regarding product safety or legal compliance.
Major	Substantial failure against a Standard requirement (or against a fundamental: blocks certification).
Minor	A clause was not fully met but conformity is not in doubt.

Certification grades

Grade	Outcome	Note
AA / AA+	Exceptional	The "+" denotes an unannounced audit (more valued).
A / A+	Very good	
B / B+	Acceptable	
C / C+	To improve	Still certified, but triggers commercial review.
D / D+	Marginal	High risk of certificate loss at the next audit.
No certification	Failure on a fundamental or excessive non-conformities.	

Audit

- **Frequency: annual** recertification (exact date depends on the grade obtained).
- **Modality:** scheduled or **unannounced** (unannounced adds "+" to the grade).
- **Composition:** documental + on-site at the plant. The auditor typically compares the documented HACCP plan against what is observed on the production floor.
- **GFSI-benchmarked standard:** holding BRC is equivalent proof against buyers requesting another GFSI scheme (IFS, FSSC 22000, SQF), but commercial equivalence usually still requires the specific certificate the buyer requests.

4. How does Darwin cover it?

Captia captures production events in plant and field; **Tracium** anchors records to the immutable ledger. Together they support the auditable requirements as follows.

- **F-6 Traceability (3.9):** **Captia** generates Traceability Lot Codes for every production event and links raw materials, work-in-progress and finished product; **Tracium** persists and signs each lot on-chain, enabling bidirectional traceability evidence (forward and backward) in minutes during the audit.

- **F-2 HACCP (section 2): Captia** structures the HACCP plan per production line, records CCP monitoring with evidence (readings, photos, signatures) and retains the documentary traceability the auditor compares against floor observation.
- **F-4 Supplier management (3.5.1): Captia** maintains a versioned catalog of supplier specifications, linked to the received lot and to the COA (Certificate of Analysis). Supplier approvals are digitally signed and audit-traceable in **Tracium**.
- **F-3 Internal audits (3.4): Captia** schedules, records findings, assigns action plans and closes them with evidence.
- **F-5 Corrective and preventive actions (3.7):** workflow with deadlines, owners and closure with traceable evidence.
- **F-9 Allergen management (5.3): Captia** records allergen controls per lot (supplier declarations, cleaning validations, line segregation) in audit-ready format.
- **F-11 Labelling and pack control (6.2): Captia** validates the data printed on the label against the approved specification and records every change.
- **F-12 Training (section 7): Captia** keeps the training registry, evaluations and electronic approval signature.
- **Recall and withdrawal:** a lot-keyed query in **Tracium** returns the full affected-product tree in seconds, enabling withdrawals within the timeframes demanded by buyer and authority.

Areas not yet covered in V1 (transparent):

- **Physical site aspects** (infrastructure, pest control, metal detection, equipment validation, physical segregation): Darwin records the evidence but does not perform the physical control.
- **Food safety culture** (BRCGS audits this explicitly): **Captia** records evidence of activities (training, internal communication, surveys) but the cultural substance is built by the client.

5. Sanctions and consequences of non-compliance

Unlike a government regulation, BRC does not impose fines. The consequences are **commercial and reputational**.

Certificate loss:

- Without a current certificate, the plant **cannot supply major retail chains** that require it as a contractual condition (Tesco, Sainsbury's, M&S, Asda, Morrisons and many global retailers).

- A **major non-conformity on a fundamental** blocks certification immediately. The plant falls outside the scheme until the non-conformity is closed and a re-audit is passed.
- Re-audits carry additional cost and consume commercial time.

Commercial risk:

- A grade drop (from A to B, for example) usually triggers a commercial review by the buyer. For C/D grades the buyer typically demands a remediation plan or suspends purchases.
- An **unannounced audit with a worse grade** than the prior announced one is a red flag for the buyer.

Reputational risk:

- **BRCGS Directory** is the public certificate database, queried by any buyer before issuing purchase orders. It exposes the certification status (current, suspended, withdrawn).

6. Timeline

- **1998:** BRC publishes the first Global Standard for Food Safety (v1), a pioneer among private food safety schemes.
- **2015:** BRC Food Issue 7.
- **2018:** BRC Food Issue 8.
- **August 2022: BRCGS Food Safety Issue 9 published.**
- **February 1, 2023: Issue 9 mandatory** for every audit. Issue 8 certifications stop being issued.
- **July 24, 2024:** F926 Position Statements v3 published with interpretive clarifications for Issue 9.
- **2026 to 2027 (expected):** possible additional interpretive positions.
- **2026 to 2028 (expected):** the typical cycle suggests publication of Issue 10.

7. Official source and updates

- **Primary source:** [BRCGS · Food Safety Global Standard](#)
- **Purchase the standard (Issue 9):** [Global Standard Food Safety Issue 9](#)
- **Position Statements and clarifications:** [F926 Position Statements v3 · July 24, 2024 \(PDF\)](#)

- **Public certificate database:** [BRCGS Directory](#)
- **Last official update verified:** July 24, 2024 (F926 Position Statements v3).
- **Darwin doc version:** 1.0.0.
- **Darwin doc date:** May 13, 2026.

Legal notice

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All-in-One Digital Product Platform

Traceability, compliance and operational efficiency for food and agro-industrial supply chains.

From origin to market. From traceability to trust.

Traceability is now market-access infrastructure

Food supply chains must demonstrate origin, process, compliance and evidence. Pressure converges from regulators, global buyers, consumers, brands and higher-value markets.

Regulators

FSMA 204 / EUDR

Buyers

visibility and response

Consumers

trust with evidence

Markets

origin, quality and access

Darwin covers the full traceability cycle



AI LAYER Intelligence applied over traceable data: inconsistencies, gaps, risks, alerts, queries and audits.

What it solves

- Fragmented data across field, plant, logistics and customers.
- Slow audits and traceability rebuilt after the fact.
- Gap between market requirements and operational reality.
- Low digitalization at producers and rural areas.

What it enables

- **Comply better:** structured, auditable and verifiable data.
- **Operate better:** fewer errors, rework and manual load.
- **Sell better:** demonstrable origin, quality and sustainability.
- **Include better:** producers connected to higher-value chains.

Multi-standard compliance

Capture once, structure correctly and reuse the data for regulatory, commercial and operational purposes.

FSMA 204

CTEs / KDEs

EUDR

DDS and deforestation

Certifications

GlobalGAP, BRC, organic

Private standards

retailers and buyers

One platform, different value cases

● Producers

evidence and market access

● Exporters

control and compliance

● Retailers and brands

risk, recalls and claims

● Certifiers

audit-ready evidence

● Industry bodies

sectoral standardization

● Governments

inclusion and markets

Rollout: Discovery, Pilot and Go-live

Differentiators: traceability at the core · capture at origin · interoperability · verifiable evidence · all-in-one modular · AI on top of real traceability.

01 Discovery

02 Pilot

03 Go-live