



Certification Program

What is the CanadaGAP Certification Program?

CanadaGAP® is a food safety program for companies that supply fresh fruits and vegetables. The program has received full Canadian Government Recognition and is designed to help you implement effective food safety procedures in your operation. Two manuals, one specific to greenhouse operations, the second for other fruit and vegetable operations, have been developed by the horticultural industry and reviewed for technical soundness by Canadian government officials. The manuals are designed for companies implementing Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) in their fruit and vegetable production, packing and storage operations, and for repackers and wholesalers implementing Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) and HACCP Programs. The program is also designed for fresh produce brokers implementing best practices in supplier management and product traceability. The manuals are based on the seven basic principles of the internationally-recognized HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) approach. Audit and certification services for the program are delivered by accredited Certification Bodies. CanadaGAP is formally benchmarked to and officially recognized by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI).

What does it mean to be certified?

Certification means a qualified authority has determined that your operation meets the standard and is being maintained on an ongoing basis. This involves having a third party auditor from the Certification Body come to your operation, review your CanadaGAP manual(s) and related records, visit your facilities and interview the operator and staff, and assess your conformance to the CanadaGAP Audit Checklist. Once you pass the audit, you will be certified to the program.

Why become CanadaGAP certified?

The certification program is open to fresh fruit and vegetable suppliers who need to demonstrate to their customers that they are implementing an effective food safety program.

If your buyer is asking specifically for the CanadaGAP certification, you should enrol. Certification is being requested by buyers who wish to ensure that the CanadaGAP manuals are being implemented effectively by their suppliers (e.g., Metro, Loblaw Companies Limited, McCain Foods Canada, Simplot Canada, Lamb-Weston, Cavendish, etc.). If your customer requires a GFSI-recognized program, you can enrol in CanadaGAP certification option B, C or D (GFSI-recognized) or F (not GFSI-recognized) to meet your customers' requirements. Brokers should select option F.

Contact us for more information:

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Certification Options

CanadaGAP has been designed to be as flexible and responsive as possible to developments within a dynamic industry.

Choose the option that meets your customer(s)' requirements. If in doubt, ask your buyer for clarification.

Recognized by	Option	Audit Frequency	Features
Canadian Government Food Safety Recognition Program Not GFSI-recognized	A1 Individual Supplier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Every 4 years – scheduled audit on-site ▶ Could also be selected for random audit in Years 2, 3 and 4 of the cycle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Year 1 on-site audit by 3rd party Certification Body (CB) ▶ Annually – if not selected for random audit, must complete sworn declaration and self-assessment ▶ Annually – 3rd party CB reviews declarations and self-assessments
Canadian Government Food Safety Recognition Program Not GFSI-recognized	A2 Individual Supplier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Every 4 years – on-site audit (scheduled or random) ▶ No more than 4 years between on-site audits. If selected for a random audit, scheduled audit date will be extended to four years from the random audit date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Year 1 is always a scheduled audit by the 3rd party CB ▶ Annually – if not selected for random audit, must complete sworn declaration and self-assessment ▶ Annually – 3rd party CB reviews declarations and self-assessments
GFSI Canadian Government Food Safety Recognition Program	B Group Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Annually – Group must internally audit all member farms, central facilities and Management System ▶ Annually – 3rd party CB audit of Group Management System ▶ Annually – Sampling audits by CB of group members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Group must run its own internal Management System and effectively act as CB for its members ▶ Group Management System is subject to oversight by 3rd party CB ▶ Design of Option B was based on GLOBALG.A.P requirements
GFSI Canadian Government Food Safety Recognition Program	C Individual Supplier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Annual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ On-site audit by 3rd party CB
GFSI Canadian Government Food Safety Recognition Program	D Individual Repacking and Wholesale Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Annual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ On-site audit by 3rd party CB ▶ Repacking and wholesaling components meet international benchmarking requirements

Recognized by	Option	Audit Frequency	Features
Not GFSI-recognized Canadian Government Food Safety Recognition Program	E Individual supplier for Production, Packing, or Storage	▶ Annual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Same food safety requirements as Option C, based on CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals ▶ Passing score on the audit 95%
Not GFSI-recognized Canadian Government Food Safety Recognition Program	F Individual supplier for Repacking, Wholesaling or Brokerage	▶ Annual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Same food safety requirements as Option D, based on CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals ▶ Passing score on the audit 95%

CanadaGAP[®] is a program developed in Canada to promote Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) for fruit and vegetable suppliers.