



CanadaGAP Options E and F

CanadaGAP now offers two additional certification options: Option E and Option F. These certification options are not GFSI-recognized, but were developed to respond to customer demands and to satisfy different market requirements. Program participants also requested more certification options following the introduction of stricter requirements in GFSI-recognized Options C and D, such as a passing score of 100% and no-notice unannounced audits.

What are the similarities and differences?

Options C and D GFSI-recognized	Options E and F Not GFSI-recognized
SAME: Food safety standard Audit checklist Audit rigour Audit frequency (annual) Autofail items	
Meets Canadian Government Recognition Requirements	
Developed in consultation with retailers and other buyers	
Unannounced Audits: No advance notice	Unannounced Audits: 2 to 5 business days' notice
Passing score: 100% All non-conformities corrected prior to certification	Passing score: 95% Some wiggle room for minor non-conformities or items requiring a significant capital investment
For "Production and Packing" certificates ONLY	
Option C: Both harvest and packing activities must be seen by the auditor each year. May require 2 audits per year depending on timing of activities	Option E: Auditor can see harvesting one year, packing the next - the CB determines which activity is audited each year based on risk. 1 audit per year.

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

Contact Us

CanadaGAP Program • 245 Menten Place, Suite 312 • Ottawa, ON K2H 9E8 • Tel: 613-829-4711 • Fax: 613-829-9379 • info@canadagap.ca • www.canadagap.ca

Is there a cost difference between equivalent options?

When it comes to the CanadaGAP annual program fee, there is no cost difference between equivalent options. Option C and Option E have the same annual program fee, and Option D and Option F have the same annual program fee. Audit costs for Option C and Option D, payable to the Certification Body, may be higher due to the increased cost of CAR closures, the additional administrative fees around managing no-notice unannounced audits, or other reasons.

What benefit is there to switching options to E or F?

Provided that the certification will be accepted by buyers, operations may see some benefits in possible reduced audit costs (e.g., related to fewer required CAR closures), less stress and hassle around unannounced audits (e.g., 2-5 days' notice compared to no-notice), and for some operations who are certified for production and packing of certain crops, no need for a second audit each season.

How can an operation find out if a buyer will accept Option E or Option F?

As always, program participants are advised to check with their buyers before making any changes to their certification option. **This is a critical step.** Buyers set their own requirements as to which CanadaGAP certification options are acceptable for their suppliers.

How is an operation's certification option communicated?

Each certificate clearly states the certification option, and whether or not it is GFSI-recognized. Additionally, buyers can quickly verify an operation's status and certification option by checking the list of certified companies on the CanadaGAP website or the certification body's public registry.

How do operations switch to Option E or F?

If a buyer has confirmed that certification option E or F is acceptable, program participants can simply download the change of status form from the CanadaGAP website (www.canadagap.ca), fill out the relevant section, have the form signed by the person responsible for the operation, and return it to the office. CanadaGAP will verify and process the information and share it with the Certification Body.

Where can more information be found?

The CanadaGAP website is updated continuously; this includes the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which are updated to reflect current versions of the CanadaGAP program. We invite program participants and buyers alike to use the FAQs as a primary resource to answer specific questions, as well as to obtain an overview of common questions for all program participants, auditors and other interested parties (www.canadagap.ca/program/faq/).

More information about Options E and F specifically can be found:

- * on the Certification Options page
- * in the PowerPoint presentation
- * in the comparison chart in the FAQs