

COMMUNIQUÉ CANADAGAP® COMMUNIQUÉ

To: CanadaGAP Stakeholders
Date: February 22, 2024
Subject: Certification Body Update and Auditor Availability

Availability of Audit Providers

CanadaGAP audits and certification are available from a number of service providers (certification bodies).

Program participants may choose among any of the following **five service providers** to have their CanadaGAP audit completed:



For program participants who supply Costco, we are pleased to confirm that all five CanadaGAP certification bodies are approved by Costco Canada and Costco US to verify their suppliers against the Costco addendum in conjunction with CanadaGAP audits for the 2024 season. Please contact your certification body for more information.

For CanadaGAP program participants who are currently certified by dicentra, we wish to remind you that dicentra will no longer be providing audit services for CanadaGAP in 2024. Program participants whose last certificate was issued by dicentra should transfer to another service provider for this year's audit. Please contact the CanadaGAP office if assistance is required to transfer your file.

CanadaGAP certification bodies have different service offerings and may charge different fees for their service, so we recommend you contact them for further details on what they have to offer. Some useful questions to ask include:

- Which regions or provinces do they operate in? Do they have auditors in your area?
- Are audit services available for the scope of your operations?

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

CANADAGAP®

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- If the auditor will have to travel, where is the auditor coming from? How much does the certification body charge for the auditor's travel time and expenses?
- Will an audit be scheduled to occur in conjunction with others nearby, so that auditor travel costs can be shared?
- How much does an audit cost? Is it an hourly rate, a half or full day rate?
- What other fees do they charge – for example, if the audit takes longer than planned, or if there is follow-up required on corrective action requests?
- Is an administrative fee charged to issue the certificate?
- How will communication occur? Will the auditor email or call?
- Will the audit report and certificate be mailed or emailed? Make clear your preferences.
- Are there features of the certification body's service that distinguish it from their competitors?
- Do they offer discounts? Do they offer additional services?

Seeking New CanadaGAP Auditors

CanadaGAP auditors work directly for our licensed certification bodies. Some auditors are employees of the certification body; others work as contractors. In many cases, auditors work for more than one certification body.

**** Auditors urgently needed ****

All CanadaGAP audit and certification providers are actively recruiting for new auditors. If you are interested or know someone who would have an interest in qualifying as a CanadaGAP auditor, please get in touch with CanadaGAP or the certification body of your choice.

For more information:

- Contact information for each certification body can be found here: <https://www.canadagap.ca/certification/certification-bodies/>
- Details on the requirements to qualify as a CanadaGAP auditor can be found here: <https://www.canadagap.ca/uploads/294/auditors/18982/canadagap-auditor-requirements-2023-en.pdf>
- CanadaGAP Executive Director Heather Gale will be attending the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) Convention and Trade show in Vancouver, BC on April 24 and 25, 2024. Visit her at booth 252 to ask any questions you have in person!

Questions for CanadaGAP? Contact us at info@canadagap.ca or 613-829-4711.

