

# COMMUNIQUÉ CANADAGAP® COMMUNIQUÉ

**TO:** CanadaGAP Stakeholders  
**FROM:** Heather Gale, CanadaGAP Executive Director  
**DATE:** March 24, 2016  
**SUBJECT:** GFSI Recognition for CanadaGAP Option D (Repacking and Wholesaling)

CanadaGAP® is pleased to announce that it has been recognized by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) for Option D certification for Repacking and Wholesaling.

CanadaGAP submitted Option D for GFSI Benchmarking in 2015, and successfully completed the process including a public stakeholder consultation earlier in 2016. “We are delighted to achieve this recognition,” noted Jack Bates, Chair of the CanadaGAP Board of Directors. “Many repacking and wholesaling companies both within and outside of Canada will benefit from a new GFSI-recognized option for their food safety certification.”

CanadaGAP certification Option D has been available to repacking and wholesaling companies since April 2014. Before that, the standard was known as the CPMA Repacking and Wholesale Program, which was originally developed by the Canadian Produce Marketing Association. Many companies are already using the program or have been CanadaGAP-certified under Option D over the last two years.

CanadaGAP is also GFSI-recognized for certification options B and C since 2010 under the following GFSI scopes:

- BI – Farming of Plants
- D – Pre-process Handling of Plant Products (includes packing and related activities such as cooling, trimming, grading, washing, storage, etc.).

CanadaGAP Option D was also benchmarked to GFSI scope D – Pre-Process Handling of Plant Products, for activities related to repacking and wholesaling fresh produce (e.g., repacking, rework, storage).

## **About the GFSI Benchmarking Process**

Benchmarking is a procedure by which a food safety certification scheme is compared to the GFSI Guidance Document. The process is designed to be executed in an independent, unbiased, technically proficient and transparent manner. A scheme is ‘recognised’ by GFSI when it has been verified that it

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



meets internationally recognised minimum food safety requirements laid out in the GFSI Guidance Document. An independent benchmarking committee determines whether the application meets the GFSI requirements, followed by a written consultation period by all GFSI Stakeholders. The benchmarking committee then recommends that the GFSI Board either accept, reject or reject until further modifications to the scheme are made.

CanadaGAP joins a handful of other food safety schemes that have undergone GFSI's thorough and comprehensive review process. Updates are available at: [www.mygfsi.com](http://www.mygfsi.com). The news release is available on the GFSI website at: <http://www.mygfsi.com/news-resources/news.html>

### **About CanadaGAP**

CanadaGAP® is a food safety program consisting of standards and a certification system for the safe production and handling of fresh fruits and vegetables. 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; for repackers and wholesalers implementing Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) and HACCP programs; and for produce brokers following supplier management and traceability best practices. The manuals are based on a rigorous hazard analysis applying the seven principles of the internationally-recognized HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) approach.



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