

Control safety

Are you prepared for your BRCGS Packaging Materials Issue 7 audit?

CHECKLIST

Tick the statements that apply to you or your company to understand which new BRCGS Packaging Issue 7 requirements you already meet and those that may need further attention.

This checklist outlines the new requirements in BRCGS Packaging Issue 7.

Important disclaimer

Product Safety Culture

Clause 1.1:

The site's senior management shall demonstrate full commitment to product safety and quality culture. This includes the development, implementation, and maintenance of a documented plan to improve product safety and quality culture. The plan must:

- Include defined activities to promote product safety culture, such as communication, training, and performance measurement.
- Be reviewed and updated at least annually.

Hazard Analysis and Risk Assessment (HARA)

Clause 2.1:

A hazard analysis and risk assessment (HARA) shall align with Codex Alimentarius principles, identifying all hazards to product safety and implementing control measures.

Clause 2.2:

The site shall verify the accuracy of process flow diagrams at least annually and whenever changes occur. Verification shall be conducted on-site and documented.

Supplier Approval and Monitoring

Clause 3.5:

The site shall implement a risk-based approach to supplier approval and ongoing monitoring. This includes:

- Defining supplier performance criteria.
- Approving suppliers based on valid certification, audits, or questionnaires.
- Maintaining a current list or database of approved suppliers.

Clause 3.6:

A procedure shall be in place to assess and mitigate risks of fraudulent raw materials. The vulnerability assessment must consider historical evidence, economic factors, and supplier relationships.

Artwork and Print Control

Clause 5.3:

- The site shall establish an artwork management procedure that includes:
 - Collection, review, and approval of artwork files from the customer.
 - Verification of artwork against agreed specifications before printing.
- Print trials shall be conducted to validate that agreed standards are met consistently.

Traded Products

Clause 9.1:

Traded products, including single-use disposable items, shall be included within the scope of certification where applicable.

Clause 9.2:

A HARA plan specific to traded products shall be implemented to identify and control risks to product safety and quality. This plan must be documented and reviewed at regular intervals.

Audit Protocols

Clause 10.1:

The site may conduct blended audits, combining remote and on-site elements. The remote audit component must follow defined protocols to ensure compliance.

Clause 10.2:

A HARA plan specific to traded products shall be implemented to identify and control risks to product safety and quality. This plan must be documented and reviewed at regular intervals.

Terminology and Documentation

Clause 11.1:

Terminology used in the standard has been updated. "Personnel" is replaced with "staff", and "manufacturing" with "production" to provide consistent language across the documentation.

Clause 11.2:

All safety-related documentation, including product safety culture plans and hazard assessments, shall be thoroughly maintained and readily accessible to demonstrate compliance and support continuous improvement.

For more information about BRCGS Packaging Materials Certification,
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