

Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) certification

Frequently Asked Questions





Frequently asked questions

Q | What is BAP certification?

A

Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) certification is a globally recognised programme developed by the Global Seafood Alliance (GSA) that ensures responsible and sustainable aquaculture practices. It addresses four key areas: environmental responsibility, social accountability, food safety and animal health and welfare. BAP certification covers the entire aquaculture production chain, including processing plants, farms, hatcheries and feed mills.

Q | What are the benefits of BAP certification?

A

BAP certification offers several advantages, including:

- **Comprehensive coverage** – it certifies every step of the aquaculture production chain, ensuring best practices are followed throughout
- **Market recognition** – BAP-certified products are trusted by major retailers and foodservice companies worldwide, enhancing market access
- **Consumer trust** – the BAP label assures consumers of the product's safety, quality and sustainability
- **Operational improvement** – certification encourages continuous improvement in environmental stewardship, social responsibility and animal welfare

Q | What is the process for obtaining BAP certification?

A

The BAP certification process involves several key steps:

1. **Preparation** – the facility aligns its practices with BAP standards, focusing on environmental impact, social responsibility, food safety and animal welfare
2. **Application** – the business applies for certification through an accredited certification body
3. **Audit and evaluation** – a thorough assessment, including site visits and stakeholder consultations, is conducted to verify compliance with BAP standards
4. **Certification and ongoing compliance** – once approved, certification is granted, with annual audits to ensure continued adherence to BAP standards

LRQA can support businesses at every stage of the certification process, providing expert guidance, gap analysis and independent audits to help organisations meet BAP requirements efficiently.

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Q | How long does it take to become BAP certified?

A | The timeframe for obtaining BAP certification depends on the facility's readiness and the scheduling of audits. Preparation and alignment with BAP standards are crucial for a smooth certification process. LRQA can provide pre-assessment services to help businesses identify any gaps before the formal audit process begins.

Q | Which major brands and retailers recognise BAP certification?

A | BAP-certified seafood is recognised and trusted by retail and foodservice companies worldwide, including prominent brands that prioritise sustainability and responsible sourcing.

Q | How does BAP certification address environmental responsibility?

A | BAP standards ensure that certified facilities adhere to practices that conserve habitats, maintain water quality and manage effluents responsibly, minimising environmental impact.

Q | How does BAP certification ensure social accountability?

A | BAP standards require certified facilities to uphold fair labour practices, ensure worker safety and respect community rights, promoting social responsibility within the aquaculture industry.

Q | How does BAP certification fit into a wider seafood sustainability strategy, including human rights due diligence?

A | BAP certification is an important part of a comprehensive seafood sustainability strategy, addressing environmental stewardship, social responsibility, food safety and animal welfare. It complements human rights due diligence efforts by ensuring fair labour practices and worker welfare, helping to strengthen the integrity and sustainability of seafood supply chains.

LRQA provides assurance services beyond certification, supporting businesses with human rights due diligence assessments, supply chain transparency initiatives and ethical audits. Our team of experts helps organisations build responsible and resilient seafood supply chains that align with sustainability commitments.

Would you like to discuss how LRQA can support your responsible sourcing strategy? Contact us today.





About LRQA:

LRQA is a leading global assurance partner, bringing together decades of unrivalled expertise in assessment, advisory, inspection and cybersecurity services – underpinned by data-driven insights – to help its clients navigate a new era of risk.

Operating in more than 150 countries with a team of more than 5,000 people, LRQA's award-winning compliance, supply chain, cybersecurity and ESG specialists help more than 60,000 clients across almost every sector to anticipate, mitigate and manage risk wherever they operate.

Get in touch

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