



Global Gap and Food Safety Audits

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❖ Reasons for a doing a Food Safety Audit

- ❖ Audits can help bolster the practices that growers already follow
- ❖ Show the public that food safety is important to you and your employees
- ❖ Being prepared for future requirements
- ❖ Meeting buyer and international standards

❖ What happens at an audit

- ❖ Paperwork review
- ❖ Harvest Crew witness
- ❖ Inspection of fertilizer and pesticide storage areas
- ❖ Visit packing house and cold storage areas if applicable



❖ Paperwork review

- ❖ Food safety manual with risk assessments
- ❖ Standard operating procedures
- ❖ Training records for hygiene and safety
- ❖ Pesticide and fertilizer records

❖ Harvest Crew Witness



- ❖ Inspect at least one crew for each type of product
- ❖ Inspect different types of crew
- ❖ Interview employees
- ❖ Monitor for employees following food safety protocols

❖ Inspection of Fertilizer and Pesticide Storage

- ❖ Look for non-conformances to the standard of choice
- ❖ Check for proper decontamination and ability to contain spills
- ❖ Ensure that proper equipment is available

❖ The Packing House (When applicable)

- ❖ Check for proper quality control and ability to trace product from field to consumer
- ❖ Look for pest control practices
- ❖ Interview employees
- ❖ Watch for employees following hygiene protocols



❖ Cold Storage



- ❖ Inspect incoming and outgoing staging areas
- ❖ Check coolers for cleanliness and pest control
- ❖ Ensure that coolers are maintained at the proper temperatures

❖ Certification

- ❖ Auditor conducts closing meeting to explain what is needed for certification and provides what corrective actions are needed
- ❖ Auditor does not decide if certification is granted
- ❖ Report is submitted to certification body
- ❖ Producer has a timeline to fix corrective actions depending on severity of non conformances

❖ First steps to preparing for an audit

- ❖ Commitment!
- ❖ Assign an employee to be in charge of food safety
- ❖ Contact producer or marketing group for assistance
- ❖ Consider hiring a second party to assist
- ❖ Choose a standard that fits your program

❖ Then...

- ❖ Perform an internal audit to the standard you have chosen
- ❖ Take corrective actions to fix major problems you have identified
- ❖ Find a certifying body to work with, do your research
- ❖ Schedule an audit

❖ What an auditor looks for

- ❖ Commitment!
- ❖ All records present and easy to use
- ❖ Employee awareness of policies
- ❖ Cleanliness



Thank You

- ❖ First step done
- ❖ Questions?

