

# GFSI GLOBAL MARKETS CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

## 1. Introduction: Global Markets Capacity Building Programme

The Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) has launched the Global Markets Capacity Building Programme for small and/or less developed businesses that will develop effective food safety management systems through a systematic continuous improvement process.

## 2. Background: Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI)

The Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) is a non-profit making foundation, created under Belgian law in May 2000. GFSI's objectives are four-fold:

1. Reduce food safety risks by delivering equivalence and convergence between effective food safety management systems
2. Manage cost in the global food system by eliminating redundancy and improving operational efficiency
3. Develop competencies and capacity building in food safety to create consistent and effective global food systems
4. Provide a unique international stakeholder platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange and networking



The daily management of GFSI is undertaken by The Consumer Goods Forum - a global, parity-based consumer goods network, driven by its members. It brings together the CEOs and senior management of over 650 retailers, manufacturers, service providers and other stakeholders across 70 countries and reflects the diversity of the industry in geography, size, product category and format. Forum member companies have combined sales of EUR 2.1 trillion.

## 3. Focus: Strengthen Trade Capacity.

The GFSI Global Markets Capacity Building Programme seeks to build food safety capacity for small and/or less developed businesses (SLDBs) that encounter difficulty in implementing HACCP in their food safety management systems due to one or more of the following challenges: size, lack of technical expertise, economic resources, or nature of the work. Market opportunities for SLDBs often exist within formal supply chains where entry requirements may be high. These businesses do not necessarily have access to the expertise, technical and financial resources to meet all necessary food safety requirements.

## 4. Description: GFSI Global Markets Capacity Building Programme

The comprehensive step-by-step programme guides small and/or less developed businesses through a continuous improvement process in their food safety management systems, thus facilitating local market access and creating mutual acceptance along the supply chain. "Small and/or less developed businesses" (SLDBs) refers to the status of the business' food safety management systems, thereby particularly addressing businesses who encounter difficulties in implementing HACCP within their business, rather than to the number of staff or volume of production.

The toolkit is comprised of:



- Overview
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Basic Level Checklist and Assessment Summary
- Basic Level Assessor Guideline
- Combined Basic and Intermediate Level Checklist and Assessment Summary
- Combined Basic and Intermediate Level Assessor Guideline
- Protocol
- Flow Chart

#### Scope:

- Manufacturing, distribution and storage of processed foods
- Local Sourcing – Local Manufacturing – Local Selling
- Cost efficiency along the supply chain through common and accepted assessment practices, processes, and reports

#### Objectives:

- Development of voluntary food safety requirements:
  - Food safety requirements (Basic and Intermediate Level)
  - Protocol and guidance for implementation and assessments
- Drive the continuous improvement process
  - Facilitating market access locally
  - Create mutual acceptance along the supply chain
  - Mentoring of suppliers

#### Phased Process

##### **Phase 1:**

A self-assessment is carried out by the business itself against Basic and/or Intermediate level checklist to allow the business to decide its entry level to the programme. Subject to the outcome of the self-assessment, the business should pass to either phase 2 (Basic Level Assessment), phase 3 (Intermediate Level Assessment), or phase 4 (certification against a GFSI recognised scheme).

##### **Phase 2:**

An unaccredited assessment of a business is carried out against the Basic Level Checklist. The technical requirements at this level are comprised of 30% of the key elements of the GFSI Guidance Document, including Food Safety Systems, Good Manufacturing/Agricultural Practices and Control of Food Hazards.

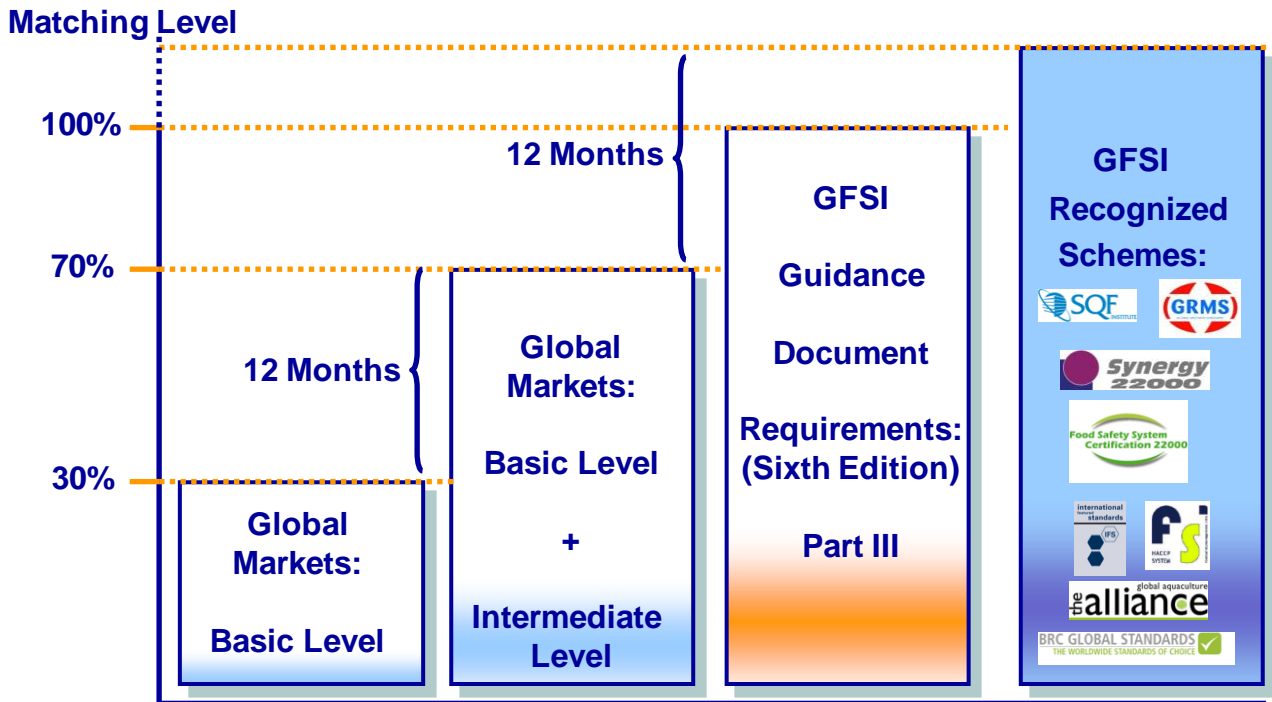
##### **Phase 3:**

An unaccredited assessment of a business is carried out against Intermediate Level Checklist, which include the Basic Level Requirements, a further 40% of the GFSI Guidance Document elements, and the Codex Alimentarius Standard CAC/RCP 1-1969 Rev 4-2003.

Both steps are voluntary, meaning that the business can decide at which entry level they will start: Basic or Intermediate.

##### **Phase 4:**

The official accredited certification against one of the GFSI recognized schemes.



**WHAT:**

1. The GFSI Global Markets Capacity Building Programme is a voluntary programme, made available free of charge for businesses to implement internally depending on their strategic objectives. Retail companies may choose to implement the programme with certain suppliers (SLDBs) that they have identified as being appropriate to progress through one or all of the stages of the programme, or a SLDB may decide of its own accord that in order to increase its potential to sell locally and even eventually export, it will begin to implement the programme.
2. Companies participating in the GFSI Global Markets Technical Working Group are investing large amounts of time and effort to conduct pilot projects with partners and training organizations of their choosing in countries which they have identified as being suitable to trial the programme. The pilots have provided significant results and demonstrated the success of the programme.
3. Key benefits of the GFSI Global Markets Capacity Building Programme are the cost efficiencies created through mutual acceptance along the supply chain of assessment practices, processes, and reports and the facilitation of local market access.

**HOW:**

- **Global operations and investments of foreign firms – spillovers of investments, relationships:**
  - Global operational pilots for 2009/2010 were invested in by these companies who work closely with GFSI:
    - ✓ AEON: Malaysia
    - ✓ La Huerta: Mexico
    - ✓ WalMart: US and Chile
    - ✓ METRO: India, Egypt, and Ukraine

- **Partnerships with SMEs and Private-public partnerships:**
  - The businesses conducting the pilot projects of the programme may choose to partner with international organizations, private companies or academic institutions of their choosing.
- **Are there measures to build in sustainability in the longer-term?**
  - Yes, GFSI is committed to continuation of the Global Markets Capacity Building Programme through the regular revision of the requirements by the Technical Working Group based on feedback from users of the programme and to broaden the programme to cover other sectors e.g. primary production.
- **Governance**
  - GFSI has drafted and developed the Global Markets Capacity Building Programme for voluntary use within the food safety industry. The information published expresses opinions in good faith, but GFSI cannot accept liability for any error or omission in the material available to be downloaded. While GFSI endeavours to keep the information up to date and correct, it makes no guarantees about the completeness, accuracy, reliability, suitability or availability of the documents. Companies using the programme must still obtain specific legal advice in relation to compliance with the relevant legal Food Safety requirements in their jurisdiction. In particular, GFSI has no control over the nature of assessments or certifications carried out on the basis of the documents, nor does it take responsibility for their results.
- **Monitoring and evaluation (data collection)**
  - GFSI will not monitor the outcomes of assessments carried out against the documents provided by the GFSI Global Markets Capacity Building Programme. However a short registration process on [www.mygfsi.com](http://www.mygfsi.com) before access to the documents will allow for the contact details of users of the programme to be saved, so that they can be contacted in the future as part of the continuous improvement process of the programme.

## 5. Impact/Results

- What have been the trade and financial (or other) impacts?
  - Results have been a rapid improvement in the food safety knowledge and understanding of the systems needed to manage food safety enabling SLBDs to qualify for local and even eventually export business by satisfying customer requirements for food safety.
  - Egypt Pilot example
    - ✓ In 2009 UNIDO sponsored local organization E-Trace to train and assess 18 potential suppliers for Metro Cash & Carry in Egypt for their compliance with Basic Level food safety requirements.
    - ✓ Prior to training, only 33% of suppliers were able to pass the Basic Level food safety assessment.
    - ✓ After training and mentoring, over 78% of suppliers were able to meet Basic Level food safety requirements, demonstrating the market readiness of the requirements and their proven effectiveness in driving continuous improvement.
    - ✓ Since the initial training and mentoring programme in 2009 a further 109 suppliers have been trained in Basic Level requirements and a pilot for Intermediate Level requirements was successfully completed with a further 25 suppliers in 2010.
- **Were there any unintended consequences – both positive and negative?**
  - GFSI worked closely with several organizations during the development of the programme and during the pilot phase and no unintended consequences were noted.