

## 1.0 Purpose.

To describe specific rules and activities for Suspension and Cancellation for GlobalG.A.P. Certification services.

## 2.0 Scope.

This Procedure applies to all audit and certification services for the GlobalG.A.P. Scheme provided by International Compliance Group, Inc.

## 3.0 Responsibility.

Certification Committee is responsible to implement activities described in this procedure.

Program Quality Manager is responsible to revise and update this Procedure regularly.

## 4.0 Definitions.

**QMS:** Quality Management System.

**ICG:** International Compliance Group, Inc.

## 5.0 Description of Activity.

### 5.1 Reasons for Suspension.

5.1.1 Suspension initiated by ICG is a result of the following situations:

- 5.1.1.1 If an Unannounced Inspection cannot take place because of non-justifiable reasons, a suspension of all products will be issued.
- 5.1.1.2 If a QMS Unannounced Audit cannot take place because of non-justifiable reasons, a complete suspension will be issued.
- 5.1.1.3 If a clear link has been established between a producer and public health outbreak by a reputable governmental regulatory authority, suspension of the certification shall be imposed, while a review of the producer's certification is performed.
- 5.1.1.4 An immediate suspension shall be issued where a serious threat to food safety, the safety of workers, the environment, consumers, and/or product integrity (i.e. sale of non-certified products as certified) is present. This will be communicated via an official warning letter.

### 5.2 Suspension.

- 5.2.1 If the cause of the warning is not resolved within the defined period (maximum of 28 days), a suspension of the certificate shall be imposed by ICG within 24 hours.
- 5.2.2 If a reputable government regulatory authority has established a clear link between a producer or member/site and a foodborne outbreak, suspension of the certificate shall be imposed ICG while a review of the producer's/ producer group's certification is conducted.
- 5.2.3 If a producer has been found by a court of law to have infringed a national or international law and these actions can endanger the reputation and credibility of FoodPLUS GmbH and/or the GLOBALG.A.P. standard, ICG shall suspend the producer's certificate with immediate effect. If ICG fails to do so, GLOBALG.A.P. has the right to inform the Accreditation Body and to change the status

of the certificate in the GLOBALG.A.P. IT systems to not display it as valid. In this case, ICG shall accept liability for this issue.

- 5.2.4 Only ICG can lift suspensions it has imposed on a certificate holder.
- 5.2.5 A suspension can be applied to one, several, or all of the products covered by the certificate.
- 5.2.6 A product cannot be partially suspended for a producer (single or multisite), i.e. the entire product shall be suspended.
- 5.2.7 If a suspension is applied, ICG shall set the period allowed for corrective actions (not longer than 12 months).
- 5.2.8 During the period of suspension, the producer is prohibited from using the GLOBALG.A.P. logo/trademarks, license/certificate, or any other type of claim that is in any way linked to GLOBALG.A.P. in relation to the suspended product.
- 5.2.9 If a producer notifies ICG that the non-conformance is resolved before the defined period, the suspension can be lifted after evaluation of evidence provided by the producer. This evaluation of the corrective action may take place on- or off-site. It may be a full audit or an evaluation only the submitted evidence.
- 5.2.10 The suspension remains in place as long as ICG does not lift it or impose a cancellation.
- 5.2.11 If the cause of the suspension is not resolved within the defined period, a cancellation is imposed.
- 5.2.12 Self-declared Product Suspension.
  - 5.2.12.1 A producer or producer group/multisite producer may voluntarily ask ICG for a suspension of one, several or all of the products covered by the certificate (unless ICG has already imposed a sanction). This can occur if the producer experiences difficulty with complying with relevant GLOBALG.A.P. standard and needs time to close any nonconformance.
  - 5.2.12.2 This suspension will not delay the renewal date, and neither will it allow the producer to avoid paying registration and other applicable fees.
  - 5.2.12.3 The deadline for closing non-conformance is set by the declaring producer or producer group/multisite producer, with ICG.
  - 5.2.12.4 The same applies for members of a producer group who may voluntarily ask the respective group to temporarily suspend their product(s). Here too, the deadline for rectifying non-conformance is set by the declaring producer or producer group/multisite producer, which shall be agreed upon with the respective producer group QMS.
  - 5.2.12.5 In the GLOBALG.A.P. IT Systems the product status “self-declared suspension” shall be set for the respective products.

### 5.3 Cancellation.

- 5.3.1 A cancellation of the contract shall be issued if one or more of the following apply:
  - a) ICG finds evidence of fraud and/or lack of trust to comply with GLOBALG.A.P. requirements.
  - b) ICG finds objective evidence that indicates that the producer has been misusing the GLOBALG.A.P. claim. Any case of misuse may be communicated to the GLOBALG.A.P. Community Members.
  - c) A producer/producer group cannot show evidence of implementation of effective corrective action before the suspension period set by ICG has elapsed.

- 5.3.2 A cancellation of the contract results in the total prohibition (all products, all [members/sites](#)) of the use of the GLOBALG.A.P. logo/trademarks, license/certificate, or any device or [claim](#) that may be linked to GLOBALG.A.P.
- 5.3.3 Producers [who contract has been](#) received a cancellation shall not be accepted for GLOBALG.A.P. certification within 12 months of the date of cancellation.

## 6.0 References.

[GlobalG.A.P. General Regulations – Rules for Certification Bodies. Version 6.0.](#)  
[GlobalG.A.P. General Regulations – Rules for Individual Producer. Version 6.0.](#)  
[GlobalG.A.P. General Regulations – Rules for Producer Groups and Multisite Producers with QMS. Version 6.0.](#)

## 7.0 Formats / Exhibits.

Suspension and Cancellation notifications.