



Bureau Veritas Certification BRC Terms & Conditions (ISO 17065 Product Certification)

General

Bureau Veritas Certification offers certification audits as described in the relevant BRC Global Standards current version covering, respectively: Food Safety, Packaging, Storage and Distribution, Agents and Brokers. Some specific requirements for additional audit modules in accordance with the protocol of those modules shall be respected if required.

To achieve their certificate of approval the client must demonstrate compliance to all sections of the relevant standard, including the introduction and protocol sections. The client must also allow access to Bureau Veritas Certification to enable audit of their systems and premises as necessary. The client shall make available to BRC all documents in relation to the audit upon request.

The certificate of approval awarded by Bureau Veritas Certification covers only the products and services supplied and manufactured under the control of the client. Other services and products marketed or distributed by the client under their name are considered to be Factored items. These can normally not be considered within the scope of Audit for BRC Product Certification.

Requests for Audit

Requests for audit will follow the terms and conditions as set out in "Bureau Veritas Certification Agreement".

Audit Process

The details of the services to be provided will be agreed between the client and Bureau Veritas Certification. To provide a general guide outlined below are the key stages of the Audit process.

Information required from the site prior to the audit

In order to prepare an audit plan, the client must send to the audit team:

- Basic information relating to the site (e.g. size and staff numbers)
- A summary of the hazard & risk analysis (CCPs)
- The HACCP process flow diagram
- A simple site plan
- The management organizational chart
- The list of products or product groups produced / handled / traded at the site and if the company requested any products to be excluded, the justification for this
- Typical shift patterns
- Production schedules, to allow audits to cover relevant processes, for example night-time manufacture or where production processes are not completed every day (e.g. seasonal production)
- Where the site was certified by a different Certification Body then the site shall provide a copy of the previous audit report
- Recent quality issues, recalls, withdrawals or customer complaints

Audit plan:

An audit plan will be provided prior to the commencement of the audit except for unannounced audits.

Audit realization:

The audit team will meet with the management of the client to discuss the details of the Audit process and consider any issues relating to the performance of the audit. Observations, general remarks and non-conformities will be identified and discussed if and when they arise during the audit. The lead auditor will prepare and present to the client's management a report of the audit, their findings, the scope of audit and seek agreement on the nature of any corrective actions to be taken, where necessary. If a follow-up audit is necessary these will be subject to an additional fee. The audit is performed following the rules of confidentiality.

Closing of non-conformities

The client shall provide the Lead Auditor for each non-conformity, root cause, corrective action & evidence within 28 calendar days (or 90 days in some specific situations).

Audit Reporting

Bureau Veritas Certification will deliver full audit reporting to the client within 42 days of the audit and will upload the audit report into BRC's database. The client also allows Bureau Veritas Certification to forward the audit report to the accreditation body. A copy of the audit report and any subsequent certificate or audit result shall be supplied to the BRC and where accredited, the Accreditation Body in the agreed format for the BRC Global Standard used. All documents in relation to the audit shall be made available to the BRC upon request. All documents submitted to the BRC shall be copies of original documents. All the documents provided to the BRC will be treated as confidential.

Issuance of Certificates of Approval

Certificates of Approval can only be granted and issued as and when all corrective actions agreed between the client and the lead auditor have been completed. Failing this, Bureau Veritas Certification reserve the right to re-audit the premises at the client costs. The certificate of Approval issued does not exempt the client from their legal obligations in respect of the services and products evaluated. A policy document explaining how to use Bureau Veritas Certification and relevant Accreditation Body logos is available on request.

Any failure to follow these guidelines may result in the certificate of Approval being withdrawn and/or legal action being taken.

Re-audit

Re-audits shall be carried out at a frequency determined as specified in the relevant Standard. Bureau Veritas Certification will contact the Company to arrange a date (except for unannounced audit) for the re-audit before the audit deadline. It remains the client responsibility to have the audit done within appropriate window.

Witnessed audit

The client authorises Bureau Veritas Certification to bring in additional participants (at no extra cost for the client) to the audit as follows:

- A Bureau Veritas Certification auditor in progress of qualification
- A Bureau Veritas Certification personnel supervising the lead auditor as part of usual shadow audit programme
- An accreditation body auditor supervising the lead auditor as part of usual accreditation programme
- A BRC representative supervising the lead auditor as part of BRC's integrity programme.
- A witness audit by a specifier where a specifier specific additional audit module is included.

Refusing such arrangements may result in the certificate of Approval being withdrawn and/or legal action being taken.

Audit by the BRC

The client authorises BRC to carry out further audits to validate continued certification. These visits may be announced or unannounced and will follow the same rules as Bureau Veritas Certification audits for closing of non-conformities. Refusing such audits may result in the certificate of Approval being withdrawn and/or legal action being taken. BRC may contact the site directly in relation to its certification status or for feedback on Bureau Veritas Certification performance, or investigation into reported issues or complaints.

The certification status may be affected in the event that access to any parts of the site or process or requests to these points specified above is unreasonably refused.

Incident notification

The client shall notify within 3 working days in writing Bureau Veritas Certification of any impending prosecution with respect to product safety or legality, a public product recall or change of circumstances that may affect the validity of continuing certification. Bureau Veritas Certification will assess the situation and may proceed to an extra audit at client cost or a suspension or withdrawal of the Certificate of approval. In case of adverse publicity or Government intervention, Bureau Veritas Certification will notify BRC.

Withdrawal of the Certificate of Approval

Bureau Veritas Certification reserves the right to withdraw the certificate of Approval at any time. If such actions are deemed necessary the client will be fully briefed and given as much notice as is practical. The client will be given every possible opportunity to take corrective action before a final decision is taken on what action Bureau Veritas Certification should take. Bureau Veritas Certification reserves the right to publish the fact that such action has been taken.

Appeals, Disputes and Complaints

The client should appeal or dispute against the decisions of Bureau Veritas Certification in accordance with the Bureau Veritas Certification appeals procedure within 7 calendar days of receipt of the certification decision. Appeals will be finalised within 30 calendar days of receipt.

Bureau Veritas Certification complaint procedure is available on request from the clients local office. In the event of an unsuccessful appeal, Bureau Veritas Certification has the right to charge costs for conducting the appeal.