
Produce GAP Harmonization Initiative

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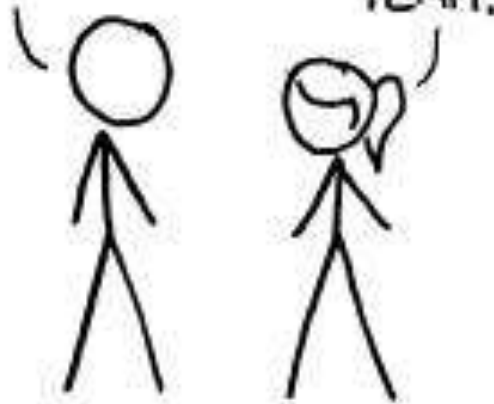
**Produce GAPs
Harmonization Initiative**

HOW STANDARDS PROLIFERATE:

(SEE: A/C CHARGERS, CHARACTER ENCODINGS, INSTANT MESSAGING, ETC.)

SITUATION:
THERE ARE
14 COMPETING
STANDARDS.

14?! RIDICULOUS!
WE NEED TO DEVELOP
ONE UNIVERSAL STANDARD
THAT COVERS EVERYONE'S
USE CASES.



SOON:

SITUATION:
THERE ARE
15 COMPETING
STANDARDS.



Current Status

- Technical Working Group (TWG) has finalized the harmonized standards
- Operations Committee has completed recommendations for management of the standards for the benefit of the industry
- Calibration Committee (auditor training and real-time interpretation of the standard) is being formed
- Working with SQF and GlobalG.A.P to use the harmonized standards in a GFSI format (2012)



Pilot Audits

- Apple grower, packinghouse in WA - done
- Potato grower, packinghouse in ID - done
- Leafy green harvesting in CA - done
- Leafy green grower in AZ - done
- Mushroom grower in PA - done
- Citrus growers in FL - done
- Small growers in NY - done
- Citrus growers in CA - done
- Blueberry grower in CA - done
- USDA audits using standards - done



Outcome of Pilots

- Supplier operations – “this is reasonable”
- Auditors – some adjustments needed to reduce vagueness, opportunities for misunderstanding, but complete and auditable
- Customers – similar to Suppliers and Auditors, but can be made to work
- All comments were considered by TWG at “finalization” meeting in July
 - Standards are ready to use



Identifying who “owns” the standards

- United Fresh to serve as Secretariat, custodian of the standards for the benefit of the industry
 - Responsible for standards policies and maintenance, coordination of support committees, communication through webpage, point of contact for questions
- Industry represented by Technical Working Group (TWG) – membership to remain open



Managing how the standards are used by audit organizations

- Official versions of standards freely accessible on United Fresh website; links from other sites
- Standards are to be used verbatim (no changes in wording permitted)
- Questions regarding interpretation to be addressed by “Calibration Committee” and published on website in FAQ
- Requests to change wording considered by TWG by established process



Calibration Committee

- Comprised of subset of TWG; with established number of volunteer individuals selected and updated by established process
 - Trainers from auditor organizations
 - Subject matter experts from different commodities, size operations
 - Allows for ad hoc experts
 - Responsible for real-time dispute resolution on interpretation questions, development of competencies for auditor training



Process to resolve disputes on interpretation of the standards

- First, responsibility of audit organization
- If unsuccessful, becomes responsibility of Calibration Committee
- Decisions to be reached by a quorum of the Committee, within fixed timeframe
- Decisions published in FAQ on website
- Decisions subject to review, approval by full TWG



Process to update, adjust the standards

- Recommendations/requests submitted to United Fresh, posted on website for comment
- Reviewed by Calibration Committee for recommendation to TWG
- Considered and acted on by TWG at prescribed frequency (annually? TBD)
- All changes to the standards published as proposal on website, with industry notification and additional comment period before becoming final



Process to accept audits using the standards

- Different companies have different priorities on what they're looking for in an audit
 - Low cost, GFSI, Government auditors
- Drive universal use of the standards, but leave audit process to the "market"
- All groups that use the standards must comply with "terms of use" (use verbatim, interpretation according to TWG) but at no charge to audit company



Buyer-specific “riders”

- Already exist with other (GFSI) audits
- Initiative does not have the authority to limit riders
- Effort to limit riders will chase buyers to other standards
- Buyers encouraged to eliminate riders or bring to TWG for inclusion in standards
- Encourage use of riders as “specification” to be verified separately rather than repeat of full audit (reduce redundancy)



Where we are now...

These retail/foodservice companies have supported development of the Harmonized Standards

- Ahold USA
- C.H. Robinson
- Costco
- Darden
- Food Lion
- Giant Eagle
- H-E-B
- Jack in the Box
- Kroger
- Loblaw
- Markon
- McDonalds
- Price Chopper
- Pro*Act
- Publix
- Safeway
- Schnuck Markets
- DRS/Subway
- Supervalu
- Sysco
- US Foodservice
- Walmart
- Wegmans
- Winn-Dixie
- Yum Brands
- and more...



Where we want to be...

These retail/foodservice companies endorse* audits using the Harmonized Standards

- Ahold USA
- C.H. Robinson
- Costco
- Darden
- Food Lion
- Giant Eagle
- H-E-B
- Jack in the Box
- Kroger
- Loblaw
- Markon
- McDonalds
- Price Chopper
- Pro*Act
- Publix
- Safeway
- Schnuck Markets
- DRS/Subway
- Supervalu
- Sysco
- US Foodservice
- Walmart
- Wegmans
- Winn-Dixie
- Yum Brands
- and more...

*some conditions may apply; please check with your customer



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Questions?

