



BRC Global Standard for Agents and Brokers Issue 2

Position Statement

Document Scope:

During the lifetime of a published Standard the BRC Technical committee may be asked to either review the wording of a clause in the Standard, provide an interpretation for a requirement or rule on the grading of non-conformity against a clause. Any such judgements are defined in position statements. Position statements are binding on the way that the audit and certification process shall be carried out and are an extension to the Standard. This document contains a summary of the position statements for the BRC Global Standard for Agents and Brokers Issue 2.

Change log:

Version no.	Date	Description
1	June 2018	Position statement to allow limited exclusions from scope for audits against Issue 2 of the Global Standard for Agents & Brokers



1. Exclusions from scope

Issue 2 of the Global Standard for Agents & Brokers states (Protocol section 1.6.2):

'The fulfilment of the certification criteria relies on clear commitment from the company management to adopt the best-practice principles outlined within the Standard and to develop a product safety culture within the business. There is often an assumption by customers that where a certificate has been issued to a company's office, all products and not just a selection of products have been included within the scope of the certificate. It follows, therefore, that the exclusion of products or services provided by a certificated office shall not be permitted.

Certificates are issued to the company for specific office locations. It is permissible for a company to have some offices certificated under the scheme and other offices not included in the scheme.'

However, this has created an unexpected challenge for sites and certification bodies as Issue 2 expanded the scope of the Standard to include food, packaging and consumer products, which means that where a site's product range includes all of these product types, the certification bodies are responsible for identifying and training an auditor (or auditors) with experience of all three of these product types (Issue 2 Appendix 4). This has two consequences:

- Certification bodies have to send multiple auditors to relatively small companies (eg one auditor approved for food safety, another for packaging materials and a third for consumer products)
- Certification bodies having to delay or postpone audits due to a limited number of auditors approved for the completion of consumer products audits

In order, to prevent these challenges BRC Global Standards will permit a site to exclude a type of product (eg consumer products). It is only permitted to exclude the entire type of product, it is not acceptable to include some food products in scope and exclude other food products, or to include some consumer products and exclude other consumer products. For example, the site must either have a scope which includes all food products and all consumer products, or one that includes all food products and excludes all consumer products, or one that excludes all food products and includes all consumer products.

The scope must include the entire type of product (e.g. all food products), and therefore it is not permitted to include chilled and frozen foods but exclude ambient foods.

The audit report and certificate shall accurately reflect any exclusions from scope. On the certificate, certification bodies shall add additional text under product categories e.g.:

For the scope: Broker for dried fruit and prepared fresh fruit

Product categories: Chilled and frozen food
 Ambient food

Exclusions from scope: Broker for paper and textile products

A new audit report template is available on the BRC Directory which includes exclusions from scope. The report template should be used for all audits from 1st August 2018 onwards.

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