

Requirements of the Standard

1. Senior management commitment and continual improvement

Consistent product safety is a shared responsibility of everyone within the company. The starting point for an effective product safety plan is the commitment of senior management to the implementation of the Standard along with continual development.

2. Hazard and risk assessment

The Standard requires the development of a product safety plan covering the services/operations the company manages or specifies. This is based on the principles of hazard and risk analysis.

3. Product safety and quality management system

This section sets out the requirements for the management of product safety and quality.

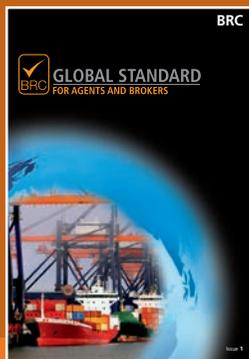
4. Supplier and subcontracted service management

A risk-based approach to the selection and management of product manufacturers, subcontractors and service providers is used to ensure that products and services are only sourced from approved manufacturers, following agreed specifications, with a traceable and transparent supply chain.

5. Personnel

All staff must be suitably trained, instructed and demonstrably competent to carry out their activities.

Support



A free copy of the Global Standard for Agents and Brokers can be downloaded from the BRC website

www.brcglobalstandards.com

A printed version of the Standard can be purchased from

www.tsoshop.co.uk

Training

There are also training courses available that are suitable for all levels including:

- **Understanding the requirements**

More information is available on the BRC Academy website

www.brctrainingacademy.com

Further Information

For more details visit www.brcglobalstandards.com

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GLOBAL STANDARD
FOR AGENTS AND BROKERS

A Quick Guide to the Agents and Brokers Standard

The BRC Global Standard for Agents and Brokers is a set of requirements aimed at companies in the food and packaging supply chain that provide services for the purchase, importation, distribution or trade of products. The Standard has been created to help you trade safe, legal products of the quality required by your customers.

This short guide gives an overview of the main requirements, the steps to certification and its benefits.



Why Choose the BRC Standard?

Benefits at a glance

- **BRC Global Standards are internationally recognised**
- **Gives you a credible independent assessment of your company's product safety and quality management systems**
- **Increases customer confidence, and improves business opportunities**
- **Clearly defined risk-based requirements**
- **Supports compliance with regulatory requirements being proposed by the US Food Safety Modernisation Act and EU legislation**
- **Gives you marketing tools and public recognition on the BRC Directory**
- **A global network of approved certification bodies, auditors and training providers**

Achievable

Developed by industry experts, the BRC Agents and Brokers Standard is rigorous and detailed, yet easy to understand. The Standard is designed to reflect best practice and provide a common sense, risk-based approach to product safety and give you a clear path to achieve certification.

Customer confidence

Whether you're an established global supplier or trading locally, the Standard ensures your customers have confidence in your operational services and supply chain management.

Many retailers, food service companies and manufacturers around the world support the use of the BRC Standards and accept them as part of their supplier approval processes.

Cost effective

As there is a straightforward certification process it means there are no hidden costs. If your business is prepared and confident about food safety, the only cost will be that of the audit which is charged at a local rate.

Is the Standard for me?

The Global Standard for Agents and Brokers provides essential certification for companies in the food and/or packaging supply chain that buy, sell, import or facilitate the trade of products.

Agents and brokers provide a critical link in the movement and trade of products, and influence supplier product safety and quality standards, as well as being responsible for maintaining an effective chain of traceability.

Therefore, the Standard is aimed at:

Brokers: Companies that purchase or 'take title to' products for resale to manufacturers, other brokers, retailers or food service companies but not directly to the consumer.

Agents or non-manufacturing service providers: Companies that trade between a manufacturer or broker and their customers but do not at any point own or take title to the goods. Such companies provide a range of services to facilitate the safe and legal trade of products.

Importers/Exporters: Companies that facilitate the movement of products across national boundaries, satisfying legal and customs requirements. Importers and exporters may also be agents and/or brokers.

How is the audit carried out?

All companies are audited against the requirements of the Standard by BRC registered certification bodies. Certification bodies are independent companies that have to meet stringent requirements to be approved by the BRC. You can find a full list at www.brcdirectory.com

Every auditor carrying out a BRC audit also has to demonstrate competence in terms of education, training and practical experience. BRC operates an ongoing monitoring and calibration process for auditors and certification bodies. It also publishes performance ratings every six months to ensure consistency and confidence in the audit and certification process.

Steps to Certification

