

## Sites affected by Covid-19

After consultation with industry there is a growing need for additional assurance for those sites operating under stress from high production demands and lower levels of staff due to the effects of Covid-19.

BRCGS can now offer increased levels of assurance to Brand Owners and Specifiers to ensure that suppliers are continuing to operate effective product safety controls in response to the absence of a physical onsite audit.

There are 3 different assurance products that can be carried out individually or combined with the simple certificate extension process. They are:

1. Certificate Extension
2. Certificate Extension PLUS
3. Covid-19 Additional Module

### At A Glance

Product	1	2	3
	Certificate Extension	Certificate Extension PLUS	Covid-19 Additional Module
Who	All BRCGS Certificated sites	All BRCGS Certificated sites	Any Food manufacturer
When	Certificate expiry (Within 28 days before audit due date)	Certificate expiry (Within 28 days before audit due date)	Any time
<b>Requirements</b>			
Base BRCGS scheme requirements	Yes	Yes	No
Covid-19 additional requirements	No	Yes	Yes
Site self-assessment	No	Yes	No
Remote interview and document review	Yes	Yes	Yes
Remote site review	No	Yes	Yes
Senior management interviews	No	Yes	Yes
Typical audit duration	0.5 Day	1 Day	0.5 Day
Report type	Risk Assessment Report	BRCGS Food Safety Report (incl. remote site findings)	Covid-19 Report (incl. remote site findings)
Upload time	42 days	42 days	10 days
Certificate	Yes – 6 month extension	Yes – 6 month extension in combination with 1	No Pass/Fail or risk rating
GFSI compliant	Yes	No - Additional to GFSI certification in 1	No
Accredited	Yes	No	No

## BRCGS Fees

3 options available – Standalone products 1, 3, or a combination of 1 and 2

Product	1	2	3
	<b>Certificate Extension</b>	<b>Certificate Extension PLUS</b>	<b>Covid-19 Additional Module</b>
Single Product	No charge up to 31/05/20  250 GBP from 01/06/20		200 GBP
Combination 1 + 2 (Typical audit duration 1 day)	400 GBP		

## Product Overviews

### 1. Certificate Extension

#### Benefit

- Allows a site that is affected by Covid-19 to extend their certificate for up to 6 months or to the point when an onsite audit is possible

**Why?** – This meets the GFSI position statement and reflects the fact that the industry is under pressure for greater productivity with a reduced workforce

**What?** – Risk assessment of existing BRCGS Food safety standard requirements that includes a recent internal audit, review of the Covid-19 response plan, review of any significant operational changes, customer complaint levels and product recalls since the last audit

**Who?** – BRCGS certificated sites where physical audits cannot take place and where certificates are due to expire. Delivered by sites current certification body and approved auditors

**How?** – Risk assessment of the site based on BRC072 version 3 online management interviews/document review

**Output?** – Assessment report and certificate extension of 6 months

**Time/Cost?** – Expected assessment duration typically 0.5 day. No BRCGS charge until 01/06/20 and then the fee will be 250 GBP

**GFSI Compliant?** – This process meets the GFSI recognised process and a GFSI certificate extension is permitted

## 2. Certificate Extension PLUS

### Benefits

- More in depth review of the sites' maintenance of certification standards
- Focused assessment of a sites' response to the issues of Covid-19. Includes both Employee safeguarding and additional threats to the Food Safety and Quality Management Systems
- Provides customers with increased supplier assurance
- Greater assurance of certificate extension
- More detailed report

**Why?** – The original preferred option of our stakeholders for certificate extensions was withdrawn because of pressure from GFSI. We expect several specifiers to want greater assurance of standards at their suppliers

**What?** – Assessment of existing BRCS Food safety standard requirements and specific areas affected by Covid-19. Also includes a remote facility audit.

**Who?** – BRCS certificated sites where physical audits cannot take place and where certificates are due to expire. Delivered by sites current certification body and approved auditors

**How?** – Remote assessment of the site based on BRC072 and includes a risk based site self-assessment, followed by online management interviews/document review, virtual factory tour via live video link and assessment against Covid-19 requirements

Can be delivered with existing BRC072 version 2 GFSI approved certificate extension process

**Output?** – Assessment report and certificate extension of 6 months differentiated as Certificate Extension PLUS

**Time/Cost?** – Expected assessment duration typically 1 day, BRCS Certification fee 400 GBP when bolted on to product 1

**GFSI Compliant?** – Only when combined with option 1 can a GFSI certificate be issued. This is not offered as a standalone additional module

### 3. **Covid-19 Additional Module**

#### **Benefits**

- Focused assessment of a sites' response to the issues of Covid-19. Includes both Employee safeguarding and additional threats to the Food Safety and Quality Management Systems
- Provides customers with increased supplier assurance
- Detailed oversight of their supplier's management of the Covid-19 crisis
- Short report turn around 10 days with immediate exception reporting
- Available for any site manufacturing food

**Why?** – to provide specifiers and brand owners with an oversight of how their suppliers are both safeguarding their employees from the risk of Covid-19 AND managing the increased food safety risks resulting from the system stresses resulting from Covid-19

**What?** – An Additional Module Focus on specific “at risk” elements of the food safety system and employee safeguarding activities and not the general underlying food safety management systems. This is based on BRCGS Guidance Document: Managing Food Safety during Covid-19, freely available on the Resource Hub

**Who?** – Any GFSI certificated site at any point in their certification cycle. This may also be customised to work for a specified for their wider supply chain

Delivered by sites current certification body and approved auditors

**How?** – Remote assessment of the site including online management interviews/document review against the Covid-19 requirements and live video link focused on key operational points

**Output?** – A specific assessment report and likely risk rating and action plan uploaded to the Directory within 10 days

**Time/Cost?** – Expected assessment duration typically 0.5 day, BRCGS fee 200 GBP

**GFSI Compliant?** – No, this is in addition to the two extension product options and would be typically deployed to a site with a valid GFSI certificate, but is regarded as higher risk

### 4. **Covid-19 Resource Hub**

<https://www.brcgs.com/resources/covid-19-response/>