



**Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated
(Global ACI)
And
BRC Trading Ltd
Endorsed Scheme Agreement**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 **BRC Trading Ltd** is the scheme owner of the worldwide operated BRCGS schemes. BRC Trading Ltd (hereinafter referred to as BRCGS) has sought and received endorsement of their schemes listed in Schedule 1 to this Agreement (hereinafter referred to as “the Schemes”) as Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI) MRA sub-scopes in accordance with Global ACI MRA-003 and this Agreement.
- 1.2 The schemes require Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) operating in the Schemes to be accredited by an Accreditation Body (AB) that is a signatory to the Global ACI Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) with a main scope of product certification and a sub-scope of the relevant scheme(s) included in Schedule 1 to this Agreement (Global ACI MRA signatories).
- 1.3 BRCGS sets voluntary standards for the certification of food and non-food categories, which helps build confidence in supply chains. There are over 34,000 sites across 130 countries certified across the BRCGS standards.
- 1.4 BRCGS contracts at the time of this Agreement with 77 CABs worldwide under the Schemes, the supervision of which is carried out by 17 ABs that are signatories to the Global ACI MRA.
- 1.5 The BRCGS requirements for the professional competence of personnel auditors are defined in the relevant scheme documents.
- 1.6 The Schemes provide the standard and framework for independent, recognised third-party certification of processes associated with the scope of the Schemes.
- 1.7 The **Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI)** is the world association of conformity assessment accreditation bodies in the fields of management systems, products, services, process, persons, validation and verification, testing (including medical testing/examination), calibration, provision of proficiency testing, production of reference materials, and biobanking; inspection activities and other similar programs of conformity assessment.

- 1.8 Global ACI is responsible for the harmonisation and continuous improvement of the accreditation practices of its members with the ultimate goal to ensure sound technical competence of accredited CABs, Certification Bodies (CBs), V&VBs (Validation and Verification Bodies), laboratories, and inspection bodies and to support its Global ACI MRA.
- 1.9 The Global ACI MRA is established and maintained based on the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 through regular peer evaluations and is the tool by which Global ACI contributes to the elimination of technical barriers to trade and to promoting the free circulation of certificates issued by accredited CABs.

2. Administration and Cooperation

- 2.1 Both Global ACI and BRCGS, by means of this formal Agreement, have decided to develop and maintain a close cooperation between the two organisations to ensure harmonisation in the accreditation practices performed by Global ACI members for the Schemes and to cooperate in the continuous improvement of the Schemes with the final goal of assuring the highest level of competence in the Schemes' accredited CABs.
- 2.2 Global ACI and BRCGS shall comply with the respective requirements of Global ACI MRA-003 *Policies and Procedures for the Management and Expansion of the Scope of the Global ACI Arrangement*, operating and administering in an open, non-discriminatory and transparent manner, avoiding conflicts of interest or limitation on the acceptance of CABs or ABs other than relevant technical considerations.
- 2.3 The Schemes will be open to all CABs that are accredited by signatories to the Global ACI MRA.
- 2.4 BRCGS will only work with ABs that are signatories to the Global ACI MRA. BRCGS will stop working with an AB that is no longer a signatory to the Global ACI MRA for Product Certification.
- 2.5 Both Global ACI and BRCGS shall appoint a liaison person of each organisation to act as contact persons.

3. Information Exchange

In order to achieve such goals, both organisations have agreed upon the following:

- 3.1 BRCGS shall inform Global ACI of the following:
 - a) Changes to any of the schemes listed in Schedule 1, that may impact compliance with Global ACI-MRA-003.
 - b) Any revision/extension of the Schemes' standards/documents.
 - c) Outcomes from any AB workshop held by BRCGS on one or more of the Schemes.
 - d) Feedback BRCGS may have regarding the Global ACI MRA signatory ABs.
 - e) Change in the status as Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) recognised scheme(s).
 - f) Change in the status as the Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative (SSCI) recognised scheme.

3.2 Global ACI shall inform BRCGS of the following:

- a) When a Global ACI MRA signatory with a sub-scope of one or more of the Schemes has been suspended or had their Global ACI MRA signatory status withdrawn.
- b) Any general or technical questions regarding the interpretation of the Schemes' standards/documents.
- c) Changes in policy, procedure or documentation that may have an impact on the Global ACI MRA and Scheme's sub-scope.

4. Mandatory Interpretation of the Scheme Documents

- 4.1 The Schemes' documents shall be prepared using the BRCGS procedure for the setting and revision of Schemes' documentation. This shall include a stakeholder consultation phase comprising of comment submissions by interested parties each lasting a specified timeframe with feedback being provided to organisations that made the comment.
- 4.2 Global ACI will be included as a stakeholder and invited during any stakeholder consultation period of the Scheme's revision process.
- 4.3 The Scheme's normative documents shall be available at no cost on the BRCGS website (www.brcgs.com).
- 4.4 BRCGS will provide new draft Scheme version document(s) with a gap analysis and proposed transition plan for implementation of the new version documents to Global ACI as soon as a technically sound new version is available, in order to make sure that the new scheme version continues to comply with the requirements of Global ACI-MRA-003. BRCGS accepts the process to be followed according to Global ACI-MRA-003 for Global ACI MRA sub-scope inclusion of new versions of the Schemes.
- 4.5 The need for the development of specific Global ACI application documents for inclusion of publicly owned standards/normative documents in the Global ACI MRA shall be proposed by the Global ACI applicable Technical Committee and the need for additional preparation of peer evaluation by the Global ACI MRA Committee as specified in Global ACI-MRA-003.
- 4.6 The Schemes endorsed as Global ACI MRA sub-scopes are included in the relevant Global ACI MRA status lists. After the end of the transition period to a new scheme version the old version will not be published as Global ACI MRA sub-scopes anymore.

5. Implementation

- 5.1 Global ACI and BRCGS shall each bear their own costs.
- 5.2 The Schemes will be included as a sub-scope under the main scope of product certification, ISO/IEC 17065. Those ABs currently providing accreditations to one or more of the Schemes will be able to apply for a Global ACI MRA scope extension for the relevant scheme(s) through provision of a signed self-declaration once this Agreement is signed.
- 5.3 The revision of the implementation of this Agreement is in the scope of the MRA peer evaluation to the Global ACI product certification MRA signatories working in one or more of the Schemes.

6. Confidentiality

- 6.1 Global ACI shall hold all Confidential Information in strictest confidence and shall only use it for the purpose for which it was provided and shall not disclose or make available any Confidential Information to any third party without the prior written consent of BRCGS.

7. Term

- 7.1 This Agreement shall commence from the original Date of Signing and, unless terminated earlier according to clause 8, continues indefinitely.

8. Cancellation

- 8.1 This Agreement between BRCGS and Global ACI can be cancelled by either party in writing, with a period of notice of three months.

SCHEDULE 1

BRCGS schemes endorsed for inclusion as sub-scopes to the Global ACI MRA:

1. BRC Global Standard – Food Safety Issue 9
 - Level 4 – Food Safety Issue 9, Part III & IV
 - Level 5 – Food Safety Issue 9, Part II
2. BRC Global Standard – Agents and Brokers Issue 3
 - Level 4 – Agents and Brokers Issue 3, Part III & IV
 - Level 5 – Agents and Brokers Issue 3, Part II
3. BRC Global Standard – Packaging Materials Issue 7
 - Level 1 – Packaging Materials Issue 7, Part IV, Section 2
 - Level 4 – Packaging Materials Issue 7, Part III & IV, Section 1
 - Level 5 – Packaging Materials Issue 7, Part II
4. BRC Global Standard – Storage and Distribution Issue 4
 - Level 4 – Storage and Distribution Issue 4, Part III & IV
 - Level 5 – Storage and Distribution Issue 4, Part II
5. BRC Global Standard – Gluten Free Certification Program, Issue 3
 - Level 4 – Gluten Free Certification Program, Issue 3, Parts III & IV
 - Level 5 – Gluten Free Certification Program, Issue 3, Part II
6. BRC Global Standard – Consumer Products PERSONAL CARE HOUSEHOLD, Issue 4
 - Level 4 – Consumer Products PERSONAL CARE HOUSEHOLD, Issue 4, Parts III & IV
 - Level 5 – Consumer Products PERSONAL CARE HOUSEHOLD, Issue 4, Part II
7. BRC Global Standard – Consumer Products GENERAL MERCHANDISE, Issue 4
 - Level 4 – Consumer Products GENERAL MERCHANDISE, Issue 4, Parts III & IV
 - Level 5 – Consumer Products GENERAL MERCHANDISE, Issue 4, Part II
8. BRC Global Standard – Ethical Trade and Responsible Sourcing, Issue 2.1
 - Level 4 – Ethical Trade and Responsible Sourcing, Issue 2.1, Parts III & IV
 - Level 5 – Ethical Trade and Responsible Sourcing, Issue 2.1, Part II

End of List

Execution of the Agreement

Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated	BRC Trading Ltd
 Brahim Houla Global ACI Chair	 Mike Wilson Managing Director

Date of Agreement: 14 April 2026