



The Equitable Food Initiative Certification Program Revision Policy

VERSION 1.1, DECEMBER 15TH, 2017

Contact Details

Equitable Food Initiative
1875 Connecticut Ave NW
10th Floor
Washington, DC 20009
USA

www.equitablefood.org

Email: info@equitablefood.org

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Responsibility for these Requirements

The EFI Standards Committee has responsibility for this document, and will periodically review and update it.

Users should verify that they are using the latest copy by checking on the EFI website at:

www.equitablefood.org.

Versions Issued

Version No.	Date	Description of Amendment
v1.0	March 1 st , 2015	First public-facing version
		The name of the document was changed to “Certification Program Revision Policy”.
v1.1	December 15 th , 2017	The branding of this document was updated to meet current EFI requirements. The meaning or intent of the policy was not changed.

About the Equitable Food Initiative (EFI)

EFI is a non-profit skill-building and certification organization that brings growers, farmworkers, retailers, and consumers together to create a safer, more equitable food system. This unique approach sets standards for labor practices, food safety and pest management while engaging workers at all levels to address issues and challenges in the produce industry.

Our Mission Statement

To bring together growers, farmworkers, retailers and consumers to transform agriculture and the lives of farmworkers.

We Believe:

- That being a farmworker is a valuable and honorable profession.
- The skills and contributions of farmworkers create a healthier work environment and produce safer food.
- The future of agriculture lies within the collaboration among growers, farmworkers, retailers and consumers.
- By transforming agriculture, we will transform lives.

1 Introduction

It is the ethos of EFI to continually learn from the experiences of Growers, Leadership Teams, and farmworkers who engage on a certification track with EFI and to adjust certification program documents and auditing mechanisms in a manner that results in the highest quality of assurance possible. However, it is also of critical importance to set a consistent expectation with these same stakeholders regarding the versions of the scheme that they will be assessed against. The Certification Program Revision Policy [this document] serves to set guidelines for when revisions to the scheme will be made and when these updates are to be applied to the auditing of operations that have achieved or are seeking certification.

2 Collaboration on Revisions

The EFI Standards have been developed through a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder process that has representation from across the fresh produce value-chain. As a learning organization, EFI continually seeks out additional voices to participate in the strengthening and governance of the scheme. Of particular importance to EFI are the Growers, Leadership Teams, and Farmworkers who can provide insight and expertise that help make the process of seeking EFI certification more efficient and the results of achieving it more impactful. EFI requests that all parties who are interested in contributing to the ongoing development of EFI contact the Director of Certification at any time in order to be brought into the process.

3 Revisions of Standards, Guidance and Interpretations

Revisions to the EFI Standards, Guidance and Interpretations [the Standards] that are relatively minor will be represented by a change in the version number to the right of the decimal. For instance, v1.2 will be updated to v1.3. Substantive changes to the Standards will be recorded as a new whole number. An example would be v1.3 undergoing significant changes to become v2.0.

Minor revisions, if required, will be published in the third quarter of the year in which they are made. Every reasonable effort will be made to adhere to this schedule but EFI reserves the right, should circumstances warrant, to publish updates at any time.

EFI is planning a series of public consultations that will inform the development of v2.0 of the Standards. The release of this set of Standards will be determined based on the consultative process. It is expected that v2.0 of the Standards will be reviewed and revised every two years.

4 Determining the Applicable Version of the Standards

4.1 Initial Audit

- 4.1.1 The version of the Standards that are shown to be the current version on the EFI website when the training agreement is executed shall be used for the initial audit.
- 4.1.2 In the case where the Standards have been updated after the execution of the training agreement but more than six months before the initial audit, the newer version shall prevail.

- 4.1.3 When the Standards are revised after the execution of the training agreement but less than six months before the initial audit, the newer version may be used with the mutual consent of the Grower and EFI.

4.2 Verification Audits

- 4.2.1 Verification audits will be based on the version of the Standards that are in effect six months before the audit.
- 4.2.2 In the case where the Standards have been updated in the six months prior to the audit, the newer version may be used with the mutual consent of the Grower and EFI.

4.3 Short Notice or Unannounced Audits

- 4.3.1 Short notice or unannounced audits will be based on the version of the Standard used for the last scheduled audit at that site.

5 Revisions of Key Certification Program Documents

The Certification Program Requirements, Certification Program Summary and other critical certification program documents will be reviewed annually by the EFI Standards Committee. Required revisions will be noted in any new documents that are published along with requirements for when the changes are to take effect.

6 Variations

Should there be extenuating circumstances where adherence to this policy would impose an unreasonable burden on a Grower, the Grower's CB can request a variation to this policy for consideration by EFI.

7 Notification of the Applicable Version

The CB maintains responsibility for adherence to this policy. When the CB notifies the Grower and EFI of an upcoming audit, the version of the Standards that are in effect will be noted in the correspondence.