Addendum to Changes Affecting a Certification Cycle

Interim Transition Period of SPS 5.1 to SPS 6.0 During GFSI BMR v.2024 Application Process

1.0   Scope and Purpose

1.1   This policy describes the scope, eligibility, and procedures for recognition of the Global Seafood Alliance (GSA) Seafood Processing Standard (SPS) 5.1 certificate extensions under a successful SPS 6.0 audit.

1.2   This policy is effective during the temporary application period of SPS 6.0 to the New GSFI version 2024 Framework.

1.3   This policy is applicable to recertifying SPS facilities subject to review and acceptance by GSA.

1.4   The details presented herein describe requirements for Certification Bodies (CBs) on handling situations affecting such changes.

2.0   Normative Documents

2.1   GSA Seafood Processing Standard issue 5.1

2.2   GSA Seafood Processing Standard issue 6.0 and any subversions (e.g., 6.1, 6.#)

2.3   Global Seafood Alliance Changes Affecting a Certification Cycle (current issue)

2.4   Global Seafood Alliance - Certification Body Requirements (current issue)

2.5   GSA Policy on Supplemental Audits of Facilities (current issue)

3.0   Background

3.1   GSA's SPS issue 6.0, which is replacing the previous SPS issue 5.1, was published on 5-November-2024. Soon after, on 20-December-2024, the GFSI Benchmarking Requirements (BMR) version 2024 were also published. SPS 6.0 has been successfully assessed under several pilots since publication and is planned for full implementation on 5-November-2025. Since SPS 5.1 achieved GFSI recognition under the previous 2020.1 Framework, SPS 5.1 retains its recognition status over an interim period in which GSA must demonstrate an active application under the 2024 Framework. SPS 6.0 having been officially published replaces version SPS 5.1 and thus must apply under the GFSI BMR v.2024 Framework. The benchmarking of SPS 6.0 to the GFSI BMR v.2024 Framework is expected to be successfully completed sometime in 2026. To maintain an effective and efficient benchmarking assessment to GFSI BMR v.2024 during this transition, GSA will accept up to a 12-month extension of an SPS 5.1 certificate provided a successful outcome of an SPS 6.0 audit based on requirements herein. This decision is based on the following attributes of SPS 6.0:

- Enhanced food safety requirements including additional scopes over SPS 5.1

- SPS 6.0 has successfully undergone an initial benchmarking exercise to the GFSI BMR v.2024 Framework and is in application process to achieve full benchmark.

4.0   Procedure for an Extended SPS 5.1 Certificate

4.1   During the SPS 6.0 application process and/or before their SPS 6.0 audit, facilities must provide written acknowledgement to extend an SPS 5.1 certificate provided a successful outcome of an SPS 6.0 audit. A template <u>SPS 5.1 Certificate Extension Acknowledgment Form</u> is available from GSA for facilities to complete and email to <u>certification@globalseafood.org</u>.

4.2   Both the Certification Body (CB) that issued the current SPS 5.1 certificate and GSA must agree that an extension under this Addendum is accepted. Additionally:

4.2.1   GSA will make all efforts to allocate the SPS 6.0 audit to the CB that issued the current SPS 5.1 certificate.

4.2.2   In the event the same CB cannot be allocated, GSA will work with both the CB that issued the current SPS 5.1 certificate and the CB allocated to audit to SPS 6.0 and determine if a transfer of SPS 5.1 certificate is feasible to the new CB auditing to SPS 6.0. Transfer of certifications shall be in accordance with the Global Seafood Alliance - Certification Body Requirements (current issue).

4.3   The SPS 6.0 audit shall be conducted per the Audit Process described in the Requirements for Certification Bodies Offering Certification Against the Global Seafood Alliance - Certification Body Requirements (current issue).

4.4   Upon a successful SPS 6.0 audit outcome and after all the requirements of GSA Program are met, the CB (or CBs if different) shall issue both a SPS 5.1 certificate extension and an SPS 6.0 certificate to GSA for distribution to the facility as per the Audit Process described in the Global Seafood Alliance - Certification Body Requirements (current issue).

4.5   If the SPS 6.0 audit results in a failed audit and NO CERT determination, an extension to SPS 5.1 certificate shall not be granted, and the failed audit is handled per the Global Seafood Alliance - Certification Body Requirements (current issue) and GSA Policy on Supplemental Audits of Facilities (current issue).