GlobalGAP (www.globalgap.org) is the world’s leading farm assurance program, translating consumer requirements into Good Agricultural Practice (GAP). It was created in the late 1990s to bring conformity to different retailers’ supplier standards and globally connect farmers and brand owners in the production and marketing of safe food. The GlobalGAP scheme is intended for fresh products and therefore of particular importance to vegetables and potatoes.

The new GlobalGAP version 5.0 will become mandatory as of 1st July 2016. It introduces o.a. 2 new relevant requirements (“Control Points”) for producers:

- In countries with variety registration (all EU countries), producers should only work with registered varieties.

- In case PVP (Plant Variety Protection) varieties are used, producers should act fully within the prevailing Intellectual Property (IP) laws (they should not use illegally reproduced seeds or plants).

Processors and retailers can build a full traceability system for their sourcing of (fresh) produce by making use of the two new GlobalGAP requirements to ensure compliance:

- Processors/retailers should systematically demand a GlobalGAP certificate from their producers (i.e.: “no GlobalGAP certification could block business”).

- Processors/retailers should systematically demand to receive the corresponding checklist on compliance point 2.1.1. for inspection, insisting that the traceability requirement is always rated as fulfilled on the checklist.

- The checklists could be made subject to stringent audits (possibly commissioned to an external audit agency).
CONTROL POINT 2.1.1

When seeds or propagation material have been purchased in the past 24 months, is there evidence that guarantees they have been obtained in compliance with variety registration laws (in the case mandatory variety registration exist in the respective country)?

Compliance Point (on the checklist of the GlobalGAP auditors):
A document (e.g. empty seed package or plant passport or packing list or invoice), that states as a minimum variety name, batch number, propagation material vendor, and, where available, additional information on seed quality (germination, genetic purity, physical purity, seed health, etc.) shall be available.

Materials coming from nurseries that have GlobalGAP Plant Propagation Material, equivalent or GlobalGAP recognized certifications are considered compliant.

Status: Minor Must

CONTROL POINT 2.1.2

Has the propagation material used been obtained in accordance to applicable intellectual property laws?

Compliance Point (on the checklist of the GlobalGAP auditors):
When producers use registered varieties or rootstock, there are written documents available on request that prove that the propagating material used has been obtained in accordance to applicable local intellectual property right laws. These documents may be the license contract (for starting material which does not originate from seed, but from vegetative origin), the plant passport if applicable or, if a plant passport is not required, a document or empty seed package, which states as a minimum variety name, batch number, propagation material vendor- and packing list/delivery note or invoice to demonstrate size and identity of all propagation material used in the last 24 months.

Status: Minor Must

Producers must always comply with 100% Major Musts and 95% Minor Musts of the original checklist.