



QCS AQUAPONICS GAPs FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS for GROWING and HARVESTING

OVERVIEW OF THE STEPS TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATION

Procedure:

1. Producer gathers information and sends Application form to QCS.

2. QCS makes offer and contract is signed.

3. Audit of the facility(ies) is conducted on agreed date(s).*

- 3a. If non-compliances are found leading to non-conformance with the standard; then, the producer takes corrective actions and QCS must verify them.

4. Compliance found and Certification decision is positive; then, Certificate is granted.

5. One yearly visit to renew certificate (additional unannounced visits as required).

* Control points in this standard are classified as: Must and Calc. The facility(ies) should meet at first audit compliance with 100% of the Must and 80% of the applicable Calc. control points.

This document is not intended as a substitute for a complete reading and understanding of the QCS Aquaponics GAPs Standard that may be downloaded free of charge at <http://www.qcsinfo.org/certification>

QCS is an ISO Guide 65 accredited certifying agent. QCS cannot provide consultation services to our clients, other than to ensure compliance with the QCS Aquaponics GAPs Food Safety standard.

For additional information contact:

Quality Certification Services
PO Box 12311
Gainesville, Florida 32604-0311
352-377-0133
qcs@qcsinfo.org



Fee Schedule for QCS Aquaponics GAPs Food Safety Certification

The following information is intended to provide guidance of certification cost for producers. All fees are due annually for recertification. Additional fees for additional services may apply.

QCS DESCRIPTION OF FEES AND REFUND POLICY

Certification Fee: Certification fee is the base annual fee due each year for certification. The amount to be paid depends on the complexity of the operation (e.g.: number of sites, acreage, products). This fee usually is \$150. This fee is in addition to the inspection fees charged.

Inspection Fees: Inspection fees vary based upon the size and complexity of the operation inspected, the distance that must be traveled and the individual auditor assigned. All travel expenses are paid by the party to be inspected as well. Generally, audit fees can be expected to be \$400 per day of inspection (includes assessment for certification of crops and fish/shellfish) or \$300 per day of inspection (only includes the assessment of the crops or of the fish/shellfish). For a more detailed estimate please send us a completed application form.

Full payment of certification and inspection fees is due at the time of contract signing (1st year) and before certificate expiration date in subsequent years for timely renewal. Any travel expenses not covered by the payment will be invoiced at the conclusion of the audit. Upon withdrawal of application and written request, the payment minus incurred administrative costs is refundable before inspection takes place. All invoiced fees are to be paid and are nonrefundable after audit has taken place.

Bundling with other certifications: Certification fees may be reduced when QCS Aquaponics GAPs Food Safety Certification is bundle with other certifications we offer (e.g.: Organic, Produce GAPs Harmonized, GLOBALG.A.P., etc.). Please, send us the required application forms for each certification you are seeking and we will send you a custom-made cost estimate.