



Costco Produce Addendum for Growing Area Audits

Question #	Question	Full	Minor	Major	Non-Compliance	N/A	Auto Re-Audit	Explanation
1	Has the grower developed Good Agricultural Practice manuals that include all aspects of their growing areas?	10	X	X	0	Not allowed	Y	GAP manuals have been developed for each growing area detailing, at a minimum, all aspects of the growing operation, including ground history, adjacent land, crop nutrition, water use, crop protection and employee hygiene practices.
2	Is each growing area covered under a third-party food safety audit during all growing seasons?	10	7	3	0	Not allowed	N	All growing areas supplying product to Costco must be covered under a third-party food safety audit, during each growing season.
3	Has a pre-season risk assessment been performed?	10	7	3	0	Not allowed	N	All growing areas must be covered under a pre-season risk assessment that includes an evaluation of conditions that may be likely to result in physical, chemical or biological contamination of the product. Results must be documented.
4	When product is being grown specifically for Costco, is there a copy of the Costco product specification on-site?	10	7	3	0	Allowed	N	When product is being grown specifically for Costco, a copy of the Costco product specification must be on-hand and available so the grower has full knowledge of the required specifications. Auditor will confirm that the Costco specification is available.
5	Is the grower following all required pre-harvest interval time periods as required by crop protection, chemical labels, manufacturers recommendations and national & local standards?	10	X	X	0	Not allowed	Y	Pre-harvest intervals specify the amount of time that must elapse between pesticide application and crop harvest. Intervals are established to allow sufficient time for the crop to metabolize (break down) the pesticide so residue levels (tolerances) do not exceed those established when the pesticide received its label approval.

6	Does the growing operation follow a pesticide application recording program?	10	X	X	0	Not allowed	Y	The growing operation must follow a pesticide application record-keeping program that includes the applicator's name and license/permit number, if applicable. Additionally, it must include date of application, pesticide product trade name, active ingredient, EPA # (or equivalent), total amount applied, size of treatment area, application location, crop name, method of application and pre-harvest interval.
7	Does the use of pesticides comply with label directions and prevailing regulation?	10	X	X	0	Not allowed	Y	Pesticides must be registered for use as required by prevailing regulation, and used in accordance with label directions including application rates, worker protection standards, personal protection equipment, container disposal, storage, and all requirements specified for the chemical or compound. Records of use are maintained.
8	Are pesticides applied by licensed/permitted/certified application personnel as required by prevailing regulation or if no regulation exists, then by properly trained applicators?	10	X	X	0	Not allowed	Y	The operation maintains records demonstrating that all personnel responsible for pesticide applications are trained and/or licensed, or supervised by licensed personnel, in compliance with prevailing regulation.
9	If product is intended for export, do the pesticides used take into account the requirements for the intended country of destination?	10	X	X	0	Not allowed	Y	The operation must have procedures that take into account all requirements for the country of destination, including maximum residue levels (MRLs, aka tolerances).
10	Does the growing operation follow a fertilizer application recording program?	10	X	X	0	Not allowed	Y	The growing operation follows a fertilizer application record-keeping program that includes the applicator's name and the applicator's training records. Additionally, it must include the date of application, fertilizer product name, active ingredient, total amount applied, size of treatment area, crop name, method of application and application location.

11	Are the application of biosolids to crops prohibited where there are regulations or guidelines that ban this practice?	10	X	X	0	Allowed	Y	Some commodity specific guidelines have rules regarding the use of biosolids; for example the Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement (LGMA).
12	Where there are there prohibitions for the application of untreated manure use, e.g. the National Organic Program has 120 days and 90 day intervals between application and harvest, are these being adhered to?	10	X	X	0	Allowed	Y	This refers to manure that is raw and has not been through a treatment process. Some commodity specific guidelines have rules regarding the use of untreated manures.
13	Is there evidence of fecal contamination in proximity to the growing area or any storage areas? This refers to a single account of human or domestic animal fecal matter and/or systemic evidence of wild animal fecal matter.	10	X	X	0	Not allowed	Y	There must be no evidence of systemic fecal contamination by wild animals and/or a single account of human or domestic animal fecal matter in the growing area, close to the growing area or in any storage areas.
14	Are packaging suppliers required to have documented monitoring programs in place that check compliance to specifications, legal requirements and require lot coding?	10	7	3	0	Allowed	N	Packaging suppliers adhere to specifications, legal requirements and include lot coding on all items. Packaging suppliers perform a trace forward and trace back exercise at least once per year.
15	Does the grower adequately perform product trace back and trace forward exercises at a minimum of once a year, within a two hour time frame?	10	7	3	0	Not allowed	N	A documented traceability program must be established that enables reconciliation of product one step forward and one step back. Contents and retention of records must be consistent with applicable regulations.
16	Is there a raw material supplier (product and primary packaging) approval and monitoring program in place which includes a requirement for annual third-party food safety audits?	10	7	3	0	Not allowed	N	Copies of the raw material supplier supporting documents are available for review and filed in an easy to retrieve manner.
17	Are microbiological tests, including generic E.coli or coliforms, conducted on water used for irrigation, pesticide and fertilization applications, frost / freeze protection and heat stress programs?	10	X	X	0	Not allowed	Y	Microbiological water testing, including generic E.Coli or coliforms, must occur on a routine basis. All water sources that are used for direct contact with the edible portion of a crop as well as non-contact water sources must be tested. Testing must have occurred within the last 12 months. Effective January 1, 2013, Costco will require all water sources to be tested quarterly.