

CONTENT

1. What is a National Technical Working Group (NTWG)?.....	1
2. What is a National Interpretation Guideline?	1
3. How is the approval procedure for National Interpretation Guidelines structured? .	2
4. Which are the consequences following the approval and publication of a National Interpretation Guideline?	3

1. What is a National Technical Working Group (NTWG)?

GLOBALG.A.P firmly believes in local multi-stakeholder support and adaptation for G.A.P. standards within the context of national and international trade: the “Think Global, Act Local” principle.

GLOBALG.A.P has begun to link global implementation activities closer to the needs of producers, while at the same time seeking to gain qualified input from national experts and other stakeholders with respect to the differing legal and structural conditions that exist globally.

This goal is increasingly achieved by the establishment of National Technical Working Groups (NTWG). Their role is to develop a series of National Interpretation Guidelines as well as address identified specific local adaptation and implementation challenges.

National Technical Working Groups are established voluntarily by GLOBALG.A.P members in countries where there is a need for clarification of implementation of GLOBALG.A.P on a local scale. The guidelines developed by this growing number of groups are approved by Sector Committees (SCs) and are published on the GLOBALG.A.P website. The groups are established and work in close cooperation with the GLOBALG.A.P Secretariat and the SCs and support the GLOBALG.A.P implementation and continuous improvement based on specific area needs.

2. What is a National Interpretation Guideline?

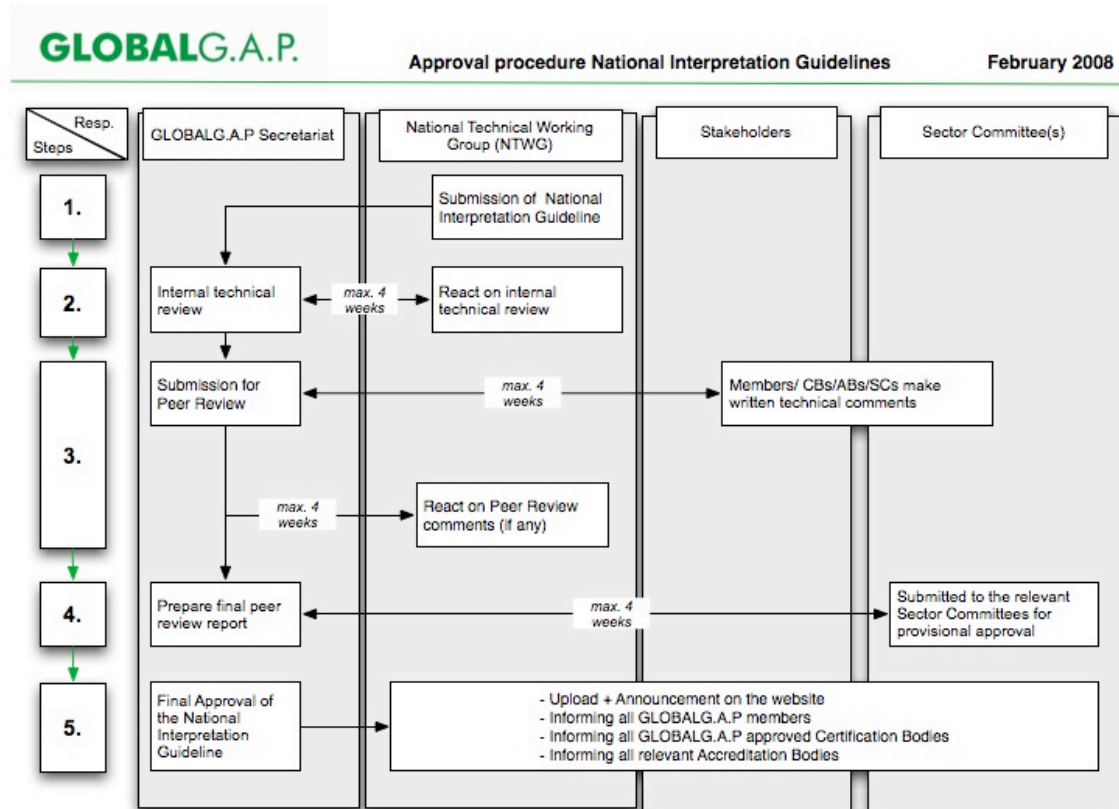
A National Interpretation Guideline is a document, which provides guidance on the implementation of GLOBALG.A.P Control Points and Compliance Criteria at a national level. It is developed by a National Technical Working Group and goes through a transparent approval procedure. After approval the National Interpretation Guideline becomes a normative GLOBALG.A.P document. This implies that all Certification Bodies that are working in the respective country have to include this guideline within their certification procedures.

GLOBALG.A.P can withdraw or revise the national interpretation guidelines at any time on an individual point basis if global integrity of the standard is challenged.

See GR V4 Part I – 2. Normative Documents

3. How is the approval procedure for National Interpretation Guidelines structured?

Similar to the GLOBALG.A.P Benchmarking Procedure the steps for approval of a National Interpretation Guideline are as follows:



1. The NTWG submits the National Interpretation Guideline to the GLOBALG.A.P Secretariat for approval.
2. The GLOBALG.A.P Secretariat is doing a technical review of the submitted guideline. If any technical or formal discrepancy is detected in this review, the guideline is returned to the group, which has **one month** to propose the amendments. The GLOBALG.A.P Secretariat shall summarise all the consultation responses in a technical review report. This report shall evaluate the proposal of amendments, if any.
3. Where the technical review requirements are met, the National Interpretation Guideline as well as the technical review report shall be subject to peer review for a period of one month. The peer review shall be by written consultation with the relevant GLOBALG.A.P Sector Committees, GLOBALG.A.P members and Certification Bodies. The consulted parties shall be invited to make written technical comments in English only and must provide justification. If any technical or formal discrepancy is detected in this review, the National Technical working group shall have one month to propose amendments to the GLOBALG.A.P Secretariat. If any technical or formal discrepancy is detected in this review, the guideline is returned to the group, which has **one month** to propose the amendments.
4. A final peer review report shall be prepared by the GLOBALG.A.P Secretariat, which shall summarise and evaluate the peer review comments and the proposals of amendments, if any. The final National Interpretation Guideline and peer review report shall be submitted to the relevant Sector Committees for provisional approval. The relevant Sector Committees shall make one of the following recommendations to the GLOBALG.A.P Secretariat:

- a. Guideline is recommended for approval
 - b. Rejection of the Guideline
5. After the provisional approval of the Sector Committee(s) the GLOBALG.A.P Secretariat finally approves the National Interpretation Guideline. Following steps are taken by the Secretariat in order to inform all relevant stakeholders:
- Upload + Announcement on the website
 - Informing all GLOBALG.A.P members
 - Informing all GLOBALG.A.P approved Certification Bodies
 - Informing all relevant Accreditation Bodies
- 4. What are the consequences after the approval and publication of a National Interpretation Guideline for:**

A Certification Body

- All Certification Bodies have to confirm the receipt of the approved National Interpretation Guideline.
- Certification Bodies have to inform all their clients about the National Interpretation Guideline.
- All Certification Bodies that are operating in the respective country have to include the guideline in their certification procedure within 3 months after publication.
- After the period of three months Certification Bodies can be sanctioned for not applying approved National Technical Interpretation Guidelines, unless they justified and communicated to the GLOBALG.A.P secretariat.

The Producers

- There won't be major changes in the daily practice of the producers. The guideline will rather facilitate the implementation, as it is adapted to the national circumstances, legal regulations etc.
- Producers will be informed about the guideline via their Certification Bodies.
- Producers have to implement the GLOBALG.A.P requirements in accordance with the National Interpretation Guideline within 3 months after publication.

The Accreditation Bodies:

- All Accreditation Bodies have to confirm the reception of the approved National Interpretation Guideline.
- Accreditation Bodies have to make sure that all accredited Certification Bodies are applying the National Interpretation Guideline when they are certifying in the concerned country within 3 months after publication.
- After the period of three months Certification Bodies can be sanctioned for not applying approved National Interpretation Guidelines, unless they justified and communicated to the GLOBALG.A.P secretariat.