

# FOOD SAFETY & QUALITY CERTIFICATION UPDATE

For those businesses certified to Freshcare please read the following information.

If your Freshcare on farm food safety and quality audit takes place in January or February 2020, you will need to be prepared and transitioned to FSQ4.1, as from the new year no audits to FSQ4 will take place.

Commence the transition process now, start by reviewing and updating your Freshcare documents and records to ensure you're adequately prepared.

Information to assist the transition to FSQ4.1 is available here: <https://www.freshcare.com.au/standards/fsq4-1>

If you have any questions regarding the transition to FSQ4.1, contact the Freshcare office at [info@freshcare.com.au](mailto:info@freshcare.com.au) or 1300 853 508.

The transition from FSQ4 to FSQ4.1 is required for all audits from 1 January 2020.

Freshcare Standards that remain current from 1 January 2020 include:

- Freshcare Food Safety and Quality - Edition 4.1 [FSQ4.1].
- Freshcare Food Safety and Quality Supply Chain - Edition 1 [SC1].
- Freshcare Environmental - Edition 3 [ENV3].
- Freshcare Environmental Viticulture - Edition 2 [ENV-VIT2].
- Freshcare Environmental Winery - Edition 2 [ENV-WIN2].

From 1 January 2020 Freshcare Rules Version 4.3 - July 2019 are applicable to all current Freshcare Standards.

## HARPS

Still unsure if your business needs the Harmonised Australian Retailer Produce Scheme (HARPS) in addition to your existing food safety and quality certification?

A decision graphic has been developed to assist suppliers in determining whether their business requires HARPS. The terminology in this graphic replaces the previous references to Direct and Indirect suppliers, and uses a tiering system to define supply chain responsibilities and actions required by suppliers.

The graphic can be seen below and downloaded at the following address: <https://harpsonline.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/2018-09-17-HARPS-Decision-Graphic-1.pdf>

Further information on HARPS and FAQs can be found at: <https://harpsonline.com.au/>









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## HARPS Decision Graphic: Is HARPS required for my business?

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HARPS is a retailer-led scheme designed to assist with compliance to food safety, legal and trade legislation for suppliers to the major grocery retailers in Australia

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Out of Scope
<p><b>Your business has a Vendor or Supplier Number to a HARPS Participating Retailer*.</b></p>	<p><b>Your business packs or re-packs any of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loose product with PLU/DataBar stickers applied as specified by a HARPS Participating Retailer*;</li> <li>• Retail-branded pre-packs;</li> <li>• Retail Returnable Plastic Crates (RPC's);</li> <li>• Proprietary-branded pre-packs;</li> <li>• Loose product in final retail packaging, packed to a retail specification destined for a HARPS Participating Retailer*;</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>Your business is an Approved Supplier</b> to a Tier 1 business, who supplies to a HARPS Participating Retailer* (in final retail packaging);</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>Your business provides Support Services<sup>^</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Your business supplies bulk produce</b> (not in final retail packaging) for further packing to a Tier 1 or Tier 2 supplier;</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>Your business is a low volume producer</b> supplying a total of 10 pallets or less per calendar year, per site. This is a collective total across all HARPS Participating Retailers*.</p> <p>(NB: Suppliers of retail-branded pre-packs are excluded from this rule as they qualify as a Tier 1 or Tier 2 supplier).</p>	<p><b>Your business processes fresh produce</b> (e.g. value-adding such as bagged salads, fresh cuts, sliced mushrooms/carrots, shelled nuts etc.). Your business requires food safety certification to a scheme as required by your retailer customer.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>Your business is a virtual broker (agent or merchant)</b> that does not qualify as a Tier 1, 2 or 3 supplier (i.e. you do not physically handle the product).</p>
<p><b>Action Required</b></p> <p>Your business may require HARPS approval, this includes certification to an Approved Base Scheme** and the HARPS requirements by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. Contact your respective retailer customer(s) for further information.</p> <p> Base Scheme <b>AND</b>  HARPS</p>	<p><b>Action Required</b></p> <p>Your business may require HARPS approval, this includes certification to an Approved Base Scheme** and the HARPS requirements by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. Contact your respective retailer customer(s) for further information.</p> <p> Base Scheme <b>AND</b>  HARPS</p>	<p><b>Action Required</b></p> <p>Your business may be required to be certified to an Approved Base Scheme** by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019.</p> <p> Base Scheme</p>	<p><b>Action Required</b></p> <p>No action required for HARPS.</p> <p> NO ACTION</p>

\* HARPS Participating Retailer(s): ALDI, Coles, Costco, Metcash (IGA), Woolworths

\*\* Approved Base Schemes: BRC, Freshcare, GLOBALG.A.P., SQF

<sup>^</sup> Support Services: Services including ripening, brokerage activities (agent or merchant), storage and cooling (where product handling and traceability are the responsibility of the Support Service supplier).

