Recognition determination report
GMP+ Version 01.01.2024

Document TEM-035 – Version 1.0

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Introduction

To ensure consistency in the reporting of findings and recommended outcomes, this report is to be utilised by the approved third party following the completion of the equivalence assessment

The report provides a summary of key information and findings of the equivalence assessment carried out by the third party.

Upon receipt of the recognition determination report, MarinTrust shares the report with the relevant governance committee for discussion and recommendation of approval to the Governing Body Committee (GBC).

This report is used as the basis for recommending if the equivalency should be considered by the relevant committee, GBC, and MarinTrust.

Where the recognition is partial or full, MarinTrust shall publish the report on the MarinTrust website.

Section 1: Company and third-party information

Company details	
Name of Organisation: GMP+ International B.V	
Type of recognition: Standard owner – standard for Section 5	
Third party Information	
I hereby undertake to maintain in confidence all information and data related to MarinTrust activities obtained during the course of my involvement as a third party, other than that which I am authorised by the MarinTrust to disclose or that which I am required to disclose by law. I further undertake to immediately inform MarinTrust of any conflict of interest that may arise between my responsibilities as a third party and any other activity with which I may be involved.	
Organisation:	RS Standards
Date:	**05 June 2024**

Section 2: General overview

One-way or mutual recognition

◉ One-way

○ Mutual

Standard / Benchmark information	
Title	GMP+ Feed Standard 2024 (covers 2010 version as well)
Version	1 January 2024
Website link (if applicable)	https://www.gmpplus.org/feed-certification-scheme/scheme-documents/

GMP+ has been through various versions and transitions. For the purposes of this equivalency assessment, the latest version is used. It is worth noting that the specific requirements in the 2024 version are broadly the same as in the previous versions, however a significant difference is that the various documents have been restructured. This was evidenced when looking at the 'GMP transition 2010 to 2020' document. https://www.gmpplus.org/feed-certification-scheme/scheme-documents/support/s995/

Section 3: Self-assessment outcome summary

This equivalency assessment was undertaken by third party assessment only.

A previous evaluation of GMP+ was made as part of a series of pilot tests for the development of the equivalency procedure. This was considered a type of 'self-assessment' whereby information was gathered prior the full equivalancy assessment.

A third party contractor (RS Standards) has undertaken this latest equivalency assessment in full, during May-June 2024. This compared V3 of the MarinTrust Standard for Responsible Sourcing of Marine Ingredients (the Standard) and the GMP+ Standard 01.01.2024, which was published and online at the time of the assessment. RS Standards has considerable experience in benchmarking and equivalency, as well as MarinTrust standards.

The GMP+ Standard and supporting documents are published online.

The GMP+ Standard covers good manufacturing practices (GMP) and was assessed only against Section 5 of the MarinTrust Standard.

Section 4: Equivalency assessment overview

The outcome of the equivalency assessment is summarised in the tables below. **Table 1** includes an overview of the outcome of the baseline requirements

Table 3 indicates the number of clauses for which the relevant party is considered to be equivalent, partially equivalent, not equivalent, or not applicable to the MarinTrust criteria.

For full details for each rating, please refer to Recognition of Equivalence Procedure, Appendix 1 – equivalency assessment methodology.

3.1 Baseline requirements

Table 1: Outcome overview of baseline requirements

Requirement	Description	Outcome
Operations	Fully operational	Baseline met
	Third party assessments or audits included	
Scope of requirements (please specify)	Good Manufacturing Practices	Baseline met
Geographical scope (if regional please specify)	Global	Baseline met
If the scope is fisheries - are the requirements aligned with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries?	Not applicable	Not applicable

Table 2: Outcome overview of ISO/IEC 17065 requirements

Requirement	Outcome
Standard Owner	Alignment established
Benchmark Tool Owner	Not applicable

The assurance model is aligned with ISO/IEC 17021 which is closely aligned with ISO/IEC 17065.

Although there are some differences, they provide the same level of assurance regarding management of applications, CBs, and oversight within organisations.

Full details are included within the assessment form. This refers to the various detailed guides and requirements which cover assurance for the scheme.

3.2 Equivalency assessment against MarinTrust criteria

Table 3: Summary of level of equivalency

Scope	Total Number of criteria	Equivalent	Partially equivalent	Not equivalent
Good Manufacturing Practices	76	88% (67 clauses)	9% (7 clauses)	3% (2 clauses)

There are several documents which cover all the details against which inspections and audits are undertaken. The main feed standard is supplemented with other standards.

On the basis of these documents it was deemed that the GMP+ Standard 01.01.2024 provides a very high level of equivalence to Section 5 of the MarinTrust standard. Where there are gaps, it is recommended that these be audited as part of MarinTrust audits.

3.3 Extent of Equivalence

Table 4: Equivalency assessment outcome

Overview	
Scope	Outcome
Good Manufacturing Practices	Partial recognition recommended

3.4 Main Findings and Comments

There is an extremely high level of equivalency between GMP+ and MarinTrust Section 5. Coupled with the assurance model, there is clear justification for GMP+ to be partially recognised for Section 5.

Partially equivalent clauses

No.	Clause from MarinTrust Section 5	Rationale why GMP+ is partially equivalent
5.3.4.1	Staff handwashing facilities shall be available, including in all bathrooms, to include hot or temperature controlled water, cold running water, hand drying facilities, soap, hand sanitiser / disinfectant.	GMP+ has included requirements for personal hygiene and control measures to reduce the risk of cross-contamination, however, it does not mention handwashing facilities and toilets/ bathrooms.
5.3.4.2	Handwashing facilities at entry points to production areas shall include non-hand operable taps.	GMP+ has included requirements for personal hygiene and control measures to reduce the risk of cross-contamination, however, it does not mention handwashing facilities and toilets/ bathrooms.
5.3.4.3	Suitable and sufficient changing, rest and catering facilities shall be provided for all staff.	GMP+ has included general requirements to reduce the risk of cross-contamination, related to the personnel, however, this does not mention changing, resting, or catering facilities.
5.3.4.4	Food preparation and serving areas should comply with workplace food safety requirements.	GMP+ has included general requirements to reduce the risk of cross-contamination, related to the personnel, however, it is not detailed enough concerning workplace food safety itself.
5.3.4.6	The Facility shall ensure potable drinking water is available for all employees and any food or beverages it provides to employees are nutritious and safe to eat and/or drink.	GMP+ has a general requirement for water use in the facility, however it does not mention any additional requirement for the use of employees. Also, there no requirement related to nutrition:
5.3.9.6	There shall be rules for managing the conduct of all personnel relating to personal hygiene, health and safety and food safety, in processing, packaging and storage areas.	GMP+ has requirements for personal hygiene and food safety, however it does not include health and safety:
5.3.10.3	Samples of the finished materials shall be labelled to facilitate traceability and retained in appropriate conditions for a minimum period of six months.	GMP+ requests retention of samples, however there is no minimum period:

Not equivalent clauses

5.5.1	The Facility shall have a documented review of threats and vulnerabilities to protect the integrity of products intended for human consumption.
5.5.2	This review shall be updated at least annually.

As GMP+ is a feed standard it would not have requirements for products for human consumption.

Section 5: Response from scheme/standard owner

GMP+ were provided a 2-week comment period to provide further information and evidence in relation to the assessment. GMP+ confirmed that the clauses identified as 'partial compliant' are correct.

Section 6: Equivalency recommendation

☐**No recognition recommended**

☒**Partial recognition recommended**

☐**Full recognition recommended**

The 'not equivalent' and 'partially equivalent' clauses should be included in MarinTrust audits in facilities which also hold GMP+ certification as they are requirements of the MarinTrust Standard.

If a GMP+ certified facility produces marine ingredients for feed and food use, then clauses 5.5.1 and 5.5.2 shall also be audited for those marine ingredients produced for food use.

This assessment used GMP+ 2020, version 1st January 2024. Due to the similarities between this latest version and the 2010 versions, the findings of this assessment should apply to those previous versions of GMP+.