

## Talking Points: Seafood Processing Standard, Issue 5.1

### What is the effective date for SPS 5.1?

The standard was released on November 16, 2020. However, it becomes mandatory for new certifications and re-certifications on January 16, 2021.

### Is SPS 5.1 benchmarked?

Yes, it is benchmarked to the Global Food Safety Initiative. It is the only GFSI-benchmarked BAP standard.

### Can facilities apply to SPS 5.1 prior to January 16?

No, facilities are not able to apply to SPS 5.1 prior to January 16.

### Was there a public comment period for SPS 5.1?

No, revisions are not subject to public comment. Only issue changes go through public comment.

### What are the primary differences between SPS 5.0 and 5.1?

SPS Issue 5.1 provides clarity on the outsourcing of processing, environmental monitoring and food-product testing and on food safety as it pertains to canning, thermal processing and other specialty processing methods. SPS Issue 5.1 also strengthens employee rights and protection.

Here is a list of specific revisions made:

- Clarity on Outsourcing & Specifications — Processes and Services (Section 2.9).
- Modified section 2.16 to provide clarity on business continuity.
- Thermally Processed Foods in Hermetically Sealed Containers — Low Acid Canned Foods modified (Section 3.3). Acidified, Fermented, Cured, Dried, Hot & Cold Smoked Foods and Raw RTE modified for lucidity (Section 3.4).
- Minor clarification including outsourced activities in section 3.5 — Food Safety — HACCP Procedures Assessment and section 3.6 Food Fraud.
- Clarity on environmental monitoring as part of Food Safety — Plant Sanitation — Cleaning and Sanitation (Section 3.11)
- Clarity on social accountability and employee health and safety (Sections 5 and 6).
- Traceability Elements for Wild-Caught Species (Section 9.3) modified for lucidity.
- Clarity of definitions in Glossary (Annex 1).
- Clarification on criteria in Effluent Management Requirements (Annex 2).
- Modifications to Traceability Requirements for BAP Star Status Verification (Annex 3).
- Clarity on Sampling and Testing Verification Requirement (Annex 4).