PrimusGFS Module 9 – IPM Practices FAQ

What is IPM?

IPM stands for Integrated Pest Management and is a science-based approach to managing key pests through a combination of biological, cultural, physical, and chemical methods to reduce pest damage while minimizing risks to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms (e.g. pollinators), and the environment.

Which operation types is Module 9 applicable for?

Module 9 – IPM Practices is available to Farm and Indoor Agriculture operations.

Am I required to add Module 9 to my PrimusGFS audit?

No, this new module was developed to be an optional add-on for companies that would like to include additional questions in their 3rd party audit to verify the implementation of IPM practices.

What is the benefit to adding Module 9 to my PrimusGFS audit?

As sustainability and related topics get more traction in the industry, customers have been updating their requirements accordingly. Module 9 – IPM Practices was created with these requirements in mind to help streamline compliance for auditees. Currently Walmart accepts PrimusGFS with Module 9 as a way to verify IPM practices under their Pollinator Policy. Azzule is continuously working on customer acceptance of the Module, please reach out to Support@Azzule.com if you have a customer interested in IPM implementation.

Which Certification Bodies will offer Module 9, and is there training available?

Module 9 will be available for all approved PrimusGFS certification bodies to offer. All certification bodies will undergo a training on the Module by Azzule and will be responsible for training their auditors. Additionally, Module 9 can be included in PrimusGFS trainings available to auditees through approved Training Centers.

How do I add Module 9 to my upcoming audit?

When adding operations in step 3 of your audit application, you will see an option to add Module 9 – IPM Practices to the operation (see screenshot below). Please note that you will need to add the module independently for each operation you would like it to apply to.

If I do not meet the compliance criteria for Module 9, will that affect my overall PrimusGFS score?

No, performance in Module 9 is separate from the rest of your PrimusGFS audit and will **not** impact your overall score. This means that even if you do not achieve Total Compliance in Module 9 – IPM Practices you can still be certified under PrimusGFS, however the final audit report and certificate will not reference that Module 9 was successfully implemented.

How will my customers be able to see if I have met the Total Compliance criteria for Module 9 after my audit is completed?

Operations that have successfully met the Total Compliance criteria for Module 9 will have an icon added to their audit report and certificate (see below). If the icon is not visible on the report and certificate, the operation either did not include Module 9 or did not meet the Total Compliance criteria for the module.
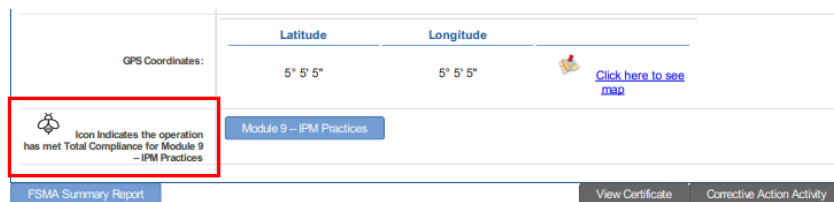
In addition to the icon found on audit reports and certificates, the module will be reflected on the PrimusGFS Certified Operations page with the icon indicating Module 9 was successfully implemented

Where can I find the documents for Module 9?

All documents are posted on the PrimusGFS website here. You will be able to find the Checklist, Questions and Expectations, and Interpretation Guidelines under the respective headers.

How often do my operations need to be audited against Module 9, and how long is it valid for?

If you have chosen to include Module 9 in your PrimusGFS audit, it will be verified annually during your audit inspection and be valid through the duration of your PrimusGFS certificate (12-months).

Can I add Module 9 to an already certified audit?

Ideally the inspection for Module 9 should take place during the full PrimusGFS audit, however if a situation arises where the audit had already been certified and Module 9 is needed, it can be treated as a scope extension. Please contact your certification body for more information.

Can I add Module 9 to my PrimusGFS audit, even if I did not meet the Total Compliance criteria during my initial inspection of the Module?

Yes, similar to the question above, Module 9 can be added to an audit after it has been certified as a scope extension. Please contact your certification body for more information.

What is considered "Total Compliance Met" for the module?

To meet total compliance for Module 9, <u>auditees must achieve a Total Compliance or Exceeds Compliance score in all questions</u>.

Can I submit Corrective Actions to improve my performance?

Yes, Module 9 will follow the current PrimusGFS certification flow and auditees will have the opportunity to submit corrective actions following auditor submission of the preliminary report. This includes situations to improve questions scores from Non-Compliant to Total Compliance or Exceeds Compliance.

Where can I find additional resources related to IPM?

In the Module 9 – IPM Practices Interpretation Guidelines there are links and resources available under the relevant questions. Azzule is also working on creating template documents to help auditees with implementation (expected early 2024).