

Inspection **VS** Audit

PRODUCE SAFETY RULE INSPECTION

Federal regulation mandated under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) in 2015.

GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GAP) AUDIT

Third-party certification that verifies farm practices for buyers.

OVERVIEW

KEY TOPICS

Health and hygiene
Animal management
Soil amendments
Water quality
Post-harvest handling
Equipment sanitation

Same basic topics as inspection, with variety of add-on options for buyers, such as traceability programs and sustainability metrics.

WSDA Produce Safety Program
More information at agr.wa.gov/producesafety.

ADMINISTERED IN WASHINGTON BY

WSDA Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Program conducts USDA Audits.



Examples of other private certifiers:



Yes, but some small, direct marketing farms and products are exempt.

MANDATORY?

No, but some buyers require it.

Certain records are required. A food safety plan is recommended.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED?

A food safety plan with policies, procedures, and records.

Inspectors record violations and corrective actions. Enforcement protocol is under development.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Typically a point-based checklist.

Every couple of years, depending on corrective actions needed.

VISIT FREQUENCY

Most certification programs require annual renewal.

No Cost - inspections are federally funded.

COST

\$100 - \$200 per hour depending on the program.