

15 October 2012 – Paris, France

Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) recognises SQF Code

The GFSI Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the SQF Code 7th Edition Level 2 has been successfully re-benchmarked by GFSI and has achieved recognition against the GFSI Guidance Document Sixth Edition. SQF has been recognised against the following scopes:

AI: Farming of Animal Products
BI: Farming of Plant Products
C: Pre-Processing of Animal Products
D: Pre-Processing of Plant Products
EI: Processing of Animal Perishable Products
EII: Processing of Plant Perishable Products
EIII: Processing of Animal and Plant Perishable Products
EIV: Processing of Ambient Stable Products
L: Production of Biochemicals
M: Production of Food Packaging

The GFSI Benchmark Committee was led by Kevin Swoffer, Director of KPS Resources Ltd who was joined by Marc Cwikowski, Director, Food Safety and Supplier Quality for The Coca-Cola Company and Bizhan Pourkomailian, Director, Food Safety and Supplier Workplace Accountability for McDonald's Europe.

The re-benchmarking process against the Sixth Edition is significantly different from the Fifth Edition, with strengthened requirements for the management of schemes and an expanded document that covers primary production, processing and supporting activities in a more robust way, taking a scope specific approach to eventually cover all parts of the food supply chain. Over the course of this new re-benchmarking process, the GFSI Benchmark Committee compared the requirements for food safety scheme ownership, management and supporting systems outlined in the GFSI Guidance Document Sixth Edition against the detailed documentation and objective evidence provided by SQF for each requirement. This process comprised numerous exchanges of documents until the Benchmark Committee were satisfied that the requirements outlined in the Guidance Document had been met and that the requirements contained in the SQF standard were equivalent. Once reviewed by the Benchmark Committee, the application was released to over 9000 GFSI stakeholders for a one-month global consultation, in line with the transparent approach to benchmarking that is embedded in the GFSI Guidance Document Sixth Edition.

The initial SQF Code benchmarking application to GFSI covered every scope of the supply chain for which there are currently requirements in the GFSI Guidance Document. However, GFSI requires that every single scope submitted in a benchmarking application must have a minimum of 10 accredited certificates issued against it. As a result, the two following scopes initially included in the SQF Code application (All Farming of Fish and BII Farming of Grains and Pulses) will be resubmitted to GFSI at a later date as scope extensions once SQF has 10 accredited certificates in place. The requirement for 10 accredited certificates per scope of application outlined in the GFSI Guidance Document was proposed by the global stakeholders who contributed to the drafting of the Sixth Edition, in order to ensure that there is market demand for each scope but also to provide reassurance that the scope is operating effectively under an accredited system.

Cenk Gurol, President, AEON GLOBAL SCM Co., Ltd. and Vice-Chair of the GFSI Board commented that "As GFSI works with a global food industry to build confidence in third party certification, we as Board members are committed to maintaining this trust by approving schemes that meet requirements determined by global stakeholders in the GFSI Guidance Document. We truly value the commitment of the scheme owners and the benchmarking committees who work so hard to ensure that all these requirements are met."

LeAnn Chuboff, Senior Technical Director of SQFI commented "We are pleased to be recognized by GFSI as a standard for food safety and would like to thank the GFSI benchmarking committee for their time and commitment to the process. SQF is committed to providing a global farm to fork food safety solution and, as one of the original benchmarked schemes, will continue to support GFSI and its goal to building a safer supply chain."

SQF CODE 7TH EDITION LEVEL 2



The SQF Code has been redesigned for use by all sectors of the food industry from primary production to transport and distribution. Edition 7 applies to all industry sectors and replaces the SQF 2000 Code edition 6 and the SQF 1000 Code edition 5.

The SQF Code is a process and product certification standard. It is a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP)-based food safety and quality management system that utilizes the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Food (NACMCF) and the CODEX Alimentarius Commission HACCP principles and guidelines. The SQF Code is intended to support industry or company branded products and offers benefits to suppliers and their customers. Products produced and manufactured under the SQF Code certification retain a high degree of acceptance in global markets.

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GFSI BENCHMARKING PROCESS



The Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) was founded to deliver equivalence and convergence between effective food safety management systems through its benchmarking process and continues to flourish in doing so. Benchmarking is a “procedure by which a food safety-related scheme is compared to the GFSI Guidance Document”. The benchmarking process determines equivalency against an internationally recognized set of food safety requirements, based on industry best practice and sound science. These requirements are developed through a consensus building process by key stakeholders in the food supply chain and can be found in the GFSI Guidance Document Sixth Edition, freely available for download on www.mygfsi.com.

The common acceptance of GFSI recognised schemes in the global market place by buying companies provides flexibility and choice within the food supply chain. Acceptance furthermore drives cost efficiency and consistency in when sourcing food and delivers greater confidence to the end users of third party certification.

GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE

The Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) is a business-driven initiative for the continuous improvement of food safety management systems to ensure confidence in the delivery of safe food to consumers worldwide. GFSI was launched in 2000 following a number of food safety crises when consumer confidence was at an all-time low. Its collaborative approach to food safety brings together international food safety experts from the entire food supply chain at technical working group and stakeholder meetings, conferences and regional events to share knowledge and promote a harmonized approach to managing food safety across the industry.

THE CONSUMER GOODS FORUM



GFSI is managed by the Consumer Goods Forum (CGF), a global, parity-based industry network, driven by its members. It brings together the CEOs and senior management of over 400 retailers, manufacturers, service providers and other stakeholders across 70 countries and reflects the diversity of the industry in geography, size, product category and format. Forum member companies have combined sales of EUR 2.5 trillion.

With its headquarters in Paris and its regional offices in Washington, D.C., and Tokyo, the CGF serves its members throughout the world.

For more information, please visit www.mygfsi.com.

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