

GFSI Board Key Decisions

In an ongoing effort to provide more transparency to our stakeholders, the Global Food Safety Initiative will publish the main decisions taken by the Board of Directors following each Board meeting. Please find below the decisions following the meeting of 20th May 2009.

Key Decisions

- **FSSC 22000:** The Board granted conditional recognition of this scheme, but will request that the benchmarking working group carry out another review once the scheme has moved to full implementation.
- **GlobalGAP:** The Board approved the benchmarking work carried out against the GlobalGAP fruit and vegetable scope (Options 1 and 2 only). They have now requested that the working group look at the alignment of the benchmarking procedures and the GFSI benchmark of other GlobalGAP scopes. Priority will be given to aquaculture.
- **Technical Committee Restructuring:** The Board approved the dissolution of the Technical Committee in its previous format and has approved three new Technical Working Groups. These groups and sub-groups will work together to provide recommendations to the GFSI Board on the following work items:

1) Best Food Safety Practice/Benchmarking

a) Building the Foundation

Aims

➤ **Benchmarking Process**

Review the current benchmarking system and the process behind it to establish a more robust, improved and transparent procedure.

➤ **Scheme Protocol/Management Systems**

Review and revise the requirements of food safety management systems.

➤ **Accreditation and Auditor Competence**

Provide technical advice and guidelines on issues relating to accreditation.

➤ **Benchmarking Activities**

Continue ongoing benchmarking of submitted schemes.

b) Supply Chain

Aims

➤ Clearly define what the supply chain is

➤ Provide further sector specific requirements in the GFSI Guidance Document about the following sectors:

- a) Fresh fruit and vegetables/Farm practices
- b) Aquaculture

- c) Processing-Field Packing, RTE fruit and vegetables

2) Global Markets

Aims

- Define internationally recognised corporate food safety competencies for less developed businesses
- Develop a toolkit for company self-assessment and to track progression through the competency levels
- Communicate effectively on the aims of the programme

3) Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

Aims

- Develop a global strategy to build awareness and educate the supply chain for managing food safety through the Global Food Safety Initiative.
 - Identify a consistent message in the form of a toolkit to share with stakeholders to drive the GFSI vision and to demonstrate how the supply chain is connected and to further the mission, goals and objectives of GFSI.
 - Promote global trade
 - Draft common position papers and policies specifically linked to regulatory affairs.
- **ISO Guide 65 and ISO 17021:** A working group will be convened to draft a position paper on product vs quality management certification.
 - **Advisory Council:** The Board approved the formation of an Advisory Council, a consultative and advisory body made up of academic, NGO and government representatives to provide valuable input to the Board on matters related to the mission, objectives and goals of GFSI.
 - **GFSI Regional Events 2010:** The Board approved the venue of China in spring 2010, and decided that a meeting will take place in Brazil in autumn 2010. The cities are to be confirmed in the next Board meeting in October.