

23rd February 2010 - Paris, France

SQF 1000 Code 5th Edition maintains recognition from GFSI

SQF 1000 Code demonstrates ongoing equivalence to the Global Food Safety Initiative food safety requirements for primary production.

2th February 2010 - The Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), managed by The Consumer Goods Forum, announced today that the SQF Code Level 2, 5th Edition – August 2009 and Modified January 2010 has been given full recognition by Global Food Safety Initiative Board of Directors.

By demonstrating the equivalence of the recently published and revised SQF 1000 Code requirements at Level 2 against those of the GFSI Guidance Document Version 5, in the GFSI benchmark process, SQF 1000 will continue as one of the GFSI recognised schemes, working in the area of primary production, having first been recognised back in 2004. The scope of recognition of GFSI covers only the food safety elements of this scheme.

Jürgen Matern, Chairman of the Global Food Safety Initiative Board of Directors and Vice President, Strategic Quality Management, Metro AG said *“The continued recognition of SQF1000 by GFSI is important to end users as it provides ongoing confidence in this scheme. Now that the SQF revision process is finished and we have the confirmation that it meets our requirements in GFSI, we are glad to see the process demonstrating that our goal of continuous improvement in food safety management scheme is being met, over time.”*

Gary Smith, Technical Director of SQF added: *“We are delighted that this scheme will maintain ongoing recognition by GFSI in order for producers to be able to choose the most relevant primary production scheme for their business, with the assurance of recognition by the end users such as retailers, manufacturers and food service operators”.*

About GFSI

The GFSI, managed by the Consumer Goods Forum, was set up in 2000 to pursue continuous improvement in food safety management systems, cost efficiency in the supply chain and, above all, safe food for consumers worldwide.

About SQF

The SQF (Safe Quality Food) Program is a leading, global food safety and quality certification program and management system, designed to meet the needs of buyers and suppliers worldwide. The Program provides independent certification that a supplier's food safety and quality management system complies with international and domestic food safety regulations. This enables suppliers to assure their customers that food has been produced, processed, prepared and handled according to the highest possible standards, at all levels of the supply chain.

The SQF Institute (SQFI) is a division of the Food Marketing Institute (FMI), an association that conducts programs in public affairs, food safety, research, education and industry relations on behalf of its 1,500 member companies - food retailers and wholesalers - in the United States and around the world. The SQF Institute was established by FMI in 2004 to administer the SQF Program and is located in Arlington, Virginia.

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The Consumer Goods Forum

The Consumer Goods Forum is an independent global parity-based Consumer Goods network. It brings together the CEOs and senior management of around 650 retailers, manufacturers, service providers and other stakeholders across 70 countries.

The Forum was created in June 2009 by the merger of CIES - The Food Business Forum, the Global Commerce Initiative (GCI) and the Global CEO Forum. The Consumer Goods Forum is governed by its Board of Directors, which includes an equal number of manufacturer and retailer CEOs and chairpersons. Forum member companies have combined sales of EUR 2.1trillion.

The Forum provides a unique global platform for thought leadership, knowledge exchange and networking between retailers, manufacturers and their partners on collaborative, non-competitive issues. Its strength lies in the privileged access it offers to the key players in the sector as well as in the development and implementation of best practices along the value chain.

It has a mandate from its members to develop common positions on key strategic and practical issues affecting the consumer goods business and to focus on non-competitive collaborative process improvement. With its headquarters in Paris and its regional offices in Washington, D.C., Singapore, Tokyo and Shanghai, The Consumer Goods Forum serves its members throughout the world.

For more information, please visit www.mygfsi.com

This press release is also available on the website <http://www.theconsumergoodsforum.com>

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