



# PRESS RELEASE

Paris, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2008

## **Wal-Mart suppliers must meet GFSI -approved standards**

Wal-Mart has announced that suppliers of its private label and other food items, like produce, meat and fish, must comply with Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) recognized standards.

Wal-Mart said the four GFSI-approved standards go beyond the current audit process required by the US FDA and Department of Agriculture, according to a report by Reuters.

A CIES initiative, GFSI is a group of international retailers committed to strengthening consumer confidence in food safety, which counts Wal-Mart among its members.

J.P. Suarez, Wal-Mart SVP and chief compliance officer, and a GFSI board member, said: "We are taking this ... step to ensure the integrity of our products throughout the entire food supply chain. We encourage other US retailers to follow our lead and to also endorse these standards."

Wal-Mart added that its requirements will extend to subsidiaries Asda in the UK and Seiyu in Japan.

**All new developments on GFSI  
will be debated at the  
[CIES International Food Safety Conference](#)  
from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> February in Amsterdam.**

**For more information on GFSI or CIES, join us in Amsterdam next week.**

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