

**CIES – The Food Business Forum
announces compliance of the first 4 food safety standards
in the Global Food Safety Initiative Benchmark Project.**

Paris, 28th January 2003

The Task Force of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), a project facilitated by CIES – The Food Business Forum, today confirmed the compliance of the first four food safety standards with the GFSI Guidance Document. These four standards are:

- The BRC Technical Standard
- The Dutch HACCP Code
- The EFSIS standard
- The International Standard for Auditing Food Suppliers (International Food Standard)

The Task Force was advised by both a retailers' Expert Committee and a Stakeholders' Group, made up of, among others, food manufacturers, certifying bodies and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

Background

In April 2000, a group of international retailer CEOs identified the need to enhance food safety, ensure consumer protection, strengthen consumer confidence, to set requirements for food safety schemes and to improve cost efficiency throughout the food supply chain. Following their lead, the Global Food Safety Initiative was launched in May 2000. The Initiative is facilitated by CIES – The Food Business Forum. It is based on the principle that food safety is a non-competitive issue, as any potential problem arising may cause repercussions in the whole sector.

An international Task Force comprised of over 50 retailer quality managers whose companies represent 65% of food retail revenue world-wide works on these priorities.

The Task Force initially compiled a set of 'Key Elements' to serve as the requirements against which existing food safety standards now are benchmarked. The 'Key Elements' as defined by the Task Force are:

- Food Safety Management Systems
- Good Practices for Agriculture, Manufacturing and Distribution
- HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points)

The above-mentioned standards were submitted by their owners to be benchmarked against these 'Key Elements' and were found to be in full compliance with them.

FoodSupplyLine, a data base system developed by GFSI, will contain details on these standards and certified suppliers. More information about this system will be available shortly.

GFSI would now like to invite other standard holders to submit their food safety standards for benchmarking. For further details, please contact CIES - The Food Business Forum or go to the GFSI web-site www.globalfoodsafety.com. The benchmarking of agricultural standards will follow at a later date.

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