



Press Release

4th October 2004

Food retailers world-wide committed to toughen up even more on food safety.

Paris, France, 4th October 2004

CIES – The Food Business Forum, the Paris-based independent global food business network, and secretariat of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) announced today that retailers have taken a firm stance on food safety by publishing a new version of the Guidance Document. The mission of the retailer-led initiative, representing over 70% of food retail revenue world-wide, is to strengthen consumer confidence in the food bought in retail outlets.

- **The 4th Edition of the Guidance Document will help to improve the management of food safety standards** through a set of new criteria, which can be used to benchmark standards. The document focuses strongly on improving the quality in the results of auditing. The revised version of this document will also be used to **benchmark the food safety requirements of agricultural standards** (farm assurance standards). Issues such as the environment and animal welfare will not however be taken into consideration.
- **GFSI is also pleased to announce a new round of benchmarking.** Owners of standards that had previously been successfully benchmarked are now invited to re-submit their standard for benchmarking, in order to retain their status of a compliant GFSI standard. Other standard owners are also encouraged to submit their standards, according to the procedure outlined in the Guidance Document.
- **New GFSI Chairman, Chris Anstey, Product Integrity Manager at Tesco plc** highlighted the multiple benefits and value to consumers by stressing that “the use of the revised edition of the Guidance Document is a major step forward to toughen up and streamline the auditing process and maximise efficiency in the whole food chain”. Through the use of benchmarked standards, suppliers can work more effectively by reducing the number of audits, while allowing retailers to reduce travel costs. Such an approach means that resources can be redirected to ensure the quality of food produced and sold world-wide.

The international food safety community will gather in Rome, Italy at the **CIES International Food Safety Conference, on the 3rd & 4th February 2005** to discuss the developments of the Global Food Safety Initiative and other food safety issues such as food safety in retail outlets, traceability and risk management.

To download the 4th Edition of the Guidance Document and for further details on the conference, visit our website www.ciesnet.com or contact

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