

## An update on BRC's activities in North America

The BRC's adventure into North America kicked off with a series of fact finding roadshows in early March 2008 with visits to leading retailers, manufacturers, trade associations and specifiers with the objective of raising the profile and awareness of the BRC and its series of Global Standards. Since those early days in March the BRC has been working very closely with a number of North American based certification bodies to develop:

- A series of roadshows (Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Toronto)
- Webinars (online presentations commencing in May and running through to November 2008)
- BRC telesales personnel operating from Chicago to inform delegates about the roadshows and the webinars
- Have organised a series of BRC training courses from early June through to early December from the 1-Day Introducing the BRC Standard to the 4-Day Third Party Auditor training
- Media advertising in leading trade publications
- Attendance at the IFT 08 and IAFP 08 exhibitions, premier events for food safety professional
- Developed a six page brochure that has been distributed throughout North America
- Creating an Americanized version of the Global Standard for Food Safety – due to be published in July
- The newly created North American Technical committee met on June 11 to review the Standard's content
- Communications have been sent out via e-mail blasts and direct mail campaigns, over 10,000 pieces of communication material has been sent out
- Created a dedicated website at [www.brcnorthamerica.com](http://www.brcnorthamerica.com)
- Banner advertising has been added to the North American certification Body websites
- Attending a number of food safety conferences to communicate information about the Global Standard for Food Safety

**To find out more about the BRC's activities in North America please visit [www.brcnorthamerica.com](http://www.brcnorthamerica.com)**

## Global Standards for Packaging issue 2 and Food Safety issue 5 Go Live.

After 6 months of training and preparation the new issues of the Food Safety and Packaging Standards go live from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. The new standards have both been very positively received at the numerous training sessions and supplier presentations which have followed the launch in January.

The Food Safety Standard has a much clearer format and increased emphasis on Management commitment and revised sections on foreign body control, allergens and security reflecting the changes in food safety concerns. Whilst the packaging standard has been widened out to include consumer product packaging and a greater focus on packaging quality controls in addition

to hygiene reflecting the main concerns of packaging buyers.

There has also been an intense training program for all auditors around the world using new training packages developed specifically by the BRC to ensure auditors fully understand the changes to the standards. Auditors have also for the first time been required to sit an exam on the new standard and register with the BRC. These new initiatives are all part of a program for continuing to build confidence in the Certification process.

For more details of the changes to the standards please see [www.brcglobalstandards.com](http://www.brcglobalstandards.com)



So this is what Certification Scheme Manager Jon Revell from Bodycote does in his spare time. He reads the Global Standard for Food Safety Issue 5 on the ski slopes of the Canadian Rockies!! That's dedication for you!!

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### The Storage & Distribution Standard Comes of Age

The most recent of the BRC suite of Standards the Storage and Distribution Standard has now completed the Accreditation process allowing Accredited Certification to be offered by 6 Certification Bodies, they are:

- CMI/NSF
- SAI Global/ EFSIS
- Micron 2
- LRQA
- Knight International
- Bureau Veritas.

The pilot program has been followed by the issue of a supplementary standard providing further guidance on the interpretation of the standard allowing this to be applied to transport operators working independently as well as providing more information for Storage operators.

The new found status for the standard adds to its credibility and will increasingly make this a yard stick for manufacturers when selecting contracted transport and distribution networks. For more details see [www.brcglobalstandards.com](http://www.brcglobalstandards.com)

## Suppliers on Directory

Global Standard	Number of Suppliers
Food Safety	10,736
Packaging	1,301
Storage & Distribution	67
Consumer Products	310
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,414</b>

## Global Standard - Consumer Products Issue 2a

### Forthcoming Issue 2a to reflect the increasingly global nature of Consumer Products

Consumer product safety has been in the spotlight recently with high profile recalls of toys, toothpaste and computer batteries. Retailers are directly importing their "own brand" products from far and wide. Such issues mean more retailers are looking to use Global Standard – Consumer Products Issue 2a as part of their supplier approval process and to help in their continuing due diligence to demonstrate that they are supplying safe and legal goods. Demand for the Standard which is now accepted by various European retailers and as far afield as Australia has never been greater.

BRC will soon be issuing a revised Issue-2a. This version will expand the introduction, remove the UK specific references and update the worked examples. At the same time, BRC will be taking the opportunity to make minor corrections to the text concerning the audits. Issue 2a is not a revision of the audit requirements. Companies already using Issue 2 are not obliged to purchase 2a and a document containing the changes will be provided on the BRC Global Standards website.

Issue 2a will have a new cover to match the new look of the new Food and

### Packaging Standards.

Implementation of The Global Standard - Consumer Products is also being aligned with the other Standards. Several Certification Bodies have now gained accreditation and BRC will soon be clarifying specific requirements for auditors concerning their qualifications, experience and compulsory BRC training. Auditors will need to be registered with BRC.

BRC is completely revising and updating their training courses for Consumer Products. There will be a 1-Day Introduction explaining the background and benefits of the Standard and a 2-Day implementation course suitable for companies interested in certification as well as a 4-Day internal auditor course and a "Train the Trainer" programme to ensure all auditors are appropriately trained no matter where they are operating.

There is a lot going on around the Global Standard – Consumer Products Issue 2a so keep an eye on the website for news about Product Group Category Information, Industry Sector Guidelines and more.

**To find out more about the Global Standard – Consumer Products Issue 2a or to order your copies please visit [www.brcbookshop.com](http://www.brcbookshop.com)**

### BRC to publish new and updated Guidelines

The BRC is currently in the process of developing a number of new and updated sector specific Guidelines to support the Global Standards, topics include:

- Traceability
- Complaint Handling
- Internal Audit
- Pest Control

## What's New?

### New BRC Training Course dates published

The new July to December 2008 BRC training course dates are now published on [www.brctraining.com](http://www.brctraining.com). Don't forget as Directory suppliers you receive 20% discount on all BRC training courses. In addition the BRC has added a range of courses from the British Safety Council on Health & Safety and Environmental Management.



**BRITISH RETAIL CONSORTIUM**  
for successful and responsible retailing

The BRC is the market leader in the development of training courses for its globally recognised Global Standards covering Food, Packaging, Consumer Products and Storage & Distribution. Using the expertise and proven learning and development techniques developed by our industry training advisors, delegates will gain the knowledge and the understanding of the processes involved in implementing, maintaining and auditing against these Standards. Other benefits include:

- Content is created by the authors of the BRC Standards.
- Picking and mixing content from any BRC course material to create truly bespoke training that will help facilitate the implementation of BRC Global Standards.
- Receiving a **FREE** copy of the relevant Global Standard.
- Development of tailor made in-house training which is not only cost effective in both time and money but is also very flexible.

[www.brctraining.com](http://www.brctraining.com)

**40% off BRC Global Standards Plaques visit [www.brcbookshop.com](http://www.brcbookshop.com)**

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## Celebrate your success

Earning BRC Certification is something to be proud of. Show the world that your organisation has achieved Certification to BRC Global Standards with a personalised plaque.

The BRC plaque is the hallmark for showing best practice in the retail supply chain and will help assure customers that your organisation is competent in maintaining product safety and integrity.

Manufactured from clear Perspex, the plaque is fully weatherproof and will include an engraved plate with the name of your organisation.



For more information or to place an order please visit [www.brcbookshop.com](http://www.brcbookshop.com)

- Foreign Body Detection
- Fresh Produce
- Cookware

In addition to the above Guidelines the BRC is developing a Guideline to assist in the interpretation of the clauses of the Global Standard for Food Safety Issue 5. This Guideline will be published in early autumn 2008. A 20% pre-publication discount is available on new and revised Global Standards.

### BRC Procurement Services

The BRC launched a range of BRC procurement services to help

organisation registered on the BRC Global Standards Directory to improve efficiencies and save money, these include:

- Access to a range of BRC procurement services including energy, waste, telecoms, facilities management, postal solutions, tribunal services, recruitment services and print management.

To find out more about these services contact Nigel Scott: [nigel.scott@brc.org.uk](mailto:nigel.scott@brc.org.uk)