

What's Happening in the World of the BRC Global Standard for Consumer Products?



Global Standard for Consumer Products Issue 2A

A new version of the Consumer Product Standard is about to be published. The audit requirements have not changed but the introduction has been rewritten to reflect the international nature of the Consumer Products market. The worked examples have been expanded and updated to reflect the latest legislative demands and the format improved with clearer

explanations of the audit protocols and timelines.

Those companies already in possession of an Issue 2 Standard do not need to purchase a new version as a document showing all the differences will be freely downloadable from www.brcglobalstandards.com once the new Issue is published. Companies who are already certificated to Issue 2 do not need to be audited again and will be converted automatically to Issue 2A for audits taking place from January 2009.

Cookware Guidelines

Our first sector specific guideline – for cookware – has just been published. This is intended to give additional information and guidance to manufacturers, auditors and retailers to help them understand the requirements of the Standard with regard to cookware. More sector specific guidelines are planned to follow soon. The guidelines are voluntary and intended to help companies prepare for certification. They are not a mandatory requirement for certification.

Retailer Statement of Support

A number of retailers have recently agreed to support the use of the Global Standard for Consumer Products. This has been published in the form of a statement on our website in both English and Chinese. The statement will be updated from time to time to include other supporters of the Standard and we do have a few others in process – so take a look now and again.



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The BRC Publications and Products Catalogue

The BRC Winter 2008 Publications and Products Catalogue has now been published. Packed with all the latest Global Standards, Best Practice Guidelines, Sector Guidelines and much more.

To request a PDF file or order your printed copy please email Jackie Bartliff Jackie.bartliff@brc.org.uk

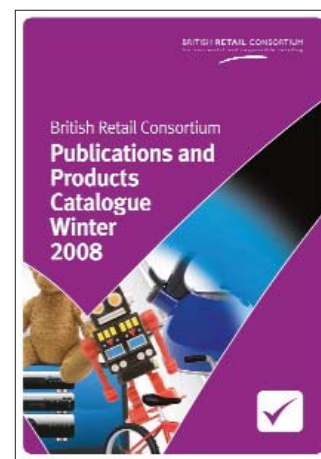
Global Standard Food Issue 5 – First Impressions.

Audits against the new issue 5 of the Food Standard started on the first of July this year. Early indications are that there is a greater spread of Grades than in the previous issue with more Grade B's awarded than before and a few C and D Grades, however a number of sites so far audited have elected for the unannounced option for their next audit demonstrating confidence in their system and taking the opportunity to achieve the prestigious A* grade. Changes to the Standard with the increased emphasis on management

commitment, remodelling of the HACCP section to mirror the international CODEX requirements and a more demanding approach to demonstration of ongoing compliance all appear to be separating the best sites from the good and identifying those with weaker systems.

So what areas appear to be causing the most problems? A survey of reports shows that the most common non conformances are

- 2.6.2 HACCP - evaluating the likelihood and severity of risks identified
- 3.9.2 Traceability - testing the traceability system including mass balance
- 4.8.2.1 Chemical control - the need for a chemical control procedure.
- 5.4.1 Product packaging- ensuring suitability for use.



Don't get Caught Out

The BRC has been working hard to ensure Certification Bodies and their auditors meet the high standards everybody expects. Reports and certificates will only be accepted by your customers when carried out by an Accredited Certification Body registered with the BRC. You can check if the Certification Body you want to use is approved by searching on the BRC web site www.brcdirectory.com. Approval ensures the Certification Bodies are kept fully informed of all developments with the Standards, meet the performance

standards we expect and are insured for the work they carry out.

Auditors have received additional training on the new Food and Packaging Standards and are registered with the BRC to audit only in the product categories in which they are competent. Auditors are issued with a registration number which will appear on the report and certificate and this number and their product categories can be challenged with your Certification Body.

Ensuring Consistency

The use of the BRC Standards continues to grow and we now have over 13,000 certified sites around the world. The success of the Standards reflects the confidence that your customers have in the value of the BRC certificates.

To support this we are very pleased that Karen Betts having joined BRC last year has now taken up the new role of Compliance Manager. Karen will be responsible for overseeing the work of the Certification Bodies to ensure consistency in certification around the world. This will involve reviewing reports, investigating any



complaints and ensuring that acceptable service levels are achieved.

To help us ensure standards remain high we would welcome your feedback on your experience of the audit process good and bad. Comments should be sent to brcglobalstandards@brc.org.uk

What's New?

January - June 2009 Training dates published

To learn more about BRC training courses and to view the training course dates for January to June 2009 please visit www.brctraining.com



The BRC team up with Initial to offer a range of Washroom Solutions

Initial Washroom Solutions, a leading supplier of washroom solutions in the UK has recently teamed up with the BRC to offer preferential prices on a wide range of washroom services for BRC Global Standards Certificated Suppliers. For further information please contact Nigel Scott on +44 (0) 20 7854 8990 or email nigel.scott@brc.org.uk. Further details will be published soon

on the BRC Global Standards Directory website in the benefits section.



Master the Standards

BRC Training courses are designed to help you achieve and maintain certification

The British Retail Consortium is a leading training provider for the food and non-food sectors offering a wide selection of interactive courses and workshops. The BRC has developed an excellent track record and built an enviable reputation for the development and delivery of training courses to a broad audience from both the private and public sectors spanning the food, packaging, consumer products and storage & distribution sectors.

To support the Standards the BRC offers high quality training courses to:

- Increase the understanding of the certification process
- Ensure that suppliers are well informed about how to implement the Standard
- Helps them achieve and maintain certification
- Increase knowledge levels of the Standard and its requirements

If you require further information please contact Jackie Bartliff on +44 (0) 20 7854 8984

www.brctraining.com



BRITISH RETAIL CONSORTIUM
for successful and responsible retailing

Quality Clothing now Available to BRC Global Standards Certificated Suppliers from Leading Clothing Supplier Alexandra

Alexandra plc, the UK's leading supplier of uniforms and workwear, has recently joined BRC, offering special contract prices and a wide range of services to BRC Global Standards Certificated Suppliers.

The Alexandra clothing range offers a wide selection of stock backed garments in a wide range of sizes and colours, so whether you are looking for eye catching sales staff uniform, catering uniform, hardwearing workwear or robust

outerwear you will find tried and tested garments available from stock.

Alexandra can also design, manufacture and stock bespoke garments for larger businesses wanting a uniform that reflects the company's brand.

A full range of services are available: from corporate design service; dedicated account management, in-house emblem application and free delivery to e-

procurement solutions and bespoke literature.

For a catalogue and more information call Alexandra's dedicated BRC Helpdesk on +44 (0) 1454 875635 or e-mail brc@alexandra.co.uk. A new website allowing members to shop online 24/7 is coming soon.



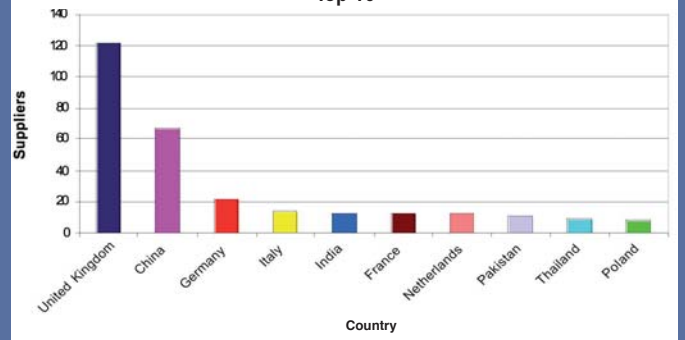
Global Standards Directory Certificated Supplier Update

The graphs below provide details of the top ten countries by BRC Global Standards.

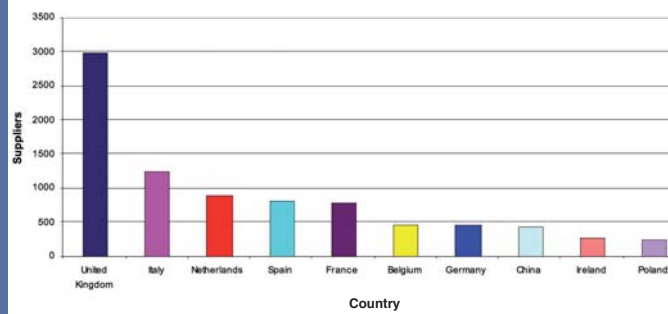
Some highlights include:

- The number of suppliers certificated against the Food Standard is still the leading certification scheme for the BRC.
- We are seeing growth in the number of suppliers achieving certification in the USA for both the Food and Consumer Products Standards
- The BRC is receiving over 800 monthly supplier certification updates.
- Over 55% of existing suppliers entered onto the BRC Global Standards Directory are being certificated for the second or third time

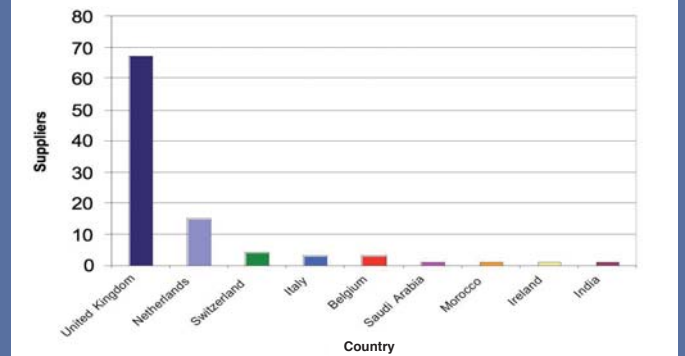
Total Consumer Products Suppliers by Country Top 10



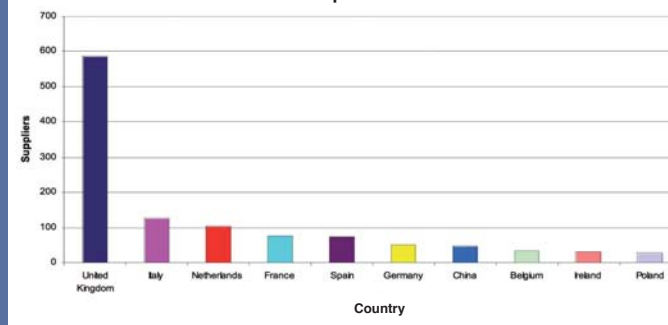
Total Food Suppliers by Country Top 10



Total Storage & Distribution Suppliers by Country Top 10



Total Packaging Suppliers by Country Top 10



Total Suppliers by Country Top 10 All Standards

