



Standards News

For North America

January 2010

GFSI Celebrates its 10 Year Anniversary

The Global Food Safety Initiative will be celebrating its 10-year anniversary in 2010, and the momentum that GFSI has managed to achieve during the past decade is a testimony to the dedication of the global food industry to join together to achieve continuous improvement in food safety management systems. To support this momentum and provide transparency on the activities of the initiative, GFSI launched its website www.mygfsi.com, an essential information resource for anyone wanting to find out more.

To further GFSI's mission to pursue continuous improvement in our food safety systems and to harmonize worldwide food safety standards, GFSI has expanded its presence to the North American region by the addition of a food safety expert, Dr. Donna Garren. She will be educating members along the food value chain of the benefits of certification to avoid auditing duplication and increasing cost efficiency. In addition, Dr. Garren will also be building awareness and understanding amongst key

regulatory and legislative leaders in the Americas on the rigorous and robust certification and accreditation processes associated with the GFSI-recognized schemes.

An excellent opportunity to find out more

is at the Global Food Safety Conference, taking place from 3 - 5th February 2010 in Washington D.C. For more information please go to www.tcgffoodsafety.com.

Training Update

- Over the past few months we have worked with industry experts and reviewed all the course material for BRC courses. The review has helped us to develop and enhance our training courses by adding new learning tools, making them more interactive and

fun to attend. The new course content has been designed to enhance the learning experience, expand the knowledge of the delegate, is fun to do and provides excellent value for money.

Interactive bespoke learning

- Don't forget that the BRC has in-depth experience of creating in-house courses to the client's own requirements. Industry experts will work with you to tailor make the course using a mixture of BRC and your own content. For further details please contact Jackie Bartliff – jackie.bartliff@brc.org.uk. More often than not in-house course costs will be lower.



BRC Director on a Fact Finding Mission to China

As the drafting of the Global Standard for Consumer Products – Issue 3 approaches completion, the BRC team is now planning the roll out and implementation of certification to the Standard. The majority of consumer products supplied to the leading European and North American retailers are produced in South East Asia, particularly China, and this area therefore represents a major opportunity for growth of BRC certification. In preparation for the launch Geoff Spriegel, Director of Global Standards for the BRC has just completed a fact finding tour to the area.

Geoff conducted a series of meetings in Hong Kong, Beijing, Shenzhen, Shanghai and Wuxi in a two week visit, aimed at understanding the needs of various stakeholders in the BRC Scheme, and the action that BRC need to

undertake to ensure the new version of the Standard achieves a successful launch. Meetings were held with the major Certification Bodies that are accredited to the Scheme, and support agencies such as consultants and trainers and also producer Trade Associations. In addition meetings were held with various Government agencies to identify the support they can provide for the certification of suppliers in China.

The tour was also planned in association with the UK Embassy in Beijing, who helped identify key points of contact – and also provided a translator!

The visit proved to be immensely valuable for the BRC. All the CBs are very enthusiastic about the launch, and are planning how to increase

auditor and training capacity in time for the launch, now scheduled for the latter part of 2010. Geoff also gained a better insight into the difficulties some suppliers may have in achieving certification and the BRC technical teams are now working on ideas to help suppliers adopt a continuous improvement approach towards certification. Information was also gained on how the BRC needs to support the programme – possibly through a local office in China - and will be following up on the many valuable contacts established with Chinese Government officials.

It is anticipated that a follow up visit will be conducted in April/May next year when plans for the roll out of the Standard are being finalised.

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Monitoring Certification Body Performance

For the first time, the performance of Certification Bodies (CBs) auditing manufacturers against the Global Standards will be formally reviewed by Karen Betts, Compliance Manager for the Global Standards scheme.

A list of defined key performance indicators has recently been published where the BRC will assess the work of Certification Bodies in a number of key areas, including the quality of audit reports, compliance to protocols, auditor registration and communication response. CBs will then be given official ratings, which will be either 'red', 'amber' or 'green'. The BRC will feedback to CBs in order to keep the overall quality of the auditing both high and consistent.

Feedback and referrals, for which BRC have a defined procedure – please see www.brcglobalstandards.com – provide invaluable information to ensure the certification schemes are working in practice.

Global Food Safety Conference - Washington DC

BRC Global Standards will be exhibiting at the Global Food Safety Conference 3-5 February 2010, JW Marriott, Washington DC, USA

The Global Food Safety Conference is a unique annual event, bringing together over 500 food safety specialists from over 40 countries around the world. Meet with your industry peers and colleagues from around the world to exchange knowledge and best practice and to discuss and debate the questions you face every day when managing food safety in your company.

For the past 9 years, this conference has been committed to providing an international perspective on food safety issues, showcasing industry-wide case studies leaving delegates with practical take-aways. Get up-to-date information on the latest developments of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), and for the first time a focus session on Friday 5th February will answer all of your questions on this industry-led initiative. Visit www.tcgffoodsafety.com to register for this event.

Special Conference Registration Fee

The BRC has negotiated with the organisers a special conference registration fee of USD 990. All you need to do when you register online is enter the following special code: partnerfs10. Please make sure you indicate "Invited by BRC" in the "Comments" box at the bottom of the registration form. Otherwise you will be asked to pay the regular rate. Visit www.tcgffoodsafety.com to register for this event.

Keith Evans, the newly appointed CEO of BRC Trading Limited, and Geoff Spriegel, Director of BRC Trading Limited, and David Brackston, Senior Technical Manager of BRC Trading Limited, will be joining John Kukoly, Senior Technical Marketing Manager for the Americas at the CIES conference. BRC will have its booth on the exhibition floor, and are looking forward to meeting those in attendance. For information on obtaining the special rate, or to arrange a meeting with key BRC personnel, please contact XXX

The BRC Website – Yours to Discover

BRCGlobalstandards.com, what does it bring to you? It lays out the basic steps – the things you need to do to become certified, in a simple, straight forward approach.

Under the Standards tab, you can find details on all four of the BRC Standards:

Food, Packaging, Storage and Distribution and the Consumer Products Standard. Within the food standard, the "free to view" issue of the standard is available for review, as always. The next area after the standards provides details about the available Guidelines available from the BRC; topics covered include recall,

traceability, foreign body control, internal audits and fresh produce, among others. A link to the BRC Directory is the next logical step, a comprehensive listing of both certification bodies available to certify against the BRC standards, as well as a full and up to date listing of the BRC certified companies around the world – all at the

click of a mouse.

And if you need more information, the BRC contacts are listed on the website, bringing you that personal touch, and the assurance that the BRC is available to work with you whenever you need us.

The BRC Global Standard for Storage and Distribution Issue 1

Meeting the requirements of the BRC Global Standard for Storage and Distribution Issue 1 ensures best practice standards are developed, implemented and maintained for any organization involved in the storage and/or distribution of goods.

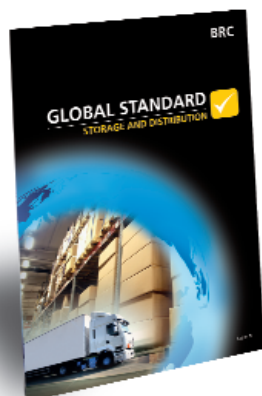
Storage and distributor companies can be certificated against this Standard to demonstrate their competence in maintaining product safety and integrity. The Standard is equally relevant to companies storing and/or distributing food, consumer goods and packaging. This Standard is applicable to all forms of transportation.

Storage and distribution is the link between all stages of the product supply chain and retail. The introduction and the implementation of this Standard represent the efforts made to ensure product safety and integrity through the supply chain.

The Standard contains separate modules for the different sectors within the supply chain, namely storage, distribution,

wholesaling and contracted specialist services offered by storage companies such as:

- Product Inspection/Sorting
- Contract Packing (Repacking, Assembly Packing)
- Quantity Control Inspection
- Contract Chilling/Freezing/Defrost Operations



BRC Auditors in North America

Certification bodies in the North American market have been working diligently in the recent past to ensure that they have sufficient auditor capacity to meet the ever increasing demand for BRC certification audits – another example of the BRC system meeting customer demands.

Although it isn't easy to become a BRC auditor – only the best and fully qualified individuals make the cut – there is now sufficient auditing resource capacity here in North America to ensure the ever growing popularity of the BRC as THE standard of choice can be met in a timely manner.

To become a BRC auditor is a challenge. One must have a degree or diploma in a food related or bioscience discipline. The potential auditor needs to have at least 5 years experience working in the food industry and be able to demonstrate understanding and knowledge of the specific categories they are to be qualified to audit in. (The BRC has 18 product categories for the manufacture of food, plus separate qualifications for Packaging manufacture.) After the schooling and work experience are totalled up and meet the requirements, the candidate must pass a registered Management System Lead Auditors Course and demonstrate knowledge of quality

management systems; then complete a training course in HACCP; and obtain official training in the BRC Global Standard from an Approved Training Provider.

After all the training and experience, the journey to becoming a BRC auditor is almost complete. To round out the experience and qualifications, the auditor in training then needs to have completed a period of supervised training through 10 audits, including auditing against the BRC Global Standard.

All in all, when a BRC auditor is finally qualified, they have a meaningful background in the industry they are auditing in; they have passed several food safety, management system and auditor training courses, and have been calibrated to audit the BRC Global Standard through a one on one training with a previously qualified BRC auditor.

All of this means that BRC auditors meet the same grade as the BRC Standards themselves, outstanding in their fields, consistent, and industry leading. When someone achieves the status of auditor against the BRC Global Standards, they are among the best in the world.

The BRC Directory – yours to use

BRCDirectory.com, information you can use, at your fingertips. From searching for qualified suppliers who have achieved BRC certification, obtaining copies of your suppliers audit reports, to running reports highlighting results from your supply base, the Directory is available for specifiers to help in managing their supply chain – including e-mail notification programs for supplier management. A complete listing of certification bodies operating in every geographical area of the globe is also available, with a simple search function.

- About the Directory
- Benefits
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Directory Newsletter
- Directory Logo

- Plaques
- Helpdesk
- Who to contact

About the Directory

The BRC Global Standards Directory and its collaborative back office portal were developed to provide a secure platform for the communication of audit data between nominated stakeholders. The functional specifications were defined in conjunction with retailers, Certification Bodies and suppliers with focus being placed on data protection and ease of administration. The Directory was launched in June 2009 holding data for over 15,000 sites which had previously been audited against one of the BRC Global Standards

Functional Overview:

- Once an audit has been completed, the Certification Body visits the BRC Database and uploads the pre-completed Audit Report to the appropriate supplier record. This automatically populates the database with all the key audit data from the report
- The system cross checks the scope of the audit against the authorised attributes of the auditor
- Data extracted from the audit report is immediately available to authorised users. Only information associated to the profile of the user will be displayed
- The Global Standards Directory (public area) will be automatically updated with the new details

showing the certification status of supplier

- An email is automatically created, advising the supplier that their new audit details have been added to the system
- The supplier allocates retailer access to audit reports
- Automated email alerts will communicate status changes and pending certificate expiry to nominated stakeholders that audit details have been added to the system
- The supplier allocates retailer access to audit reports

BRC Registration Fees for Certificated Sites

Following consultation and recommendation by the BRCT Board and the Governance & Strategy Committee have agreed that the BRC's Registration Fee paid by suppliers will increase to £125 per audit from the 1 January 2010. The increase will be applied to audits carried out from January 1 and will not affect audits carried out before this date.

The Registration Fee will help to support the future development of the Global Standards Schemes, their marketing and management including the compliance activity which is vital to the integrity of the scheme. Investment in the Standards ensures their strength and international recognition which is essential in maintaining the value of BRC certification for certificated sites.

The investment in the development of the Global Standards Directory will allow rapid online audit information sharing and provide a global market place for certificated suppliers.

Packaging Technical Advisory Committee

The BRC has a long history of close ties with industry and specifiers when managing the Standards. Both geographically and by area of expertise, TAC's (Technical Advisory Committee's) have been established around the world to ensure that the BRC Standards are current, applicable, and the most powerful and meaningful management systems Standards in use. The TAC's meet to tackle all aspects of the specific Standards, their interpretation and their implementation, as well as to create upgrades to meet the needs of industry in the future, as well as today.

To this end, in early 2010, the BRC will launch its newest TAC – one that will focus on the use of the BRC Global Standard for Packaging and Packaging Materials. All through North America the food industry is turning its attention to the critical role that packaging plays not only in

maintaining the safety of foods, but the impact that the packaging itself can introduce into the food chain. From design to manufacture and delivery; quality, safety and regulatory issues are covered in the BRC Standard.

The Packaging Standard provides a distinct, accredited program designed by the Packaging industry and its customers, for the industry by the industry – a unique approach to food safety. Certification against the Standard comes from third party certification bodies, by auditors who are specialists in the packaging industry, and who have been trained in quality, hygiene and product safety.

The outcome of this group will no doubt be advancement to what is already seen today as the leading management system Standard written for the food packaging manufacturing industry.

What's New

- New training courses introduced include:
How to Interpret the Global Standard for Food Safety Issue 5 - NEW COURSE
Third Party Auditor Training - NEW EXTENDED COURSE
Internal Auditor - NEW COURSE
- The BRC Global Standards for Consumer Products Issue 3 will be published in Spring 2010