**BRC Global Standard for Packaging and Packaging Materials**

**Issue 6**

The committee responsible for the management of the BRC Packaging Standard and its development have agreed areas for review including the Requirements and the Protocol. Driven from this are a number of ideas that are planned to be included in Issue 6 of the Packaging Standard.

The key areas discussed are:

**Product Safety Culture**- Culture is recognised as a significant factor in an effective product safety and quality management system. Whilst recognising that measuring culture through an audit based system is challenging there is a move to encourage the recognition and development of a positive product safety culture as part of the Standard.

**Hygiene categories** – This will be reviewed with a view to simplify to one level applicable to all packaging processes. The use of a risk-based approach should facilitate a flexible Standard applicable to all types of processes, with some requirements stating higher requirements for food contact (or other hygiene sensitive product) where a higher or differing level of hygiene is required.

**Raw materials management** – to address the issue of pre-production plastic pellet escape into the environment, a set of clauses with a risk-based approach to managing raw materials will be added requiring the site to determine where loss might occur. Although this issue is directly related to plastic pellets, it will also be addressing potential for raw material loss in all material sectors.

**BRC Global Standard Operating Protocol**

**Audit Report** – the existing audit report format is considered by some to add unnecessary cost and to drive an auditing behaviour inclined to fact gathering instead of assessing effectiveness of the Product Safety system. A review of the report process to ensure it adds value and is more efficient to produce will be undertaken.