

### News from CMI Certification Autumn 2006

## Busy season ahead



David Richardson,  
CMI Certification Managing Director

Welcome to CMI Certification's Autumn International newsletter, at what is proving to be our busiest time ever, with the business continuing to expand rapidly to satisfy the demands of our clients worldwide.

CMI is well and truly part of the Produce 'global village' and aims not only to serve the ever-growing international markets, but to lead and advise on industry issues which will take the global industry forward. Over five months CMI will be represented at AllFresh (South Africa), EurepGAP (Czech Republic), the Southern Hemisphere Congress (South Africa), the National Fruit Show (UK), BCPC Sustainable Agriculture event (Glasgow), SIAL (Paris)

and of course, culminating in Fruit Logistica in Berlin February 2007.

We give a special report below on the Prague EurepGAP conference, where several important developments were announced and where our Produce Director, Steve Cox, recently elected to the Certification Body Committee of EurepGAP, moderated a number of the technical sessions.

Over the last few months we have also been involved in co-ordinating study tours assisting and promoting the understanding of standards across different sectors and countries including Egypt, Portugal, Spain and Chile.

But, above all we enjoy meeting our many clients from around the world, listening to your views and extending our reach to provide certification services through the whole supply chain. We look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming events. Why not visit our stand at Fruit Logistica?

## EurepGAP Conference - implications for growers

Revision and Implementation of the EurepGAP Standard was the main focus of this year's two-day conference held in Prague. CMI were there along with 278 delegates from 41 countries to share views on the proposed changes to the general regulations and the control points within the standard which should be set around November 2007.

Topics covered were: General Regulations, Hygiene/Packing and the interface with other standards e.g. BRC and IFS, Maximum Level Residue testing, Integrated Pest Management (including the environment) and Social Developments.

Steve Cox, CMI Produce Director, who acted as the moderator for three sessions on the General Regulations, reported that most delegates agreed that the proposed changes on auditor training and



Steve Cox, CMI Certification  
Produce Director at EurepGAP

experience, qualifications of internal inspectors, audit frequency plus unannounced audits, would make a positive impact on members of EurepGAP in the future.

The debate on pesticide residue testing was heated, but Julian Bott, CMI International Scheme Manager, reported that confirmation of independence of sampling and compulsory ring testing of laboratories were broadly supported proposals.

All of the points raised at the round table discussions will now be taken forward to the Technical and Standards Committee for consideration and review.

The second day of the conference was directed at how new countries, particularly those in Eastern Europe,

Continued on page 2

# New BRC and IFS standards for Storage and Distribution

The last two months have seen the launch of standards by both the IFS and the BRC, aimed at providing certification for the storage and distribution network. The EUREPGAP/APS farm standards and BRC/IFS Food Standards have enabled certification of parts of the supply chain and the new storage and distribution standards will now enable certification to take place all the way along the supply chain up to the retail store.

## BRC

The BRC Global Storage and Distribution standard follows the general format and principles of the BRC Food standard and is based on risk assessment, documented quality systems and best practice principles for the management of hygiene, site condition and storage and distribution operations. The standard itself is divided into separate modules applicable to the particular operations undertaken i.e. Storage, Distribution, Wholesaling and has a section for additional services where provided e.g. inspection or secondary packing. Requirements are also specific to the type of products distributed i.e. food or non-food. This approach allows sites to mix and match depending on the particular operations undertaken, although wholesaling cannot be certified as a stand-alone



section. As with the other BRC standards this has been written in co-operation with the UK retailers who are expected to push for its adoption to ensure due diligence through their supply chains.

## IFS

The new IFS Logistics standard covers very similar ground to the BRC standard and is endorsed by the German and French retailers including Carrefour, Metro and Edeka. The IFS Logistics standard has fewer control points and takes a simpler approach than the BRC with a greater emphasis on practical implication than on documented systems.



CMi have operated an accredited standard for Wholesaling, Storage and Distribution for five years and helped in the development of the new BRC standard. The experience gained by our assessors will be invaluable in applying the standards reasonably and practically.

**For more details on both standards visit the CMi web site [www.cmi-plc.com](http://www.cmi-plc.com) or contact your local CMi office.**

## Gangmaster Licences required in UK from 1 October 2006

On 1 October it became an offence for labour providers to operate without a licence and enforcement activity has now commenced.

With the deadline for applications now passed, it appears that about 900 applications have been received whereas the GLA (Gangmasters Licensing Authority) had estimated that about 1,000 labour providers would apply for licences. In other words there may still be a number of labour providers operating illegally after 1 October.

To avoid any disruption to your business you should consult your labour providers to ensure that they are legally licensed.

The maximum penalty for using an unlicensed labour provider is a prison sentence of 51 weeks and a fine.

The current status of individual labour providers can be checked on the register at the GLA's website: <http://www.gla.gov.uk>

**If you are aware of a labour provider operating outside the law you can contact the GLA on 0845 602 5020 or by e-mail to [enquiries@gla.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@gla.gsi.gov.uk).**

## EurepGAP Conference - implications for growers

**Continued from page 1**

were meeting the challenges of EurepGAP through training and growing understanding of the requirements.

CMi's Commercial Manager, Grace O'Dwyer, said "With CMi Certification's broad experience of EurepGAP and other generic and retailer specific standards in over 50 countries, we are very familiar with the challenges that growers can face to achieve certification. Many of our clients have overcome the challenges and have now succeeded in gaining certification to EurepGAP as well as other standards."

**For more information on the EurepGAP standard, contact Julian Bott on +44(0)1993 885600 or [julian.bott@cmicertification.com](mailto:julian.bott@cmicertification.com)**



# UKAS News

## CMi gets UKAS accreditation for the Assured Plant Propagation Scheme

The Assured Plant Propagation Scheme allows plant propagators to be fully audited, demonstrating that the way seedlings have been planted, raised, and dispatched, follow best horticultural practices. The scheme involves around 30 of the UK's leading plant propagation companies and is open to propagators of vegetable, salad and fruit plants.



CMi were commissioned by Plant Propagators Ltd to

review and revise the original APPS standard and then to provide independent assessment and certification services.

Covering the whole cycle of choice of seed, the growing medium, amounts of pesticide and fertiliser used, along with water usage and environmental aims, the standard gives complete traceability and accountability of the plant's life to date. Gaining UKAS accreditation recently is obviously good news for both CMi and propagators.

Julian Bott, CMi's Produce Scheme Manager, says: "This really does give complete confidence to all buyers of seedlings and it means they know exactly what they are getting. The standard aims to demonstrate that the methods of propagation and growing are kept to the highest possible standards."

## New CMi business partner in Brazil

CMi has joined forces with Biorastro in Brazil, which has unrivalled experience in the meat and livestock industries.



Biorastro staff outside the office

Based in Botucatu, 150 miles from Sao Paulo, Biorastro is the largest certification body in Brazil. The company currently inspects 25% of all Brazilian cattle for the Ministry of Agriculture Cattle Traceability systems, at farm level and through to the freezer plants. It also inspects 90% of meat exports to Chile for the Chilean Meat Import agency.

Biorastro employs over 200 people with a number of highly qualified professionals ranging from vets, food inspectors, agronomists, animal production specialists to IT and business managers.

Its certification division, WQS, has a very strong relationship with the major exporting groups within the Brazilian markets and operates through 35 regional offices throughout the country.

CMi has been working with the company over the past year and believes that the synergies between them make them ideal business partners.

"Brazil is a key country for us with its ever expanding activities into the EU markets," says CMi Commercial Manager, Grace O'Dwyer.

"We look forward to a rewarding relationship with them. They are an extremely forward thinking company based in a country supplying an increasing amount of food into the EU."

## .....and for the LEAF Marque standard

Having worked with LEAF Marque, conducting audits against the standard since its inception, CMi has now been granted accreditation by UKAS. Previously LEAF Marque was a non accredited scheme.



Gaining particular recognition by major UK retailers, the LEAF Marque logo assures customers that its farmers and growers are producing food to the highest standards and is fully traceable and grown in a sustainable way with a real focus on the environment.

Julian Bott, CMi's Produce Scheme Manager believes that accreditation is a major step forward for CMi, as the popularity of the LEAF Marque stamp continues to grow at a pace with consumers both in the UK and internationally.

"With our worldwide network of offices we are well placed with other international schemes such as EurepGAP and others to carry out all audits at the same time. In other words it will take just one assessor to carry out the whole farm audit covering all the enterprises."

**For further information about either of these schemes, please contact Julian Bott at CMi on +44 (0) 1993 885600 or [julian.bott@cmicertification.com](mailto:julian.bott@cmicertification.com)**

# News in brief

## Second International Auditor Workshop

As part of the CMi Certification's continued policy of maintaining harmonised interpretation of standards and integrity of operations, CMi held the second workshop for its growing base of senior auditors 12 - 14 September 2006 in Saffron Walden, UK. The conference was attended by delegates from 12 countries.

CMi Certification directors, Steve Cox and David Brackston, together with their scheme managers, led



updates on EurepGAP, Tesco Nature's Choice, BRC, IFS, ISO22000 and LEAF Marque.

A resounding success, this conference is just one of the many initiatives CMi runs with its partners to promote exchange of information and to ensure its partners and their auditors are provided with consistent, up-to-date information on the changing demands of standards and standard owners.

## CMi lead the way at Slovakian conference

CMi director, David Brackston, recently spoke at the 2nd International Conference on Food Safety and Quality in Slovakia. His presentation, which was very well received, was on the theme of the importance of certification in development of food safety.

## Tesco Award for CMi certified supplier

CMi customer, Clive Edmed, has won Tesco's top English apple and pear award, being named the retailer's Grower of the Year, based on last season's performance.

The competition is open to all of Tesco's 180 English top-fruit producers within three categories, provided they have achieved Gold or Silver standard Nature's Choice.

The award is recognition of Clive Edmed's overall fruit quality and expertise, said Shaun Doherty, top-fruit technical manager, who explained, "We are looking for our growers' commitment in the future by the long-term development, accurate forecasting and the level of information that they pass back to us on a regular basis to influence our marketing strategies. Tesco's Award scheme is in recognition and appreciation of what our growers do for our business."

## EurepGAP CBC representation

Steve Cox, Produce Director, CMi, has been elected to sit on the Certification Body Committee of newly re-structured EurepGAP. Steve, who has taken up the position of Deputy Chairman, relishes the challenge of contributing to the forthcoming revision of the EurepGAP standard. Read more about the latest EurepGAP conference on Page 1.

## Chinese delegation visit CMi HQ

In September CMi hosted a delegation from the Chinese ministry of Commerce and Animal Product Safety Research Institute who were conducting a fact-finding tour to understand European approaches to managing animal welfare and humane slaughtering operations. There was particular interest in the role of voluntary certified standards for instance the ABM slaughter and cutting plant standard and how such standards are developed and supported by the UK Retailers. CMi as assessors for the full range of red meat and poultry schemes were able to provide an insight to the way in which these schemes operate within the UK market place.

For details of all our international offices go to [www.cmi-plc.com](http://www.cmi-plc.com) and look under Contacts/International

CMi Certification, Long Hanborough, Oxford, OX29 8SG  
T +44 (0)1993 885610 F +44 (0)1993 885611  
[enquiries@cmicertification.com](mailto:enquiries@cmicertification.com) [www.cmi-plc.com](http://www.cmi-plc.com)

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