

News from CMI Certification January 2008

Don't be confused about food standards

Is ethical auditing fair trade? Now EUREPGAP is GLOBALGAP, is it worldwide? Why is SQF equivalent to BRC and IFS? What is the equivalence of QS Germany to APS in UK?

When we at CMI talk to producers, PMOs and importers around the world, these and more questions are constantly being asked, especially outside Europe. All the food supply chain ever wanted from retailers and processors was harmonisation, with one standard which they could understand and work to.

Unfortunately this is not to be, at least for the short to mid-term. Retailers have differing agendas in this competitive world, each looking to give their customers what they believe they want. These range from environmental issues through to health and safety on farm, socially responsible production and ethical management. Food assurance standards are certainly here to stay as part of this complex relationship which the retailers maintain with their customers.

Today standards can be classified in broad terms into three segments which respond to these different retailer visions:

Global standards such as GLOBALGAP, SQF, BRC, IFS

These by definition are designed to ensure a base-line GAP or GMP operating level for producers/processors relying on individual country legislation.

National standards such as QS in Germany, APS in UK, UNE 155000 in Spain, ChileGAP

These are focussed on base-line GAP/GMP as a starting point but go further technically, responding to national retailer expectations and producer ambitions, and reinforced by in-country legislation.

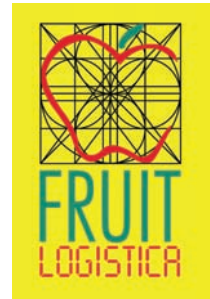
Private label standards such as Migros Sana, M&S Field to Fork, Tesco Nature's Choice

Private label standards are built around a defined or discrete supply chain enabling specific technical, social or additional expectations to be delivered to the retailer who is promoting the initiative.

So if you are a producer, PMO or an exporter, talk to your customer, understand their perspective on the issues to see how to go forward. However if you are still confused which won't surprise me, come and talk us at CMI as we'll give you our professional opinion in the light of our experience dealing with these issues over the last 10 years.

Steve Cox
International Produce Director

If you would like to talk about this or any other issue, Visit us at Fruit Logistica, Stand 8.2 B01.



CMI explains new standards at Fruit Logistica



According to Grace O'Dwyer, CMI's International Operations Director, the main focus at Fruit Logistica this year will be on the new revised standards of both BRC and IFS and the revised GLOBALGAP standards. "CMI technical experts will be on hand throughout the three days to help customers understand the key changes in these standards," she says, adding that CMI will have representation from its offices in South

Africa, Spain and Italy, as well as the UK.

NSF International and CMI address global food safety concerns

When NSF International, the American based global testing and certification company acquired CMI, the leading European food safety and assurance

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CMi gears up for GLOBALGAP v3

CMi has been busy since the announcement of Version 3 of the revised GLOBALGAP standard last

March. Not only has the old EUREPGAP Fruit and Vegetables standard been renamed the IFA Crops base, Fruit and Vegetables sub-scope, but it has also been updated and clarification has been issued on the definitions of producers, multiple sites and producer groups.

“At CMi, we place the utmost importance on the consistency of our audits for all the schemes we certify – all producers must receive the same high standard of auditing wherever they are in the world,” says Julian Bott, CMi’s Produce Scheme Manager.

“In addition to auditor retraining, more staff have been taken on and trained to enable them to comply with the newer operational requirements of the IFA standard,” explains Mr Bott, who warns that the requirement for growers to record their global position or geo-coordinates in longitude and latitude will undoubtedly cause problems to many producers. However, he points out that this is required so that GLOBALGAP can issue the new unique GLOBALGAP client number (GGN).

GGN now required for all communications

This GGN will be needed for all producer communications with GLOBALGAP by retailers, traders, buyers or producers themselves. The registration forms have been fully updated to collect all the necessary producers’ details, and the local office staff will help as much as possible, but producers will have to be aware of this new requirement.

GLOBALGAP have also tightened the requirements for certification of audits, requiring faster turnaround of certificate decisions. This does however mean that any corrective evidence should be sent clearly referenced to any

GLOBALG.A.P.

non-conformances or non-compliances to the appropriate email/fax address, so that the auditor can review it with the minimum of delay.

The addition of the new staff in the UK and the investment in new technologies and databases will help CMi meet the challenge. We will endeavour to support our clients as necessary.

New CMi GLOBALGAP services in Peru and Mexico

CMi is now able to conduct audits and issue accredited GLOBALGAP certificates in new areas of the world, owing to the merger with NSF, as more auditors have been trained in Central and South America. This means that in addition to existing coverage, we now have offices in Peru and Mexico.

Training for auditors continues for other schemes such as LEAF Marque and Tesco Nature’s Choice (Conventional and Organic) so that CMi can also offer a range of complementary audits in one visit.

GLOBALGAP for plant propagators

CMi is now one of the few Certification bodies who are able to offer GLOBALGAP audits to plant propagators. CMi has had good experience of this type of audit with producers of ‘starter plants’, having taken a previous standard through to accredited status. The new standard covers all starter plants such as Fruit and Vegetables and Flower and Ornamentals, and will enable GLOBALGAP producers to purchase their small plants from certified propagators with greater confidence on their propagation, raising and quality. This in turn will help the producer with their own GLOBALGAP audit and is increasingly required by many retailers.

CMi explains new standards at Fruit Logistica

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company, last year, the synergies between our two companies were obvious. The combined resources and expertise of CMi and NSF mean that together we can offer greater spread and depth of assurance services worldwide, and provide on the ground auditing services in many more locations. At a time when not just producers, but processors, manufacturers and retailers are coming under increasing scrutiny from government with regards to food safety, and consumers are ever more aware of the content and source of the food they are buying, there is a growing need for assurance and certification companies to provide their services at all points of the supply chain, however geographically widespread.

Focus on France

Good growth in the certification business

CMi’s presence in France is growing with demand for certification continuing to increase in the country. Our partner companies, Agréal and Agro Quality Support (AQS), are reporting brisk activity with year on year growth.

Fast growing Vegetable sector while Fruit consolidates

CMi partner AQS is a certification body in the primary sector, servicing farmers and growers. Hervé Madéry from AQS reports that the vegetable sector is growing fast as the German retailers become more demanding. The fruit sector which in previous years has seen considerable



Hervé Madéry, AQS

Global Standard for Food Safety revised to issue 5

A new, extensively revised Global Standard for Food Safety – formerly known as the BRC standard – will be introduced on 1 July, 2008 and CMi will be offering training courses from now on to give companies time to implement the necessary changes.

Both Amanda McCarthy and Clive Manvell from CMi were members of the BRC Working Group which revised the standard along with BRC, retailers and manufacturer representatives. All CMi auditors will be fully trained on the changes to this standard, and prior to the start date pre-assessments will be available to companies who want to make sure that they meet the requirements on time.

For more information about the training courses please contact Karen.Collins@cmicertification.com

What are the changes?

The main thrust of the new standard will be an enhancement of the requirements, particularly in the areas of Management Commitment and HACCP. There will also be the introduction of 'unannounced audits' which are optional, but can be chosen by companies to further demonstrate that they are compliant 'around the clock'. Changes to the protocol include all non-compliances to be closed out within 28 days, even on an initial audit. All C grade companies will require a site visit to close out non-compliances and a more rigorous grading scheme for grade B, C and D has been introduced.

There will also be additional requirements in fast developing areas such as allergen control, site security, product contamination and product recall. Finally, the BRC is also developing its Global Standards Directory to improve its usefulness for suppliers and purchasers.

expansion, is now entering a phase of consolidation. Most fruit growers requiring certification have already reached the relevant standards eg. GLOBALGAP. As for AQS, "We are a relatively small company, meaning we can be accessible at all times and can respond very quickly to our customers needs. We believe this big benefits for clients. The feedback we have received has been very positive," says Hervé. AQS has a highly experienced team dealing with all the farm schemes, including Tesco Nature's Choice, LEAF Marque and GLOBALGAP.

For further information AQS contact:
madery.ags@wanadoo.fr

BRC the focus for 2008

Nicolas Bescond is Operations Manager and auditor at Agréal, CMi's other French partner, whose customers are primarily retailers. Agréal has developed a strong position in the



All audits will be conducted to Issue 4 until 30 June 08. All audits from 1 July 08 will be to Issue 5. This enables time for companies to implement the changes.

Global Standard for Packaging and Packaging Materials – summary of changes

Issue 3 replaces Issue 2

Key issues:

- Global Standard replaces BRC in the title – as above
- Enhanced the requirements – particularly in the areas of Management Commitment, Hazard and Risk Management, Customer Focus
- Covers all packaging materials, not just food, ie could be used for cosmetics packaging
- Covers three categories of products which are determined based on risk, using a decision tree in the standard – ie the requirements are tougher for more risky products, such as packaging in direct contact with food

BRC Global Standard – Storage & Distribution

UKAS accreditation is expected this month (January 2008) and an announcement will be made shortly.

Training course available – Tuesday 26th Feb at Banbury near Oxford. For more information please contact karen.collins@cmicertification.com

CMi becomes BRC Approved Training Establishment

CMi has become an Approved Training Establishment (ATE) for BRC. This means we will be able to offer all the official BRC courses to our clients, auditors and potential clients at locations worldwide.

For more details contact Amanda McCarthy or enquiries@cmicertification.com

provision of audits and certification for Processing clients with schemes such as BRC and IFS.

Mr Bescond says that the new BRC standard will be the focus for 2008. "We will be helping our customers this year to achieve the new requirements needed for the new versions of both the BRC and IFS" he says.

"We will also be involved in the training for the new standard for all our customers and we will be advertising in our Processing newsletter to highlight our courses. An important aspect of preparation for the new BRC standard will be carrying out pre-assessments before the new version takes effect at the beginning of July."

For further information, contact cmi.certification@agreal.com



Nicolas Bescond,
Agréal

News in brief

New dedicated customer service team



A new administration team has been established at CMi for its international business.

Sue Hartley (back, third from left) is the Office Manager and explains that the growth in international business over the past couple of years has meant a dedicated team was needed to help it run smoothly.

"We have four people who are working solely on Tesco's Nature Choice and GLOBALGAP, and another two working only on BRC and IFS," says Sue, who runs the team of eight members.

New Processing appointment

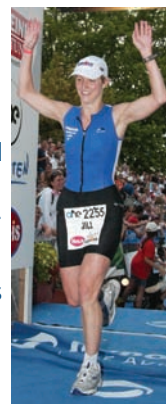
Amanda McCarthy joins CMi as Processing Scheme Manager which means she will be looking after all the certification schemes in the processing sector including the BRC schemes for Food, Packaging and Storage & Distribution, IFS, and a number of other specialist standards. Amanda has 17 years experience in certification where she was lead auditor for a number of different schemes, including BRC Food and ISO22000 and comes from a background in the food industry where she spent most of her time in the dairy and chilled food division.



Amanda says: "I will be supporting the needs of our In-Country Partners worldwide and helping them to grow their businesses as well as to help build on all of the UK's existing businesses."

CMi consultant's success in international triathlon

Environmental Health Consultant for CMi, Jill Hume successfully completed the Xterra World Championships in Maui, Hawaii last autumn where she stepped over the finishing line after 1.5kms of swimming, 30 kms of off-road biking and 11kms of off-road running. She was competing with some of the best triathletes and adventure racers in the world after winning a slot to qualify for Great Britain.



Accompanied by 500 competitors from 22 different countries across the globe, Jill gained 6th position in her age group.

"It was the toughest, most intense triathlon I have ever had the pleasure of competing in," she says, thanking CMi for its support in sponsoring her for the event.

Steve Homer joins Governing Board of CMi Certification



CMi is delighted to announce the appointment of Steve Homer to our Governing Board. Steve who is a well known and respected figure in International Produce was until recently Corporate Responsibility Manager with Flamingo Holdings, one of the largest grower/importer/packers of fresh and premium vegetables.

Steve believes that good governance, transparency and technical integrity are pivotal in the development of private standards. In the last five years he has worked extensively with organisations such as World Bank, WTO, United Nations (UNCTAD, UNIDO, FAO) to help those organisations understand the positive impacts that Private Standards can have on export potential.

Certification community must think international

Steve predicts that a key issue facing the industry this year is likely to be the interpretation of 'equivalence' of standards and legislation in different national markets. With the focus of global supply chains on supply to EU and North American markets, both buyers and producers alike need confidence that their certification body understands equivalent schemes on both sides of the Atlantic and that the auditing of those schemes is consistent.