



PRESS RELEASE

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Global Food Safety Initiative Breakthrough

Roger Corbett, Chairman of CIES - The Food Business Forum announced to over 1100 senior executives at the CIES Annual World Food Business Summit in Shanghai, PR. China, that retailers have reached a landmark agreement on food safety standards.

Under the umbrella of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), 7 major retailers have come to a common acceptance of the four GFSI benchmarked food safety schemes:

- BRC - British Retail Consortium Global Food Standard
- IFS – International Food Standard
- SQF 2000 – Safe Quality Food Scheme
- Dutch HACCP Scheme (Option B)

Each scheme has now aligned itself with common criteria defined by food safety experts from the food business, with the objective of making food manufacture as safe as possible. As a result, this will also drive cost efficiency in the supply chain and reduce the duplication of audits.

The GFSI vision of ‘once certified, accepted everywhere’ has now become a reality. Carrefour, Tesco, Metro, Migros, Ahold, Wal-Mart and Delhaize have agreed to reduce duplication in the supply chain through the common acceptance of any of the four GFSI benchmarked schemes.

The current Chairman of GFSI, Roland Vaxelaire, Director of Risk, Responsibility and Quality for Carrefour said “I can only encourage other retailers to follow this example and apply the GFSI philosophy, in order to continue to drive cost-efficiency for all players throughout the supply chain, whilst making food as safe as possible for our customers”.

This breakthrough marks a step change in the orientation of GFSI. The group will now concentrate on the application of the schemes by examining auditor competence, along with upcoming issues such as food security and food safety in emerging markets.

The CIES-led initiative was set up in 2000 to pursue continuous improvement in our food safety systems, cost efficiency in the supply chain, and above all safer food for consumers worldwide.

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