



For immediate release xxx

BRC PACKAGING STANDARD ACHIEVES GFSI BENCHMARKING

BRC Global Standards are pleased to announce that the BRC/IOP Global Standard for Packaging and Packaging Materials Issue 4 has been successfully benchmarked against Issue 6 of the GFSI Guideline.

The Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) began in 2000 with the aim of harmonising food safety Standards. Supported by the world's leading retailers and manufacturing groups, GFSI has become highly influential in working with Standard owners to improve Food Safety Standards around the world.

BRC were instrumental in the development of a GFSI benchmarking document for Packaging Standards for manufacturers ensuring relevant guidance for the packaging industry and greater recognition for sites already Certificated to the BRC Standard. BRC Packaging Technical Manager Joanna Griffiths said, "Packaging has a vital role to play in food safety. Recognition of the BRC/IOP Standard by GFSI increases the confidence of food manufacturers when sourcing packaging materials from Certificated sites and provides greater incentives for packaging manufacturers to raise standards and become Certificated."

This is the first time GFSI has recognized Packaging Standards and the BRC/IOP Standard is the first Packaging specific Standard to be recognized. The Standard was originally developed in 2000 and now in its 4th edition is designed to ensure that factory hygiene and production systems ensure the manufacture of safe packaging meeting customer specifications..

Notes to Editors: About Global Food Safety Initiative

The Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) is a business-driven initiative for the continuous improvement

of food safety management systems to ensure confidence in the delivery of safe food to consumers worldwide. GFSI was launched in 2000 following a number of food safety crises when consumer confidence was at an all-time low. Its collaborative approach to food safety brings together international food safety experts from the entire food supply chain at technical working group and stakeholder meetings, conferences and regional events to share knowledge and promote a harmonized approach to managing food safety across the industry.

About BRC Global Standards

The BRC Global Standards are a leading global safety and quality Certification programme, used throughout the world by over 18,000 certificated suppliers in 90 countries through a network of over 80 accredited and BRC recognised Certification Bodies. The BRC Global Standards are widely used by suppliers and global retailers. They facilitate standardisation of quality, safety, operational criteria and manufacturers' fulfillment of legal obligations. They also help provide protection to the consumer.

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