

February 2010

## COMMUNIQUE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOOD SAFETY AUDIT

The Consumer Goods Council of SA (CGCSA) and its members have realised the far reaching impact of the Consumer Protection Act (CPA). The CGCSA is developing solutions and will be undertaking a number of initiatives to assist our members and the entire industry.

The commitment to provide safe food to the South African consumer, along with the CPA has driven the need for enhancing food safety amongst all players in the food industry.

Accordingly, it is proposed that a single, harmonized food safety audit be introduced at an appropriate level. This audit would be applicable to suppliers of food to participating retailers and wholesalers. We have identified the following associated benefits to suppliers:

- Saving of costs due to the reduction in the number of food safety audits conducted, for which the supplier pays;
- Saving in time with respect to staff members being allocated to shadow auditors on supplier premises; and
- Affording suppliers the choice of competent food safety auditors (certain conditions will apply).

The following companies have already committed their full participation in the initiative:

- Massmart
- Metcash
- Pick n Pay
- Shoprite-Checkers
- Spar

Woolworths has committed their participation in this initiative **only** for branded goods and not for their own private label. The CGCSA will be engaging the companies who have not yet committed their participation.

In order to ensure a consistent approach in the industry, the following major decisions have been made:

- a. An audit document based on Pick n Pay's audit document has been adopted as the South African Food Safety Audit (SAFSA) and will be managed by FSI (CGCSA);
- b. A database will be developed by the CGCSA, which will house all the results of food safety audits conducted; this information will be made available to all participating retailers and wholesalers.

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The envisaged date of implementation is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of this year. This date is subject to the full participation and co-operation needed for the successful implementation of this initiative. Finally, in order to ensure regulatory compliance, the Competition Commission's sanction for this initiative will also be obtained. Further, more detailed communications will be sent to you as we progress in this regard.

Kind regards

CGCSA  
Massmart  
Metcash  
Pick n Pay  
Shoprite-Checkers  
Spar