

### News from CMi Certification Summer 2006

## Welcome...



to CMi's Insight International. In this newly re-launched edition we aim to keep our members up-to-date on events and issues in the global world of produce and processing and give you the latest news from CMi. If there are any

topics that you would particularly like to hear about, send us an email at [enquiries@cmicertification.com](mailto:enquiries@cmicertification.com).

We are all working in markets where the clear trend is towards globalisation of supply and this includes the

relevant quality assurance standards and the need for traceability of products from producer through to retailer or processor. This challenge is placing an increasing burden on the supply chain at a time when there is severe price pressure at all levels. That means for us at CMi that we are constantly having to evolve our concepts to provide our suppliers with the services to keep up with the ever-demanding marketplace - and at affordable prices. For example CMi have led the way with combined audits that enable suppliers to obtain certification to several standards more efficiently in a one-stop audit whether it be on the farm or in the packhouse.

Finally, we are all implicated within the food supply chain and need to understand and survive within the dynamics of a fast changing world by finding better ways to deliver what the customer expects.

## Pesticides: harmonisation of MRLs in Europe

Contributed by Helen Steggles, Registration Officer and David Payne, Food Industry Manager, Syngenta

At the moment, Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) can vary from country to country within the EU, which means it isn't always clear whether a consignment of produce can be legally exported to every country within the EU. A new process is now being implemented which will see the harmonisation of MRLs into a single EC Regulation within the next two years.

This new Regulation 396/2005 sets out the ways MRLs will be established and controlled in future and when it comes into force there will be a harmonised set of MRLs for Europe. It will impose EU MRLs for 450 – 500 active substances, less than half of which currently have EU MRLs, although they may have national Member State or Codex MRLs in place.

This harmonisation should benefit growers, suppliers and retailers as it will mean that the process for trade in fresh produce should be clearer than before.

An MRL is the maximum concentration of a pesticide residue that is legally permitted on food. The main purpose of an MRL is to allow crops to be traded between countries and is therefore a legal trading limit. It serves as a check that the crop protection product has been used correctly within the label recommendations. MRLs are not safety limits and exposure to a residue in excess of an MRL does not necessarily imply a risk to health.

In the past, MRLs have, in the main, been set by the individual member states based on the approved use of the pesticide in each country. Levels of pest and disease infestations vary with climate and product use recommendations vary between countries to reflect this, leading to different MRL values being set. This variation of MRLs has been a potential source of confusion for those wanting to export produce to a range of countries across the EU. The harmonisation process will remove the range of national MRLs and provide a single MRL for each pesticide/crop combination, which will cover uses in all countries.

David Payne, the Food Industry Manager for Syngenta, says "This new regulation will add much needed clarity to the importing and exporting of produce globally, and it is very much welcomed."

Schemes such as EurepGAP are helping to improve confidence that MRLs will not be exceeded, by increasing the transparency of the grower's crop protection decision-making process. Syngenta actively supports such schemes as a way of ensuring pesticides are applied appropriately to give the best results.

**For more information contact Helen Steggles or David Payne at Syngenta on +44 (0)1223 833621**

# New EurepGAP standard for Flowers and Ornamentals

## EUREPGAP

With an increasing number of European retailers now requiring suppliers to be certified to the EurepGAP standard, CMI is providing the latest service - this time for flowers. The new standard was launched in 2002 by the Technical and Standards Committee to promote good agricultural practice in the flower industry.

Sainsburys and Marks and Spencer in the UK have already informed their flower suppliers/importers that growers must have this standard. CMI expects full UKAS accreditation very shortly.

Working in more than 30 countries worldwide, CMI Certification is carrying out thousands of audits every

year and is unique in its ability to combine a global service using the local knowledge of its assessors on the ground. We also have a highly skilled team of fly drive auditors to cater for specialist needs.

We pride ourselves in helping growers to understand and comply with the changing market requirements in many countries worldwide, including Chile, Czech Republic, France, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, UK and USA.

**For further information please contact the scheme manager Sue.Whittington@cmicertification.com**

## LEAF Marque grows in popularity as consumers recognise its importance

A major UK retailer is pushing the LEAF Marque standard out to its suppliers, requiring certification by all growers from 2007. This year LEAF Marque is continuing to capture the attention of consumers as retailers can use it as a point of market differentiation for their customers.



CMI International Produce Manager, Julian Bott, explains that CMI the LEAF Marque is rapidly growing and gaining good recognition by supermarkets. "It demonstrates how farmers are producing food to the highest standards, being fully traceable and grown in a sustainable way which benefits the environment, as well as providing the producer with a genuine commercial advantage."

CMI Certification is conducting a growing number of LEAF Marque audits for growers worldwide which include Portugal, Morocco and South Africa, as well as for over 300 UK growers. With overseas offices established across the world, CMI is well placed to carry out audits through its existing teams of assessors.

**For more information on the scheme contact [grace.odwyer@cmicertification.com](mailto:grace.odwyer@cmicertification.com) or LEAF on [www.leafuk.org](http://www.leafuk.org)**

## BRC - Important changes anticipated for registered suppliers



BRC has recently issued new contracts to its certifying bodies. The purpose is to put in place a new administration fee of £75 on every audit to

handle and register audit information. Currently in consultation, this initiative would bring BRC into line with all other standards owners who already register and police their data. Certifying bodies will have to provide BRC with the report and certificate following every audit.

The move will give BRC the ability to ensure greater rigour and consistency in the system, increasing retailer confidence in the process. It will also mean that the certifying bodies can be held accountable for the competency of their auditors and that objective evidence will be available in the case of complaints or other disputes, which is good news for suppliers.

Although the £75 charge is on top of the current audit fee, some suppliers are already paying £75 to register their details on the BRC website. In future all audited suppliers will have free registration on the website if they wish.

**For more information, contact David Brackston on [david.brackston@cmicertification.com](mailto:david.brackston@cmicertification.com)**

# Permits to work



CMi Certification has launched a pair of induction training tools specifically designed to address key safety issues in the Fresh Produce industry and aimed at new employees in a business. The packs allow the training programmes to be run in-house.

Each pack will consist of a CD presentation and a 20-page supporting booklet. The booklets act as permanent references for employees on "Food Safety" and "Health and Safety" issues.

On completion of the training, each employee takes an examination and receives a permanent record of completion and competence.

The benefits for businesses are that they control with whom, when and where the courses are run and are able to get the food safety and health and safety messages to team members quickly.

This is a very efficient and effective way to provide the information to high turn-over, seasonal and temporary staff.

The packs can be used in conjunction with CMi's Food Safety at Work pack.

**For more information on these permits, please contact Grace O'Dwyer on [enquiries@cmicertification.com](mailto:enquiries@cmicertification.com)**

## CMi helping suppliers to implement EC marketing standards for major retailers

CMi is currently running a series of one-day training courses for a major UK retailer, training their own technical managers and their fresh produce suppliers on EC marketing standards.

The courses, to date based in the UK, but about to be extended out into Europe, take delegates through the intricacies of the legislation in a clear and simple way, helping suppliers to put the right measures in place to ensure compliance. They also explain the retailer's own fresh produce policy and standards and help ensure that the supplier sends the correct labelling information to the retailer in the right format.

The courses are available from CMi and can be tailored to meet individual retailer and supplier requirements. They are particularly useful for suppliers aiming to be first to market with UK retailers. The feedback from those who have attended the courses has been excellent. "It has really simplified the detailed requirements for me in a way that makes it clear and easy to put into place," said one of the delegates from Eire.

**For more information contact Glyn Scott on +44 (0) 7801 039029**

## Q&S Update

With Lidl and Aldi now pushing the German Q&S (Qualitat und Sicherheit [Quality and Safety] for food) standard for Produce suppliers to their German stores, CMi Certification is receiving many enquiries about the standard and its implications for suppliers. CMi is well placed to offer audits with our Q&S approved auditors. Q&S concentrates on audited Quality Assurance in the whole production chain.

There are a number of steps for a grower to be "QS approved" which include being registered by a Q&S Co-ordinator, undergoing an audit, residue testing of product and agreeing to a contract with Q&S.

**For more information contact Scheme Manager [Julian.bott@cmicertification.com](mailto:Julian.bott@cmicertification.com) or the QS website [www.qs-info.eu](http://www.qs-info.eu)**

# News in brief

## Fruit Focus Preview

This business to business premier national event will be held at East Malling Research, Kent, on July 26, 2006. Aimed at all top and soft fruit growers it promises to provide a forum for debate and discussion about what's new in the industry. **CMi will be exhibiting so why don't you come and visit us on stand 21.**

## 'Best ever' Fruit Logistica



Julian Bott, CMi International Produce Manager, Stephen Cox, CMi Produce Director, Eugenio Govoni, MD CMi Italy, at Fruit Logistica in February 2006.

This flagship event held in Berlin in February was the biggest ever and was a huge success for CMi. We welcomed many old friends and new faces to our stand and plan to be at next year's event with an even bigger presence. Launching our Registered Supplier logo at the exhibition was a great opportunity to liaise with our customers and address some of the hot topics in the industry, mostly around traceability throughout the supply chain. CMi is broadening its presence throughout the world and extending its scope as new markets open up.

## New CMi Partner in Poland

For a number of years CMi Certification has had a growing presence in Poland, conducting audits on farm in Produce and Chicken, primarily using our skilled CMi Fly Drive auditors.

However, as demand grows for Produce audits, we have consolidated our position recently with our partner, AQS Poland, and their Lead Auditor, Anna Kusyk, who has a strong background in Fresh Produce.

CMi's profile in Poland continues to develop in other sectors owing to the strong customer relationships and service offered by ourselves and our partners. As in other countries where we operate, our work with the whole fresh produce supply chain, from growers, producer groups through to local and international retailers, gives us unrivalled expertise to support our customers.



Photo: Anna Kusyk and Martein de Graaf of AQS Holland at a Polish Grower exhibition.

We welcome AQS Poland to the growing network of Approved Service Providers offering CMi Certification services internationally.

## CMi Spain sponsors environmental initiative for children in Almería



On April 26 the Environmental Activities Event for children was launched in Almería, organised by Lomanoryas. This event is now in its fourth year and provides programmes and excursions for up to 1800 children under 11 years old in the Almerían area.

These activities, championed by the agricultural company, Lomanoryas, and sponsored in part by CMi, are designed to encourage and increase understanding amongst the future generation of the importance of the environment in an agricultural area such as Almería.

The initiative has been taking place during May, focusing on the coastal wetlands, associated vegetation and bird life. Sr. Gonzalo Granado, Manager of the CMi Spain office in Almería, said, "This is a great event, and fantastic that local industry is actively supporting these initiatives as a contribution to developing kids' attitudes in a positive manner."

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

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