



CANADIAN SUPPLY CHAIN FOOD SAFETY COALITION

COALITION CANADIENNE DE LA FILIÈRE ALIMENTAIRE POUR LA SALUBRITÉ DES ALIMENTS

PRESS RELEASE

Ottawa (14 November 2011) Food Safety Coalition Launches Industry/Government Dialogue on Canadian Food Safety Auditor Competencies

The Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition has launched a national project on food safety auditing in Canada. The project has two primary objectives:

- To engage the food supply chain, governments and other stakeholders in a dialogue on Canadian food safety auditor competencies and qualifications in the context of emerging international requirements; and
- To facilitate the development of food safety audit and certification infrastructure in Canada for industry-led and government-led voluntary food safety certification schemes and for government mandated food safety programs.

The project will involve the development of a background papers on international trends in setting competencies and qualifications for food safety auditors and the other personnel involved in private and government certification and inspection programs and a series of national workshops involving industry, government and other stakeholders to define the need, if any, for Canadian requirements and to issues related to the future supply and demand of competent personnel in both the public and private sectors.

“This is an ideal time to hold this dialogue” said Albert Chambers, the Coalition’s Executive Director. “Canada is experiencing a significant increase in demand for both third party and government certification all along the supply chain as a result of new requirements in the marketplace and new expectations by our trading partners. Having a sufficient supply of competent food safety auditors and other personnel in place is essential to the continued credibility of our food safety system.”

A steering committee has been formed by the Coalition. Its members will include representatives of the federal and provincial governments, Canadian certification bodies active in food safety certification, industry associations active in providing on-farm or post-farm HACCP-based certification schemes and other stakeholders.

Details about the first workshop scheduled for January 2012 will be released shortly.

Funding for the project will be provided by participants and by a contribution of up to \$100,000 from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Canadian Integrated Food Safety Initiative, a Growing Forward Program.

For details on the project contact: Albert Chambers, Executive Director, CSCFSC

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Background: The Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition was formed in December 2000 and incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act, as a not-for-profit corporation, in 2007 to act as “a single strong voice for Industry along the food chain, with the public and government on industry-wide food safety issues”. Its mission is: “To facilitate, through dialogue within the food industry and with all levels of government, the development and implementation of a national, co-ordinated approach to food safety to ensure credibility in the domestic and international marketplaces”.

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