



freshproduceconsortium
NEWSLETTER

9 April 2009

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Big issue: Review into cost of international trade regulation

Re:refreshing line-up to lead debate

A fantastic line-up of speakers for the Re:refresh conference is guaranteed to provide a topical debate on opportunities for the industry 'beyond the big 4'.

Former wholesaler and TV Masterchef presenter Greg Wallace will open the conference, followed by an address from Jane Kennedy, Minister for Farming and the Environment.

We are delighted that Debbie Robinson, Director of Food Retail Marketing at The Co-operative will join us to share the story of the tremendous growth of this retailer and future opportunities for the fresh produce sector.

In the afternoon chief economist and business analyst James Walton will assess the changing face of retail, and John Giles of Promar International will forecast the future for the fresh produce supply chain. A lively panel discussion will follow, with contributions from celebrity chef Rachel Green, Graham Broomhall of Total Produce, Chris Hutchinson, chairman of FPC's wholesale division, Tony Reynolds of Reynolds, and James Lowman of the Association of Convenience Stores.

With the credit crunch in mind we are offering a 'BOG OFF' for 2009. To book your place and find out more about the conference visit: www.refreshconference.com/register

The Re:refresh Conference and Awards will take place on Thursday 28 May at the London Marriott – as well as participating in the conference, why not join us for the Oscar style awards gala evening.

Last call for Awards entries...

If you haven't put your entry in yet for the Awards – don't miss out on your chance to shine – we are extending the deadline owing to the Easter Bank Holiday so you have until **Friday 17 April** to submit your entries.





Marketing Standards consultation – update

FPC is coordinating an industry response on behalf of members to the consultation on the implementation and enforcement of the EC Marketing Standards in fresh fruit and vegetables. The last workshop run by Defra/RPAI takes place on Wednesday 15 April at the Bull Hotel, Peterborough, starting at 10.30 am. To register and obtain more information email: hmi-tdc@rpa.gsi.gov.uk

A number of issues have been raised at previous workshops, including:

- Guidance for the industry on General Marketing Standard and its consistent application across different types of produce;
- More clarification about applications for produce intended for 'home processing';
- Ability for agents to apply for Approved Trade Scheme status;
- Assurance that 'rogue traders' will be dealt with under the new regulations;
- Imposition of increased costs on industry to register GMS produce on PEACH;
- Clarification of requirement for internet sales to advise consumer regarding the country of origin of produce prior to online purchase;
- Potential impact on the calculation of standard import values, currently based on the communication of prices of first class products.

In addition, FPC is calling for assurance that recent IT issues are addressed before the additional automation of the system.

We welcome your views regarding the potential impact of the changes on your business. Please let us have your feedback by **Friday 17 April** to sian@freshproduce.org.uk in order to meet the deadline for the consultation on 24 April.

Cutting the red tape – review into cost of international trade regulation

FPC members took part in a workshop to identify key issues and provide evidence to support the industry's case that the UK Government must cut unnecessary red tape and burdensome bureaucracy to allow the fresh produce industry to trade efficiently. By working with SITPRO, the UK's trade facilitation body, FPC intends to build its case to put forward as part of the UK Government's review into the cost of international trade regulation.

The Government's review provides a valuable opportunity for the fresh produce industry to seek to reduce or eliminate unnecessary business costs. Some significant issues relating to the importation of fresh produce have been highlighted, and more evidence is needed to build our case, particularly evidence of the costs and delays incurred by the industry relating to:

- Unnecessary delays in holding produce at ports;
- Lack of consistency between different ports authorities;
- Failures with IT systems and delays in obtaining clearance for consignments;
- Concerns regarding effective Integration of HMRC CHIEF with PEACH through the Automatic Licence Verification System (ALV).



A draft submission is being prepared based on the workshop's findings. If you would like to receive a copy and you are interested in helping to develop FPC's submission please contact sian@freshproduce.org.uk

Get involved – Pilot Automatic Licence Verification System

Several FPC members are getting involved in the piloting of the new Automatic Licence Verification System (ALV), and there is still opportunity for others to be involved in further stages before its implementation in May 2009. The ALV should reduce clearance times and paperwork of consignments. Advance notifications submitted to Defra/RPA on the PEACH system will be received and matched to an import declaration submitted to HMRC on its CHIEF system. If there is an exact match, then a Defra and/or RPA release decision will be passed electronically to HMRC.

When live, the system will speed up the customs clearance of plants, flowers, fruit and vegetables imported into England and Wales from third countries and it will also remove the need for importers or agents to fax PHSI Quarantine Release Certificates or HMI Conformity Certificates to the National Clearance Hub at Salford.

We are looking to ensure that recent IT issues are addressed before further automation of the system. There are significant opportunities for a more efficient management of imports which will result in further savings to the industry, estimated to be at least £1 million. This will result from a reduced administrative burden to the industry and avoidance of additional costs at the port.

FPC has been actively pursuing these improvements. It's essential that the industry gets involved in the pilot. If you are interested in taking part in the pilot, or if you would like further details, contact sian@freshproduce.org.uk

Port of Portsmouth – 18 May

A visit to the Freight Terminals of Portsmouth Port has been organised for Monday 18 May. This is courtesy of our kind hosts from the Port Manager's Department and will include a presentation, guided tour, Q&A session and lunch.

Investment in new build and new tonnage during recent years has provided a valuable boost to the Port's freight handling capacity and we thought this would be of great interest to you.

If you would like to join us on our visit please contact angie@freshproduce.org.uk to register.





Slough gangmaster loses GLA licence

The Gangmasters Licensing Agency has revoked the licence of Euro Contracts Services Limited after an initial warning to correctly license minibuses was ignored and claims that the Public Service Vehicle licence had been applied for were found to be untrue.

Whilst not having the correct PSV licence is not grounds to revoke the GLA licence on its own, the company failed to obtain the PSV licence after a warning and claimed that a PSV licence had been applied for when further investigation proved this was not the case.

Safety management courses

Cope Safety Management is holding a number of open courses at Franklin Hall, Spilsby, Lincolnshire:

First Aid Appointed Person	1 day	13 May	information and booking form
Fire Safety Awareness	1/2 day	19 May	information and booking form
IOSH Working Safely	1 day	20 May	information and booking form

Click on the links for more information and to book places or contact: 01790 754740 or visit: <http://www.jwcope.co.uk/>
