

January 11, 2017

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Valued Customers and Certification Bodies,

RE: GLUTEN-FREE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM CHANGES & ASSURANCE IMPROVEMENTS

On August 7, 2016, Allergen Control Group Inc. (ACG) and ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) issued a [joint news release](#) to announce that they had joined forces to separate ACG's role as the Gluten-Free Certification Program (GFCP) standard owner from the accreditation process of Certification Bodies (CBs) auditing in the program; thus providing true impartiality, credibility, and value to existing and future recognized manufacturing facilities in the GFCP. This new chapter of the GFCP is intended to further distinguish ACG's administration of the GFCP from other available gluten-free product certification programs, by delivering value-added scrutiny from external competent authorities. The intended outcome will ensure all CBs offering auditing services under the GFCP are uniformly accredited and accountable to the ISO/IEC 17021-1 management system operating standard.

ACG is allowing a two-year timeframe for all currently recognized CBs and certified facilities to complete the transition process to accredited certification under ANAB. CBs and certified facilities are required to transition over a reasonable timeline to meet the internal needs of their organizational operations, however, please note compliance deadlines below.

Gluten-Free Management System (GFMS) Certification Bodies and Auditing:

All Certification Bodies (CBs) currently recognized or in the process of being recognized by ACG under the GFCP are required to submit an application for Gluten Free Management Systems (GFMS) accreditation to ANAB before **May 15, 2017**.

Note: As outlined in ANAB's Accreditation Rule 44, the ANAB gluten-free accreditation program is based on ISO TS 22003 and is a management systems accreditation program in accordance with ISO/IEC 17021-1. If a CB is not accredited by ANAB for ISO/IEC 17021-1 or the CB's ANAB accreditation does not include ISO 22000, then additional applications must be completed prior to the gluten free application. Contact ANAB for details.

Any new CB seeking recognition as a CB by the ACG shall become accredited by ANAB prior to being eligible for licensing recognition by ACG.

ACG will recognize and license **only** accredited Certification Bodies, effective **January 1, 2019**.

All CBs must continue to have their food auditors pre-screened, trained and approved by ACG according to the GFCP requirements.

All accredited CBs must have an active GFCP Approved Auditor Licensing Agreement in place with the ACG to conduct audits and for the prescribed use of GFCP trademarks.

ANAB Accreditation Program for Gluten Free Management Systems Certification description and requirements are available on ANAB's website at <http://anab.org/programs/isoiec-17021/ms-accreditation-programs/gluten-free/>.

For information on ANAB accreditation, contact Natalia Larrimer at nlarrimer@anab.org or 414-501-5445.

GFCP Certified Manufacturing and Processing Facilities:

All GFCP issued certificates must transition to accredited certificates as per the GFMS requirements before **January 1, 2019**. It is the responsibility of the certified facility and the CB to ensure all GFCP certificates are issued according to the deadline stated above. During its assessments, ANAB will verify that CBs have processes in place to ensure timely transfer of all GFCP certificates to the GFMS requirements.

ACG will not recognize any unaccredited certificates after **January 1, 2019**.

All GFCP certified facilities must have an ongoing GFCP Program License Agreement (PLA) in place with ACG.

For more information regarding your own GFCP annual facility Certificate of Recognition (COR) and how this might affect your business, please contact your GFCP Audit Company/ CB.

We look forward to a continued and close working relationship with all our customers and certifying bodies in the coming years and thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

ALLERGEN CONTROL GROUP INC.



Paul D. Valder, President & CEO