



Gluten-Free Certification Organization (GFCO) Attains ISO/IEC 17065:2012 Accreditation

Accreditation Demonstrates GFCO's Commitment to Excellence in Certifying Gluten-Free Products

AUBURN, Wash. (Jan. 24, 2017)—The Gluten Intolerance Group (GIG), a leader in the certification of gluten-free products and food services, announces its [Gluten-Free Certification Organization \(GFCO\)](#) program has received ISO/IEC 17065:2012 (ISO 17065) accreditation from the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA). ISO 17065 is the international quality standard for organizations certifying products, processes and services. GFCO, the largest gluten-free certification program in North America, certifies more than 30,000 food, personal-care and supplement products.

GFCO uses the strictest standards for gluten-free certification, requiring products to have 10 parts per million (ppm) or less of gluten, rather than the 20ppm required by the FDA for gluten-free labeled products. GFCO not only certifies that a company's processes meet GFCO's standards, but also that the product itself meets the 10ppm-or-less standard.

"We pursued this rigorous accreditation to serve as an independent validation of all aspects of our program and to assure our customers and consumers that GFCO's systems are comprehensive and that every GFCO certified company follows our standards," said Cynthia Kupper, CEO of GIG. "The accreditation differentiates us from certification organizations that only focus on a company's management and processes. When a consumer sees our logo, they know we not only certified that the company's processes are safe, but that we also certified that the product produced is 10ppm or less gluten."

GFCO sets the highest standards in quality control and assurance for gluten-free certification, including risk assessment, plant audits, equipment testing, and product testing both in the plant and at the point of consumer purchase. GFCO has certified products for more than 750 companies and 1,600 gluten-free brands worldwide.

About the Gluten Intolerance Group (GIG)

The Gluten Intolerance Group (GIG) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit association funded by private donations, fundraising, sponsorship opportunities and industry programs. It relies on tax-deductible contributions to support its many innovative industry, service, social and awareness programs. GIG has been a highly respected leader in the Gluten-Free community since it was founded in 1974. In addition to more than 70 local branches across the United States, GIG has increased its presence internationally to over 29 countries. GIG empowers the gluten-free community through consumer support, advocacy and

education. The Gluten-Free Certification Organization (GFCO), a program of GIG, is a leader in the verification of quality, integrity and purity of gluten-free products. The Gluten-Free Food Service (GFFS) Certification Program is a proven model of established best practices for food service facilities offering gluten-free options. GIG is committed to ongoing food safety research to assure customers and consumers the highest level of excellence in its gluten-free programs and services. For information, visit www.gluten.org.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/GlutenIntoleranceGroup

Twitter: @GlutenDotOrg

Contact:

Joe Scolaro

Sterling Kilgore

jscolaro@sterlingkilgore.com

630-964-8500 x224

###