



Gluten Intolerance Group Announces Partnership with SGS for Auditing Services

SGS Is First Certification Body Approved to Audit in Conjunction with GIG's Gluten-Free Certification Organization (GFCO) Program Standards

AUBURN, Wash. (April 25, 2017)—The Gluten Intolerance Group (GIG), the leader in the certification of gluten-free products and food services, announced today that it has partnered with SGS, a global inspection, verification, testing and certification company, to be the first certification body approved to audit in conjunction with GIG's Gluten-Free Certification Organization (GFCO) program standards. SGS is recognized as the global benchmark for quality and integrity covering all regions of the world. GFCO, the largest gluten-free certification program in North America, certifies food, beverages, nutritionals/supplements and personal care items. GFCO audits will be conducted by SGS qualified auditors combined with SGS's Food Safety certification audits, or as a stand-alone service.

Unlike other certification programs, GFCO, accredited to ISO 17065, not only certifies that a company's processes meet GFCO's standards, but also that the products produced meet a 10 ppm-or-less gluten standard—a stricter standard than the 20 ppm required by the FDA and Health Canada for gluten-free labeled products. Products certified by GFCO carry the GF logo—winning the trust of consumers and retailers that the product is truly gluten free.

“We are thrilled that SGS will be providing the comprehensive testing and verification against the GFCO standards,” said Cynthia Kupper, CEO of GIG. “The experienced auditors of SGS are fully accredited to deliver GFCO certification across the globe—supporting the growing number of gluten-free certified products and winning the trust and confidence of gluten-free consumers.”

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.

About SGS

SGS is the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company. SGS is recognized as the global benchmark for quality and integrity. With more than 90,000 employees, SGS operates a network of over 2,000 offices and laboratories around the world.

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