



Press Release
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THREE QUÉBEC COMPANIES RECENTLY CERTIFIED SQF BY BUREAU DE NORMALISATION DU QUÉBEC

Québec City, Tuesday, January 21, 2020 — Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ) has been accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC), a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) to certify agrifood businesses in compliance with the Safe Quality Food (SQF) Code. Three Québec companies have already obtained their certification, and two other applications are currently being evaluated.

SQF certification is highly regarded not only in the North American agrifood industry; it also enjoys international recognition. It is increasingly sought after by retailers and wholesalers alike as it is a guarantee of good food safety practices and it boosts public trust in the agrifood industry.

As Jean Rousseau, BNQ Senior Director, explains, it is in the best interest of Québec's companies to obtain SQF certification. "This recognition allows them to win over customers and penetrate new markets. Nowadays, most distributors require Québec agrifood businesses to hold certification, such as SQF, that is recognized by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), whose goal is to boost customer confidence in the foods they buy," notes Rousseau.

BNQ is the only organization in Québec to offer SQF certification. Audit services are available in both English and French, an undeniable advantage for companies and their employees, who appreciate being able to use their language of choice.

Various types of agrifood businesses, including greenhouse and field crop growing operations, food processing plants, and manufacturers of food packaging materials, are eligible for SQF certification or renewal, subject to compliance with the requirements.

As a third-party organization, BNQ ensures that the food safety plans drawn up for the sites in question comply with the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) method developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, as well as the applicable regulatory requirements, and that the system has been verified and deemed satisfactory with regard to food safety management, in accordance with the SQF Code specific to the site operations.

For more information on the SQF certification program administered by BNQ, please contact Geneviève Roy, Agrifood Sector Program Manager and Auditor (see contact info below), or visit the BNQ website at www.bnq.qc.ca/sqf.

About BNQ

Created in 1961, Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ) is the go-to organization for standards and certification in Québec. BNQ is mandated by the Government of Québec to develop consensus standards and certification protocols in compliance with the rules of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). BNQ is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC).

For more information about BNQ: www.bnq.qc.ca

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