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SCS's Food Safety Auditing Program for SQF-1000/2000 Achieves ISO/IEC Guide 65 Accreditation from ANSI

April 21, 2009 – Emeryville, CA – Scientific Certifications Systems' (SCS) independent food safety auditing and assessment services conducted on behalf of the widely-used Safe Quality Foods standards (SQF 1000 and SQF 2000) have been accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to ISO/IEC Guide 65, an internationally recognized performance standard for third-party certification bodies.

“Our department has one goal – to make the food system as safe as it can possibly be,” said Heena Patel, Director of Food and Agriculture Auditing Services. Ms. Patel has managed SCS's food safety auditing services for the past decade, heading a highly-trained multilingual auditing team. “We take this responsibility very seriously.”

SCS's approach is focused on risk prevention — incorporating risk assessment to ferret out products and processes representing the greatest risks, ensuring adequate time to conduct audits to prevent shortcuts from being taken, and asking the right questions about potential vectors of contamination and security breaches. In addition, SCS provides verification through lab testing services.

“SCS' strong commitment to the ANSI accreditation program has been particularly impressive,” said Reinaldo Figueiredo, Program Director of Product Certification Accreditation at ANSI. To achieve accreditation, SCS completed a thorough assessment process demonstrating its competence to provide independent, impartial assessment and certification services. ANSI's assessors and technical experts also conducted “witness assessments”, accompanying SCS auditors in the field.

SCS has built a reputation in the food safety arena based on the scientific rigor of its auditing and certification services, the professionalism of the staff, and its food safety management systems that minimize risk and are practical to implement. SCS auditors are well educated and experienced, and are located in different regions of the United States as well as in Central and South America. Its auditors are accredited to one or more of the following programs: SQF 1000/2000, GlobalGAP, TNC, GMA-SAFE and BRC.

SCS also participates in industry-sponsored food safety committees and task groups with United Fresh Produce Association and Western Growers Association, and regularly disseminates relevant materials and information from such committees and group to the auditors.

Also covered under the ANSI-issued accreditation were SCS's proprietary VeriFlora® Certified Sustainably Grown Program for cut flowers, potted plants and nursery plants, and its wood and paper products chain-of-custody for the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). The VeriFlora® program provides stringent sustainability performance standards for growers and handlers of cut flowers, potted plants and nursery plants. It addresses environmental accountability, economic viability, and the health and well-being of workers, their families and communities.

For more information, please visit www.scs-certified.com.

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About SCS - SCS is global leader in independent certification of environmental, sustainability, food quality and food purity claims. Over two decades, SCS has developed internationally recognized standards and certification programs aimed at spurring the highest level of environmental improvements, social accountability and product performance. Its programs span a wide cross section of the economy, recognizing accomplishments in agricultural production, food processing and handling, forestry, fisheries, flowers and plants, energy, green building, consumer and business product manufacturing, and corporate social responsibility. To learn more: <http://www.scs-certified.com/foodag/foodsafety/auditors> .

About ANSI - The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is a private non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance U.S. global competitiveness and the American quality of life by promoting, facilitating, and safeguarding the integrity of the voluntary standardization and conformity assessment system. Its membership is comprised of businesses, professional societies and trade associations, standards developers, government agencies, and consumer and labor organizations. The Institute represents the diverse interests of more than 125,000 companies and organizations and 3.5 million professionals worldwide.