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PMA A-NZ and GS1 Australia improving the safety of fresh produce

Agreement and technology will see the fresh fruit and vegetable industry better prepared for product recalls

Produce Marketing Association Australia-New Zealand (PMA A-NZ) and GS1 Australia have officially signed an agreement to support the Australian fresh fruit and vegetable industry to achieve enhanced food safety through the use of a national food recall platform. The peak industry body PMA A-NZ encourages the adoption of the GS1 Australia Recall portal within the fresh produce industry to assist growers and suppliers address major challenges of food tampering and food safety. In February this year, Ministers from the Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation, requested Food Safety Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) to identify appropriate regulatory and non-regulatory measures for Australia to manage food safety risks. Particular products included berries, pre-cut fruits and melons. The request creates a microscopic focus on the risk management of these products and has become a key focus area for produce growers, suppliers and the PMA A-NZ. Darren Keating, CEO of PMA A-NZ, said, "Food safety underpins the success of the entire fresh produce industry. By using tools such as GS1 Australia's Recall platform, the industry can achieve greater speed and consistency in the management of their product recalls and withdrawals, delivering safer produce to Australian consumers." The use of the Recall platform is supported by FSANZ as a communication tool that enables organisations of any size, including manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and importers to share product recall notifications with their trading partners and regulators. Recall is also certified by HACCP Australia as an effective and suitable technology for businesses that operate a HACCP based Food Safety Program. "GS1 Australia is proud to continue its collaboration with PMA," said Marcel Sieira, GS1 Australia's Chief Customer Officer, "and help their members be better prepared for product recalls. Being able to communicate with your key trading partners and regulators is key for organisations to protect their customers, their reputation and their brand." <https://www.gs1au.org/our-services/recall/> ends

About PMA A-NZ PMA Australia-New Zealand Limited (PMA A-NZ) is the first stand-alone global affiliate of the Produce Marketing Association (PMA Global) - the leading global fresh produce trade association serving member companies around the world and every segment of the fresh fruit, vegetable and floral supply chain. By working across the whole supply chain, PMA A-NZ strives to assist businesses to increase their sales of fresh and safe produce to regional and global consumers and develop their internal business capabilities through motivated and skilled employees. About GS1 Australia GS1 is a neutral, not-for-profit organisation that develops and maintains the most widely used global standards for efficient business communication. It is best known for the barcode, named by the BBC as one of "the 50 things that made the world economy". GS1 standards and services improve the efficiency, safety and visibility of supply chains across physical and digital channels in 25 sectors. With local Member Organisations in 114 countries, 1.5 million user companies and 6 billion transactions every day, GS1 standards create a common language that supports systems and processes across the globe. GS1 Australia has over 20,000 company members. For more information visit the GS1 Australia website or follow us on LinkedIn, Twitter and our YouTube channel. Media contacts: Charlotte Gingell – PMA. Email: c.gingell@pma-anz.com Tracey Kelly-Jenkins - GS1 Australia. Email: tracey.kelly-jenkins@gs1au.org

Suggested caption: GS1 is collaborating with PMA, which will see any organisation involved in the fresh fruit and vegetable industry be better prepared for product recalls.

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