

SSA Phoenix Wows Food Safety Auditors

Tuesday, November 22, 2016



Food safety is such a top priority at SSA Phoenix that the team there has given a "rare performance" according to outside auditor BRC Global Standard, which certified the distribution center in food safety.

The accolade from the auditor is an example of the Vivid Description of the Future: *Our industry and others are inspired by the quality of our Associates, leadership, best practices and innovation.* The BRC audit ensures that best practices are used in the handling, storage, and distribution of products, promotes continuous improvement and builds customer confidence.

The audit focused on the following areas:

- Senior management commitment and continuous improvement
- Personnel
- Hazard and risk analysis
- Quality management system
- Site and building standards
- Vehicle operating standards
- Facility management
- Good operating practices

Tim J. Lewis, Quality Assurance & Safety Manager at FSA Corporate, led a team of Associates from different operating units in the year-long preparation effort. The group included **Adam Birks**, **Mike Carey**, **Fermin Andres**, **Amber Burford**, **Travis Grossman**, **Kevin Defrank**, **Katy Kallai**, **Nacho Orduno**, and **Bilhan Gonzalez**.

The Phoenix Associates that worked on this project in addition to their regular work are Warehouse Supervisors **Phil Mester**, **Mike Pleas**, and **Rene Von Putlitz**; Warehouse Manager **Marcos Lopez**; and Delivery Manager **Robert Badilla**. Additional corporate support came from **Jeff Chester**, Director of Quality Assurance, and **Michael Noack**, Hazmat Compliance Specialist.

"Everyone on this team made substantial contributions, especially Adam, Marcos and Phil," said Lewis. "From the start, Adam devoted his time to reviewing and updating countless policies. Since Marco's first day of work at SSA Phoenix a few months prior to the audit, he dedicated himself to learning the BRC requirements and working to prepare the warehouse. Phil came in early, stayed late and could always be counted on to ensure the essential preparation tasks got done correctly and on time."

The team of Associates that made this possible exemplify the Guiding Principle, *"We work as a team. When we combine our know-how and ideas, we are stronger than we could ever be individually."*