



BRCGS
CONNECT

AMERICAS
OCTOBER 13-14

Conference Agenda

Tuesday 13 October 2026

07:45-08:30 **Coffee & Registration**

08:30-08:40 **Welcome Address**

Chair: Gillian Kelleher, BRCGS International Advisory Board Chair & Mike Wilson, Managing Director

08:40-09:05 **Risk Assessments in the Real World**

Speakers: Gordon Hayburn, VPFSQA

09:05-09:30 **Delayed Enforcement, Continuing Risk: Why Food Crime Prevention Cannot Wait for 2028**

Speaker: Jennifer Lott, Technical Development Director

09:30-09:50 **Thought Leader Session:**

Speaker: TBC

09:50-10:35 **PANEL: Horizon Scanning - Emerging risks**

Speaker: Steven Mandernach, Executive Director
Denise Webster

10:35-10:40 **Video Thought Leader:**

10:40-11:10 **Networking Break and Exhibition**

11:10-11:20 **BRCGS Awards Ceremony - Part 1**

11:20-11:45 **Building the Food Safety Workforce Together: Connecting Education, Industry, and Opportunity**

Speaker: Clint Stevenson, Professor of Food Science

11:45-12:10 **The changes to legislation on Listeria**

Speaker: Sanjay Gummalla, Senior Vice President, Food Safety and Scientific Affairs

12:10-12:25 **Thought Leader Session: Maximizing Value Through Product Inspection: Reducing Waste and Enhancing Quality Across Production**

Speaker: Robert Rogers, senior advisor for food safety and regulation

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Conference Agenda (continued)

Tuesday 13 October 2026

12:25-13:10

PANEL: IAB Industry Panel

Speakers: Tom Ford, Vice President, Food Safety and Quality Assurance
Rodger Ziolkowski, VP Global Food Safety and Quality
Sharon Birkett, VP Global Quality Operations

13:10-13:15

Video Thought Leader:

13:15-14:25

Networking Lunch and Exhibition

14:25-14:35

BRCGS Awards Ceremony - Part 2

14:35-15:00

You Own It. They Shape It. Now What? Closing the Leadership Gap in Food Safety Culture

Speaker: Tia Glave, President + Co-Founder & Jill Stuber, President + Co-Founder

15:00-15:45

Panel: Not Just a Checklist: Building a Living Food Safety Culture Through Leadership

Speaker: Vanessa Coffman, Director of the Alliance to Stop Foodborne Illness
Jorge Hernandez, VP Quality Assurance

15:45-16:20

Networking Break and Exhibition

16:20-16:35

Improve Safety with Consumer Products Certification - An update on BRCGS Consumer Products i5

Speaker: Gwenda Jarrett, Non-Food Programme Manager & Angela O'Donovan, Head of Standards

16:35-17:00

AI & Predictive Food Safety & Quality

Speaker: Hillari Bynum, Director of Marketing & Innovation

17:00-17:40

Panel: What Keeps You Up At Night

Speakers: Steven Mandernach, Executive Director
Mike Wilson, Managing Director
Spir Marinakis, VP of Food Safety, Quality, Technical Services and Sanitation
Sara Mortimore, Independent Consultant, former Vice President of Global, Food Safety compliance at Walmart

17:40-17:45

Closing Remarks

Chair: Gillian Kelleher, BRCGS International Advisory Board Chair

18:30-21:00

Evening Networking Drinks



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Masterclass Agenda

Wednesday 14 October 2026

07:30-08:15 **Breakfast Masterclass: BRCGS Consumer Products i5 – The Big Picture**

Chair: Gwenda Jarrett, Non-Food Programme Manager & Angela O'Donovan, Head of Standards

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08:00-08:30 **Arrival Coffee**

08:30-10:00 **OPTION 1 Accidents, Attackers, and Adulterators: Addressing HACCP, TACCP, & VACCP Assessments**

Hosts: Gordon Hayburn, VPFSQA

Nadia Narine, President/CEO, Approved BRCGS Trainer and Consultant



08:30-10:00 **OPTION 2 Change Management and Effective Communication Strategy**

Host: Goranka Platisa, Director - FSQ Consultant & Trainer

Rajko Platisa, Food Safety Compliance Consultant & Trainer



10:00-10:30 **Networking break**

10:30-12:00 **OPTION 1 What AI will really break (and fix) in food compliance**

Host: Siska Lannoo, founder of backbone

backbone

10:30-12:00 **OPTION 2 Beyond the Checklist: Food Safety & Quality Culture**

Hosts: Kris Middleton, Business Unit Director - Food and Forestry

Barry Meikle, Technical Manager – Food



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Midday **BRCGS Connect Event Close**

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Delivery Partners Session Agenda

Wednesday 14 October 2026

NOTE: This is a closed session for BRCGS approved training providers and certification bodies only

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| 13:00-13:05 | Welcome Address
Jessica Burke, Senior Strategic Account Manager |
| 13:05-13:20 | Setting the Scene and Business Updates
Mike Wilson, Business Director |
| 13:20-13:50 | Standards: The Latest Updates and Insights
Angela O'Donovan, Head of Standards |
| 13:50-14:20 | GFSI Benchmark Update: Review and Impact
Anna Malek-Woznica, Head of Integrity & Quality |
| 14:20-14:50 | Academy Workshop - The Power of Mentorship
TBC |
| 14:50-15:20 | Networking Break |
| 15:20-15:50 | Auditor Calibration Check-In: Insights, Q&A & What's Next
Panel host: Jessica Burke, Senior Strategic Account Manager
Sara Dias, Head of BRCGS Academy
Anna Malek-Woznica, Head of Integrity & Quality
Mercè Sánchez, Food Programme Manager |
| 15:50-16:20 | Responsible Use of AI: Policy, Risks & Value
TBC |
| 16:20-16:50 | CPi5 launch
Gwenda Jarrett, Non-Food Programme Manager |
| 16:50-17:20 | Ask BRCGS Anything: An Open Q&A
Session host: Jessica Burke, Senior Strategic Account Manager |
| 17:20-17:30 | Closing Remarks
Jessica Burke, Senior Strategic Account Manager |