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| **June 16th, 2014 - Press Release** |
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| **The First Certified Latin American Transportation Food Safety and Quality Auditors Are Now Available for the Export and Import Perishable Supply Chain** |
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| **Importing or Exporting Perishables?** |
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| Perishable food importers to the United States are concerned over the enforcement enabled Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) transportation rules, the Department of Homeland Security and Customs and Border Protection.  To proactively prepare food exporters and importers throughout Latin America to meet upcoming the FSMA requirements on the sanitary transportation of human and animal foods, The Cambridge Business Group (TCBG) has succeeded in certifying members to the Sanitary Cold Chain’s TransCert (Transportation Certification) standards. Headquartered in Buenos Aires, Argentina, TCBG provides leadership and coordination among a Latin American network of food safety, quality, environment, occupational health and safety, laboratories, and information security consultants, inspectors and auditors.  “The TCBG network includes certified lead and external auditors in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Columbia, Central America, Venezuela and Italy” according to Jose Maria Quevedo Pearson, TCBG Americas, Director. “The TransCert system requires transportation suppliers to meet management, HACCP, sanitation, temperature monitoring, traceability and training standards” said Dr. John Ryan, president Ryan Systems and the Sanitary Cold Chain.  TransCert standards provide a solid foundation for FSMA compliance and are also designed to help supply chain participants meet customer logistics requirements.  Shippers, carriers and receivers working toward TransCert certification are expected to access their current transportation food safety systems, develop procedures and work instructions, train their personnel, prepare for an external transportation food safety audit and become TransCert certified.  Certification allows successful participants to carry the “TransCert Certified” logo on reefers, containers and other food carrying containers.“By using the TransCert “Container Checklist”, any company or a TransCert auditor can help shippers to establish baseline data that provides a preliminary needs assessment” said Ryan.  TransCert has also established a significant online library of self-paced training modules to help move clients towards a position designed to help them pass the certification audit.  External auditor certification training is provided in English and Spanish.  Training attendees receive a certificate for inclusion in their training documentation. The Sanitary Cold Chain also provides sample forms, logs and checklists as well as document control system guidance materials to Sanitary Cold Chain members. The Sanitary Cold Chain has also recently signed an agreement with a Canadian based group to provide similar services for Canadian growers, shippers, carriers and importers.**For more information about the sanitary cold chain and TransCert**Dr. John Ryan is a retired adminstrator of the Quality Assurance Division in the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture.  He has recently published the ["Guide to Food Safety and Quality During Transportation:  Controls Standards and Practices"](https://www.elsevier.com/books/guide-to-food-safety-and-quality-during-transportation/ryan/978-0-12-407775-1).  With locations in Salinas and Canyon Lake, California, the Sanitary Cold Chain provides food safety and quality assessment, training, audit and certification services for shippers, carriers and receivers of perishable foods.   Training modules can be found at <http://transcert.litmos.com/online-courses> .  The Sanitary Cold Chain (http://www.SanitaryColdChain) is a division of Ryan Systems, Inc.  More information is available through jryan@sanitarycoldchain.com or by calling U.S. 808 469-0046. **About The Cambridge Business Group**TCBG is headquartered at Boulevard Charcas 3351-Stage 7 in Buenos Aires, Argentina with a website at <http://www.tcbg.info/>  or by emailing Jose Quevedo at joseqp@gmail.com |

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