

HFMA UPDATE

Martin Last, Director General



HFMA serving the industry

We at the HFMA are continually looking to explore how we might add support for our members and we are pleased to now announce that we have concluded agreement with Reading Scientific Services Ltd (RSSL). This will undoubtedly provide many additional benefits to HFMA members in helping to meet the various technical challenges being faced by our industry by making available a wide range of services and to nurture a collaborative relationship between us in tackling industry concerns.

As we greater align with Europe and our enforcement agencies develop more sophisticated analytical methods, it is important we can ensure that the tools to support industry are readily available. The agreement means that RSSL and HFMA members can obtain supportive terms on the many services both offer. It will assist new product development, testing in all capacities, labelling, regulatory compliance, and post market support, plus wider CLEAR CHECK services. It will also benefit both parties for enable closer liaison, sharing of data and provide both organisations access to a wider range services, educational events and training needs.

This is an exciting development and reflects the collaborative approach that HFMA is seeking across industry services in the future. HFMA has always had a strong relationship with RSSL historically and it is good news that we can now move forward into the future together.

Autumn seminar

Our autumn seminar

arrangements are now well underway, and tickets are selling fast, available only on a first come, first serve basis, so I would suggest if you are planning to attend that you don't delay. The event is open to all industry to attend, not just HFMA members, and is already attracting widespread interest.

The seminar, Future Proofing your Business to Support the Healthy Lifestyle of Tomorrow's Consumers, takes place on November 3 at 1 Wimpole Street, London. It features many high-profile speakers providing insight into how our future may be shaped.

It will be hosted by TV personality, David Domoney (pictured), who will also provide a keynote speech. There will be seminars from Camilla Young, GS1 on 'From Product to Platform: Preparing for the Next Generation of Consumer Engagement, the future requirements for bar coding on products'. Linda Scammel, at Borderlines MHRA, will cover 'The MHRA: our role and how this impacts on your products', and Rob Biddlecombe, Partner at Mills & Reeve, will address the sustainability challenge with 'Packaging and the circular economy – what are the current rules and what's next?'

After a networking lunch, the afternoon sessions will feature Paul Berryman, Technical Advisor to the HFMA, covering 'Food Supplements: Navigating the Regulatory Landscape'. Stefan Thomas, speaker, corporate trainer and bestselling author, will explore 'The Human Connection: In an Artificial World' and provide key consumer views on how to meet

future needs. Emma Phillimore, Deputy Director for DEFRA Business Readiness for Retail and Processing, will give an important 'Update on the SPS Agreement', before David Domoney provides a keynote speech on 'Plants with superpowers'.

The seminar will be a full day and provide us with a platform for future development. It will be supported by selected sponsors and exhibitors outside the seminar theatre, providing supporting services for all our industry during the day's events. If you have not yet booked for our seminar programme or the option for sponsorship exhibition space, please contact Melanie@hfma.co.uk

SPS agreement

Clearly the arrival of our new Prime Minister and the summer recess of our EU partners have deferred the planned EU summit, which had been due to be held in July to announce the outcome of the SPS negotiations between the UK and EU. It is our understanding that this will still go ahead but is more likely now to be later in the autumn.

In the meantime, industry continues to meet with DEFRA and other Government agencies on the SPS progress and whilst the response from DEFRA is consistent that they cannot update industry on how the negotiations are progressing until negotiations are concluded, they reiterate that the outcome of these negotiations are intended for implementation into UK law in 2027.

Industry continues to reinforce that simpler border requirements are welcomed but that dynamic alignment of adopting EU law



is potentially damaging for the UK and would result in a loss of voice for developing regulation. There is still much cross industry concern that the outcome of negotiations may be a 'fait accompli' with negotiation discussions then imposed on industry rather than implemented with full stakeholder discussion, and that realistic transition periods will need to be applied. These issues continue to be raised with Government departments.

HFMA remains active whether to improve member benefits or continue to serve our industry and is an active participant alongside our other UK and EU associations. Increasingly, in a complex global scenario, it is important that there is now firm industry alignment between all the major UK and EU associations to maintain joint industry positions and to have a common voice in all matters.

If you would like to know more about the benefits of membership to your company, simply visit www.hfma.co.uk, or contact me on 020 8481 7100.