



102 Frimley House
5 The Parade, High Street
Frimley
Surrey, GU16 7JQ
Tel: 01276 509306
Fax: 01276 761076

Email: info@labourproviders.org.uk
Website: www.labourproviders.org.uk

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Contact: David Camp 01276 509306

EMPLOYERS CAN NOW ENSURE AGENCY WORKER BEST PRACTICE

A new software tool to help organisations implement best practice and prevent exploitation of agency workers is launched today by the Association of Labour Providers (ALP).

Developed in association with Marks & Spencer suppliers, the “**Agency Labour Best Practice & Audit Tool**”, downloadable from <http://www.labourproviders.org.uk/audit-tool.aspx>, enables any business that uses or provides agency workers to ensure that they are acting ethically and within the law. The response from the M&S suppliers who took part in the trial was extremely favourable with all testers stating that they found the tool easy to use and that it would be a considerable asset to their businesses.

Recent press reports have highlighted major UK companies seemingly unaware that agency workers in their businesses have been denied basic statutory rights and in the most extreme cases have been abused and exploited.

With the damage that a media exposé can cause to brand reputation, turning a blind eye to temporary agency workers is not only ethically unsound but bad business practice.

The “**Agency Labour Best Practice & Audit Tool**” tool mirrors the Gangmasters Licensing Authority Standards and as well as the food and agriculture sectors is totally transferable as a benchmark to other areas where agency working is prevalent such as Catering, Hospitality, Cleaning, Security and Construction.

Clear and straightforward to use with relevant guidance throughout it can be used by any organisation to ensure due diligence and to demonstrate commitment to corporate social responsibility.

David Camp, Director of the Association of Labour Providers said:

“The vast majority of businesses want to do the right thing and ensure that agency workers receive their due rights and entitlements. We are delighted that M&S suppliers have found this tool to be of such benefit and we thank them for their involvement in its development. Used as a partnership tool between labour users and labour providers it will improve legal and ethical standards and help protect the safety and welfare of agency workers.”

Shayne Tyler, Operations Manager, Manor Fresh Ltd said,

**Representing and supporting labour providers in the agriculture, fresh produce
food manufacturing and packing sectors**

“At Manor Fresh assuring that workers are treated fairly throughout our supply chain is of paramount importance to our business and to our brand. The Agency Labour Audit Tool supports us in achieving this aim by providing a comprehensive and consistent benchmark against which we monitor our agency labour supply. The structured questions, relevant guidance and reporting tools simplify and standardise our processes.”

Terry O’Dea, 2 Sisters Food Group, Corporate Social Responsibility Director said:

“We have found the Agency Labour Audit Tool to be a straightforward and effective tool to use in partnership with our labour provider to maintain and improve the quality of agency labour supply to our business. It has now formed part of our due diligence process in assuring the ethical and fair treatment of agency workers working in the 2 Sisters Food Group.”

ENDS

Notes:

The Association of Labour Providers (ALP) is the specialist trade association for organisations that provide and use temporary, contract and seasonal workers within the food, agricultural and other GLA regulated sectors.

The ALP is a centre of expertise and good practice on temporary labour issues for both labour providers and labour users alike.

The ALP welcomes labour users as Associate Members.

The ALP Chairman is Mark Boleat and Director is David Camp

A list of members and further information can be found at www.labourproviders.org.uk.

Contact 01276 509306 or info@labourproviders.org.uk for further details.