The BRC Technical Advisory Committee have decided to have a phased introduction of the new requirement 3.5.1.3 to allow sites the time to fully comply.

Audits against issue 7 from 1st July 2015 to End June 2016

The site shall demonstrate that as a minimum all Agents or Brokers supplying raw materials have been contacted and requested to provide the details of the manufacturer or manufacturers of the raw material supplied and the necessary information to allow supplier approval according to the sites risk assessment.

Audits undertaken from the 1st July 2016

The site shall fully comply with the requirements as stated in the Standard.

Background
Supplier and raw material approval requirements for issue 7 were strengthened by the introduction of the new clause 3.5.1.3

3.5.1.3 Where raw materials are purchased from agents or brokers, the site shall know the identity of the last manufacturer or packer, or for bulk commodity products the consolidation place of the raw material.

Information to enable the approval of the manufacturer, packer or consolidator, as in clause 3.5.1.2, shall be obtained from the agent/broker or directly from the supplier, unless the agent/broker is themselves certificated to the BRC Global Standard for Agents and Brokers.

Compliance to this clause requires Agent or Brokers used to supply raw materials to be disclose the name of the manufacturer of a raw material supplied and provide information enabling an assessment of the raw material manufacturers food safety systems.

There have been a number of concerns raised by manufacturers at presentations and training sessions that where Agents are unwilling to provide this information switching supply may not be a practical solution in time for the first issue 7 audit because of contractual arrangements. There have also been concerns about the ability of Agents or Brokers to provide the information in time for the first audit.