

## **HART INDUSTRIES SCORES THIRD STRAIGHT PERFECT SCORE ON SQF LEVEL 3 UNNANOUNCED AUDIT**

**OWINGS MILLS**—(Hart News) Hart Industries, an award-winning supplier of specialty flexible packaging, successfully completed its third annual SQF Level 3 audit on December 1, 2017. The Safe Quality Food Institute (SQFI) code requires that each certified facility undergo an unannounced audit once every three years. Hart Industries proved its commitment to quality and food safety scoring a perfect audit score of 100% and audit rating of “Excellent” in the most recent unannounced audit. The implemented quality and food safety systems at Hart Industries continue to improve and develop each year. Clearly, Hart Industries’ third straight perfect score on the unannounced audit and in the highest level, Level 3, of SQF certification reflects this continuous improvement.

The Level 3 certification combines the fundamental elements of food safety in Levels 1 and 2 with an additional third level focused on quality. The certification is recognized by the developments of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI). The purposes of these initiatives are to provide consumers the confidence that their products’ safety and quality are maintained to specific standards throughout the entire supply chain. The certification demonstrates the implementation of an effective and robust SQF system based on supporting evidence and data. Hart’s SQF program continues to meet and comply with the expectations of the strictest domestic and international quality and food safety standards.

Timothy Hart, President of Hart Industries, commented on the achievement stating, “This exemplifies the hard work of our entire team and operation, and the pure dedication to the quality and safety of our packaging products. We are proud of our SQF Level 3 certification, and with our team for receiving its third straight 100% during the recent unannounced audit. SQF qualifications are on the forefront of the packaging industry, and we remain committed to maintaining the highest standards of quality and food safety for our customers and the end consumers.”

Quality Compliance and Regulatory Officer, TJ Hart, again led Hart Industries through its efforts in its third annual SQF audit. On the results, TJ remarked, “The SQF Level 3 certification is a core aspect of Hart Industries’ identity. Over the last three years, SQF became more than a comprehensive food safety and quality management system to us. It defines the culture at Hart. The unannounced audit demonstrates that the employees and operation are continuously focused on enhancing the quality and safety of our packaging products.”

Hart Industries is honored to achieve three perfect scores on the highest level of SQF certification and continue to build its role as a packaging industry leader. Hart Industries understands the importance of product safety and quality for both suppliers and consumers in an increasingly globalized and integrated product distribution network.