

# SAVOR...Chicago

## at McCormick Place

Catering • Concessions • Special Events

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### **SAVOR...Chicago is First Chicago Food Service Provider to Achieve International Sustainability Certification**

**Chicago (March 9, 2015)** – SAVOR...Chicago, the food service provider for McCormick Place, has become the first food service provider in Chicago to be certified to an international sustainability standard. SAVOR...Chicago achieved Level One certification to the ASTM Standard pertaining to the Evaluation and Selection of Food and Beverage for Environmentally Sustainable Meetings, Events, Trade Shows, and Conferences. The Food and Beverage standard is one of nine standards developed by the meetings, conventions, exhibitions and events industry to provide event planners and suppliers with specifications for producing events in a more sustainable manner.

Shaun Beard, SAVOR... Senior Vice President, commented, “We are excited to be the first food service company in Chicago to attain ASTM certification. Certification to the industry’s global standard is further evidence of our ongoing commitment to sustainability.” Kevin Jezewski, Director of Sustainability and Special Projects, for SAVOR...Chicago led the certification effort.

“This is great news for Chicago and all of us working to make Chicago a more sustainable destination for corporate meeting planners,” said Aaron Joseph, Deputy Sustainability Officer for the City of Chicago. “We congratulate SAVOR...Chicago on being the first food service provider in the city to achieve certification to the standard.” SAVOR...Chicago joins McCormick Place and Choose Chicago as organizations certified to the ASTM Standards in Chicago.

The ASTM Food and Beverage Standard delineate the procedural requirements for specifying, selecting and procuring food, beverage and non-consumable food- or beverage-related items. The standard specifies specific performance criteria for staff management, communications, waste management, energy, air quality, water, procurement, and community partners as well as equipment required in the preparation and service of food and beverage. The standards were created in partnership with ASTM International, an ANSI-accredited standards development organization.

Connie Bergeron, President of the Green Meeting and Industry Council (GMIC), the non-profit professional meetings association that led the development of the ASTM Sustainable Meeting Standards, added, “Responsible environmental and social practices in the meeting industry is a global concern. We are delighted to see SAVOR...Chicago take the lead in the Food and Beverage sector in Chicago and hope that this will encourage other food service providers to pursue certification.”

iCompli, a division of BPA Worldwide, a non-profit international auditing organization headquartered in Shelton, Connecticut developed the certification protocols for the ASTM standards and performed the independent third party certification of SAVOR...Chicago’s compliance with the Food and Beverage standard. Glenn Hansen, CEO of BPA Worldwide, commented, “Our certification of the event sustainability standards driven by GMIC and now adopted by SAVOR...Chicago continues our long-standing partnership with the event industry to promote transparency.”



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### **About SAVOR**

SAVOR, a leader in convention center catering, concessions and special events, took over McCormick Place foodservice operations September 28, 2011. SAVOR is part of SMG, the largest public facilities management company in the world including McCormick Place as of August 1, 2011. In 2010, 17 convention centers where SAVOR provides food and beverage service won prestigious Prime Site Awards from Facilities & Destinations. SAVOR is an industry leader in introducing green standards and programs to public facilities. As the food and beverage provider to facilities with some of the most stringent environmental policies in the world, we have researched the matter extensively and work closely with community and facility managers to develop environmentally friendly operations focused on minimizing carbon footprint by purchasing locally produced, sustainably raised product, using non-petroleum-based packaging and recycling or composting waste whenever possible. [www.savorchicagomcpl.com](http://www.savorchicagomcpl.com)

### **SMG**

Since 1977, SMG has provided management services to more than 220 public assembly facilities worldwide, including arenas, stadiums, theatres and performing arts centers, equestrian facilities, convention, congress and exhibition centers, science centers and a variety of other venues. Across the globe, SMG manages more than 14 million square feet of exhibition space and more than 1.75 million arena and theatre seats. As the recognized global industry leader, SMG provides venue management, sales, marketing, event booking and programming, construction and design consulting, and pre-opening services. SMG also offers food and beverage operations through its concessions and catering division of SAVOR, currently serving more than 100 accounts worldwide. [www.smgworld.com](http://www.smgworld.com)

### **About the Green Meeting Industry Council**

The Green Meeting Industry Council is a non-profit, membership-based professional organization which provides educational resources to planners, suppliers, and venues seeking to meet the ever-rising standards consumers set for sustainable meetings. [www.gmicglobal.org](http://www.gmicglobal.org)

### **About iCompli**

iCompli is a division of BPA Worldwide, a not-for-profit auditing organization established in 1931 to audit circulation for publishers, advertisers and their agencies. Today, BPA's audit services have expanded to include external assurance of government and industry standards and independent verification of companies' technology and service claims. iCompli provides GRI reporting services (gap analysis, competitor benchmarking and external assurance) and third-party certification of ASTM and ISO event standards. [www.bpaww.com](http://www.bpaww.com)

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