

<b>Job title</b>	Produce Technologist (Fruit & Veg)
<b>Reference nr.</b>	2217
<b>Industry</b>	Fresh Produce / Retail
<b>Location</b>	Northern Italy
<b>Position type</b>	Full-time
<b>Client</b>	Confidential during pre-screening phase
<b>Package</b>	Competitive package plus benefits (incl. company car)

## OVERVIEW

This is a unique opportunity to join one of the leading retail chains in Europe. Our client supplies a major retailer in the UK.

## PRODUCE TECHNOLOGIST – ITALY (FRUIT & VEG)

### Primary Objectives and Purpose

- 1) Technical: Ensure all supply is compliant with the retailers due diligence and technical standards/requirements. Monitor and develop the supply base's adherence. Advise on local and international developments regarding all technical matters.
- 2) Specification Adherence / Quality Assurance: Pro-actively work towards improving product quality and specification adherence.
- 3) Commercial / Business Development: Further the commercial efforts of the Business Units to achieve and maintain the most effective Procurement Strategy and to maximize the potential of the region by providing technical knowledge and support.
- 4) Logistics: Become familiar with all processes (programming, ordering, vessel schedules, load plans, invoicing etc.) in order to provide support as and when necessary.

### Specific Accountabilities

#### Supplier Management – Technical Due Diligence

- Keep track of growers and packsites used by each supplier. Regularly verify proposed grower and packsite lists against actual load plan received information. Ensure all due diligence information for all suppliers, growers and packsites are received, validated and maintained up to date in the UK server.
- Verify compliance/adherence to standards and requirements through structured trace-back exercises and packsite audits on an appropriate frequency based on risk assessment (supply volume, 3rd party certifications, track record, etc). Where serious non-conformances are identified, initiate and follow through a documented process of bringing the supplier up to standard.
- Maintain a technical risk profile of suppliers in order to focus and justify efforts, and where necessary, influence procurement decisions. Formally and regularly update the technical team and business units.

#### Supplier Management – Quality / Specification Adherence

- Effectively communicate product & packaging specification requirements to suppliers.
- Verify that supplier's packsites' internal quality management systems are appropriate. This should be done through informal supplier visits, and structured trace-back exercises and audits. Where shortcomings are identified, initiate and follow through a documented process of bringing the supplier up to standard.
- Measure and monitor supplier's performance based on arrival quality status, and where necessary, initiate and follow through a documented process of appropriate corrective actions.
- Maintain a quality performance and risk profile of suppliers in order to focus and justify efforts, and where necessary, influence procurement decisions. Formally and regularly update the technical team and business units.
- Handle all quality and technical related queries from suppliers.

Commercial / Business Development:

- Support the execution of specific commercial programs such as Direct and Semi-Direct deliveries.
- Work towards a better understanding of what the region has to offer, inside and outside the current product portfolio and supplier base, and where necessary assist in the investigation of commercial opportunities - Specifically produce for the retailer currently outside the suppliers basket as well as non produce goods.
- Support international business efforts as needed.

#### General

- Stay ahead of seasonal technical/quality issues, and pro-actively communicate these to the relevant persons (commercial and technical/quality).
- Provide technical knowledge and support to the relevant Business Unit/s with regards to the product, supply base, packaging, seasonal growing conditions, availability, quality, marketing opportunities, new product development, etc.
- Assist the Logistic Administrator to ensure loadplans are completed correctly by suppliers.

#### Implied Accountabilities

- Represent the retailer and supplier in a professional manner.
- Develop and maintain close working relationships with the supply base.
- Be active in the relevant industry organizations (DFPT, CGA etc).
- Keep updated on all technical matters (certification standards, pesticides & MRL's, production practices, variety development, etc. etc.).

#### Employee Specification: Desirables

##### TECHNICAL CRITERIA

(Knowledge, skills, & aptitudes)

- Science based, logistics or management based qualification
- 3 Years Produce Experience with major UK retailers
- People management experience

##### BIOGRAPHICAL EXPERIENCE

(where & how skills acquired)

- Fluent in English, and preferably the primary language of the country
- Live in the primary country, and committed to the primary country for the long term
- Technical Experience
- Logistics Experience
- Known by growers
- Procurement Experience

##### BEHAVIOURAL CRITERIA

(What types of behaviour/ personality are required for success?)

- Negotiation skills.
- Communication skills
- Strong Planning skills.
- Continuous improvement skills
- Cost Reduction Skills
- Persistent, Attention to Detail.
- Tenacious and Influential communicator.

##### OTHER

(Motivation / Environment)

- Based in Northern Italy.
- The areas of responsibility span over 7 days and 24 hours per day. Therefore, a flexible approach to the hours of work must be adopted.
- A culture and attitude for responsibility, accountability and target based management.

## Applicants

Please submit your cv to [freshproduce@fruit-recruit.com](mailto:freshproduce@fruit-recruit.com) Please also mention the job ref. nr. 2217.

### **About Fruit Recruit**

Fruit Recruit is a boutique headhunting company dedicated to companies whose core business is about fresh produce, fresh cut, prepared food and perishable logistics. We cover the whole supply chain "from field to fork". Most of our clients are medium to large sized companies dedicated to growing, packing, food safety, logistics and retail.