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GERBER'S GREEN INNOVATION GOES THE EXTRA MILE SO THE LORRIES DON'T HAVE TO

- **Gerber Juice Company partners with CHEP UK to create simple but innovative solution to the cost of pallet sortation and repair**
- **On-site pallet repair facility removes thousands of road journeys annually from UK roads plus an addition 40 trips to Europe, which saves a staggering 763 tonnes of CO₂, 200,000 litres of diesel fuel and circa 330,000 road miles**

Gerber Juice Company, the UK's leading supplier of fruit juice products, has devised an environmentally friendly and novel way of reducing transport costs.

Based at Bridgwater in Somerset, Gerber's juice manufacturing facilities are the most advanced in the UK. Working in partnership with CHEP UK, who provide pallet and pooling systems globally, the two businesses have set up a unique sortation and repair facility. This has resulted in cost savings and substantially reduced the carbon footprint of both businesses.

Previously, CHEP pallets from customers would have been sent from Cornwall, Devon and Somerset all the way to Avonmouth (Bristol) for repair and re-distribution. Under the new arrangement, CHEP pallets are repaired at the dedicated Pallet Repair Centre based on Gerber's manufacturing site. This has resulted in the following savings for both businesses.

- Removal of 330,000 dedicated UK road miles plus an additional 40 road journeys annually from the UK to Europe and back, to sort and repair pallet equipment



- Eliminates 763 tonnes of CO₂ produced by road haulage and saves 200,000 litres of diesel
- On-site repair facility has created 10 new jobs in the Somerset area
- The repair centre has sufficient capacity to allow additional repaired pallets to be supplied to other local manufacturers saving them thousands of road miles

Gerber's repair facility has been shortlisted for an innovation award at the Somerset Business Awards 2012, which are now in their eighth year. Finalists will be announced later this month at an awards ceremony on November 16.

Alan Armstead, Logistics Manager for Gerber Juice Company said: "We are delighted to be short listed for the award. Our on-site repair centre provides a sustainable way of reducing costs and environmental impact, across the supply chain."

He added: "Our objective was to create a long term environmentally friendly and commercially viable solution to pallet sortation and repair in the South West.

- Ends -

Notes to Editors:

The Gerber Juice Company Ltd is the UK's number one operator in the fruit juice market. For over twenty years it has been buying fruit juice from around the world. During this time it has built up an intimate and detailed knowledge of where to buy the best juices and juice concentrates most effectively. By creating close partnerships with key suppliers Gerber ensures a constant flow of the highest quality raw ingredients.