



QUALITY



TRUST



SAFETY

SAFE QUALITY FOOD (SQF)

MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

DEMONSTRATE YOUR COMMITMENT TO FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY

SGS



The SQF (Safe Quality Food) Program is designed to meet the needs of buyers and supplier's worldwide. The program provides recognized independent third-party certification that a supplier's food safety system and food safety plans have been implemented in accordance with the CODEX Alimentarius Commission HACCP principles and guidelines for control of food safety as well as applicable regulatory requirements, and that the system has been verified and determined effective to manage food safety.

The SQF Code is a site-specific, process and product certification standard that enables suppliers to ensure that their customers receive food that has been produced, processed, prepared and handled according to the highest possible standards, at all levels of the supply chain from farm to fork. SQF also covers product quality, if required, with the SQF quality code.

The Safe Quality Food Institute (SQFI) was developed in Western Australia, but is now owned and managed by the Food Marketing Institute (FMI) in the United States.

The SQF Code covers the entire food supply chain with individual codes and modules suited to your industry sector ensuring that requirements are specific to your operations.

SQF certification can be achieved through the following codes that SGS can deliver for your company:

- Primary production code
- Food manufacturing code
- Storage and distribution code
- Food packaging manufacturing code
- Retail operations code
- Quality code, this can be added to any of the above code audits except the retail operations code



THE BENEFITS

Certifying your food management system against the SQF program requirements will bring the following benefits:

- Improve process management by helping to identify and manage risk
- Prepare for existing and new food safety and regulatory requirements
- Provide proof of due diligence and instill confidence in food safety, quality and legality
- Monitor product safety and/or quality
- Improve traceability
- Competitive advantage
- When achieving and maintaining certification to the SQF quality code this enables you to use the SQF quality shield on your packaging



PROTECTION

HOW DOES THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS WORK?

The SQF certification process consists of seven steps:

Step 1 – SGS provides you with a proposal based on the size and nature of your organization. You can then proceed with the registration and audit by accepting the proposal.

Step 2 – Once you have accepted the proposal from SGS, you will register on the SQFI database that can be accessed through the website (www.sqfi.com). Please note this is an annual registration that is required by SQFI.

Step 3 – You may ask SGS to perform a pre-audit gap analysis to provide an indication of the readiness of your organization for the audit. This stage is optional, yet it is often found useful in identifying any weaknesses in your systems and in building confidence before the formal audit.

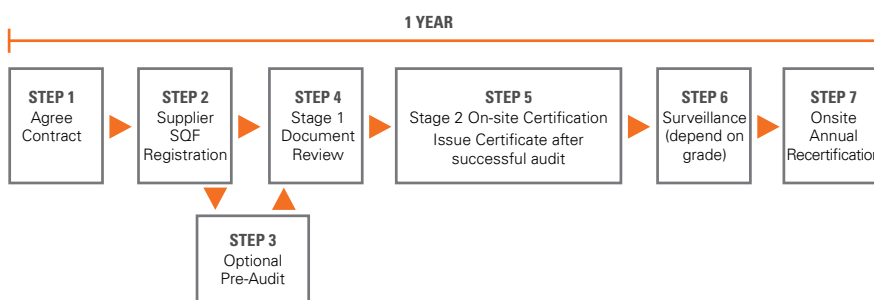
Step 4 – The first part of the formal audit is the ‘Stage 1 – Assessment Process: Document Review’. This lets us evaluate the compliance of your documented system with the requirements of the standard and to better understand the nature of your organization. It also enables SGS to plan the rest of the audit as effectively as possible. You will receive a report after this stage identifying any concerns or observed non-compliances so that you can take immediate action if required. All non-conformities must be closed out prior to the Stage 2 audit.

Step 5 – This is the ‘Stage 2 – Assessment Process: Certification Audit’ part of the initial audit process. The audit includes interviews with you and your colleagues and examination of records. Observation of your working practices determines how compliant your actual processes are with the standard and with your own documented system. At the end of this stage, we will present the findings of the audit to your company. Once you have addressed the non-conformities, a technical review of the audit will then be conducted by an authorized SGS technical reviewer and certification manager. When the certification decision has been made and accepted a certificate is then issued to your business.

Step 6 – Surveillance visits may be required depending on the grade received from your certification or recertification audit. These will be scheduled at the six-month interval of your certification cycle.

Step 7 – Recertification audits will be scheduled at 12-month intervals. The recertification audit is undertaken to verify the continued effectiveness of your SQF System in its entirety. One recertification audit in a three-year cycle will be an unannounced audit conducted inside a-day window. You can provide blackout dates for this period if there are specific days that would not be possible to host an audit.

SQF CERTIFICATION PROCESS



TRAINING

Whether you are an existing SQF certified company or are completely new to certification, we can provide you with the skills and knowledge you need to achieve and maintain certification. We provide SQF awareness and implementation training for businesses around the world, helping them understand the certification process and how to implement the standard's requirements. Delivered in person or online, using innovative learning and development solutions, we can tailor courses to meet your training objectives.

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION






Innovation is at the heart of our business. New technologies deliver knowledge, insight, transparency and efficiency for our customers.

Transparency-One

Discover, analyze and monitor all suppliers, ingredients and facilities in your supply chain with SGS Transparency-One a digital solution with blockchain technology helping you build consumer trust.

SGS BENEFITS

SGS is the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company. With more than 300 auditors operating across 160 countries we are the largest certification body for GFSI benchmarked standards.

-  Key account management
-  Data management and reporting
-  Rapid turnaround times
-  Technical competence
-  Global network

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WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

