

## GFSI: Safe Food for Consumers Everywhere

The increasing severity and frequency of food safety incidents across the globe has certainly tested consumer confidence in the food supply chain. How do producers, processors, distributors, and retailers – all those responsible for getting our food from farm to fork – maximize the safety of what consumers will find on their plate during a night out to eat or on store shelves while shopping at their local grocery store? In response to a number of food safety scares, a group of international retailers created the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) whose central vision has been “Safe Food for Consumers Everywhere.” GFSI, who now represents over 70% of food retail revenue worldwide, is committed to benchmarking food safety management schemes in order to enhance food safety and restore consumer confidence. Equally important, GFSI encourages common retailer acceptance of GFSI recognized standards in order to reduce excessive audit costs for suppliers.



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**Perry Johnson Registrars  
Food Safety, Inc.**

755 W. Big Beaver, Suite 1390  
Troy, Michigan 48084

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## SQF - Preparing for Edition 8



**Everybody Eats...  
Everybody Cares About Food Safety**



**Perry Johnson Registrars  
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## SQF: Protecting Consumers, Protecting Brands

The Safe Quality Food (SQF) third-party certification program is managed by the Food Marketing Institute (FMI) whose vision is to be the single most trusted source for global food safety and quality certification. The SQF Program is a complete food safety and quality management system and is the only GFSI globally recognized standard based in the United States. An increasing number of U.S. and international food retailers are expressing a preference for SQF certified suppliers and certificates have now been issued in more than 30 countries.



Why are more suppliers and their buyers requesting SQF? SQF independent certification provides assurance that food has been produced, processed, and handled according to the highest possible standards and that it has met domestic and international food safety regulations. This leading risk analysis and prevention-based standard also serves the needs of all levels of the food supply chain and offers a host of unique features and benefits.



## SQF Certification: Preparing for Edition 8

Change is coming to SQF Certification as we begin preparing for the transition to SQF Code edition 8.0. While full implementation of the new edition will not take place until June 2017, it will be opened for public comment on November 15<sup>th</sup> 2016 before finalization on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Some notable updates (among others):

- Separation of quality requirements from food safety.
- Increased environmental controls.
- A *new* food fraud requirement.
- Clearer allergen requirements.

In addition to these overall changes, edition 8 will no longer refer to the different categories as “levels,” instead offering three different options as approaches. Due to addition, removal, and consolidation of requirements in the transition, there will be some numbering differences from edition 7, but the change will not be as drastic as the move from edition 6 to 7.

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