



06/30/2014

Hello Client,

As you may know SQFI announced the release of SQF Code 7.2 Edition which becomes effective on **July 3rd 2014**. SQFI has made over 50 changes in order to deliver a, “sound, scientifically-based and globally recognized food safety and quality certification program”. SQF Code, Edition 7.2 is applicable to all certification, recertification, and surveillance audits conducted after July 3rd, 2014.

Please note a few of the following changes:

- The addition of Module 14: Food Safety Fundamentals – Good Manufacturing Practices for Food Brokers and Agents
- Certification and recertification requirements for seasonal suppliers
- Inclusion in the scope of certification all products produced on site
- [A new protocol for unannounced re-certification audits](#)
- Updated criteria for multi-site operations
- Scored surveillance audits

To be considered for SQF certification, suppliers are required to register in the SQF database. Registration is annual, and there is a fee per supplier site payable to SQFI at registration and renewal. **Suppliers must register in Reliance, SQFI Database, prior to achieving certification, and must remain registered at all times to retain their certification; the supplier certificate will be invalid until the facility is properly registered in the assessment database.**

Unannounced Recertification Audit

Within three (3) certification cycles the certification body shall conduct one (1) unannounced audit of the supplier. The unannounced audit shall occur in the supplier’s facility within the sixty (60) day recertification window (i.e., the anniversary date of the initial certification audit +/- thirty (30) days). Currently certified SQF suppliers shall be required to undertake one (1) unannounced audit within the three (3) year certification cycle.

- a. The supplier certification cycle begins with the initial certification audit date. Unannounced audits shall not be conducted on the initial audit or on a surveillance audit.
- b. If a supplier changes certification bodies, the supplier’s unannounced recertification audit schedule shall not change.
- c. Multi-site suppliers are exempted from unannounced audits.
- d. The date of the unannounced audit shall be determined by the certification body within the 60 day recertification audit window. The unannounced year shall be determined between the supplier and the certification body.
- e. A defined blackout period shall be established by negotiation between the supplier and their certification body that prevents the unannounced recertification audit from occurring out of season or when the facility is not operating for legitimate business reasons.
- f. Immediate suspension of the supplier certificate will occur in facilities that refuse entry to the auditor for an unannounced audit.



Perry Johnson Registrars Food Safety, Inc.

If you would like more information on the 7.2 code updates you can attend the FREE webinar by SQFI. It is designed for all SQF stakeholders; this webinar will review the SQF Code, edition 7.2 changes, including the expectations under the new protocol for unannounced recertification audits. To register: <http://www.sqfi.com/forms/meeting/MeetingFormPublic/view?id=29BB4000002AA>

Finally I have attached copies of the SQF Code, Edition 7.2, the summary of key changes, the unannounced audit protocol, Guidance Docs for Modules 2 & 11 and PJRFSI's updated SOP-1sqf. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me anytime with questions or concern.

To access all of SQFI's documentation follow this link: <http://www.sqfi.com/documents/>

Thanks!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lauren Maloney'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lauren Maloney
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