SQF Code Edition 7.2 has been released

SQFI has announced on March 11, 2014 that SQF Code Edition 7.2 has been released. SQFI has made over 50 changes in order to deliver a, "sound, scientifically-based and globally recognized food safety and quality certification program". This edition will be implemented by all certification bodies and Suppliers by July 3rd 2014.

One of the major changes includes the addition of unannounced re-certification audits. SQFI is now requiring suppliers to have an unannounced audit once per every three re-certification cycles. This means that the Certification Body will decide when the audit will occur within the 60 day re-certification window without prior notice to the SQF Certified Facility.

i.   The supplier's certification cycle begins with the initial certification audit date. Unannounced re-certification audits shall occur once in every three (3) certification cycles.

ii. Unannounced audits shall not be conducted on the initial certification audit or on a surveillance audit.

iii. If a supplier changes certification bodies, the supplier's unannounced re-certification audit schedule shall not change.

iv. The unannounced re-certification audit shall follow the protocol under the SQF Code, Part A, section 4.3 and 4.4.

v.   Multi-site suppliers are exempted from unannounced audits.

vi. The date of the unannounced audit shall be determined by the certification body within the 60 day re-certification audit window. The unannounced audit year shall be determined between the supplier and certification body.

vii. A defined blackout period shall be established by negotiation between the supplier and their certification body that prevents the unannounced re-certification audit from occurring out of season or when the facility is not operating for legitimate business reasons.

viii. Immediate suspension of the supplier certificate

Further information can be found at the SQFI website www.sqfi.com.