



**SCSglobal**  
SERVICES  
*Setting the standard for sustainability™*

# SQF Food Safety Code for Retail

**Resource Center - for recorded sessions:**  
<https://www.scsglobalservices.com/resources/all>

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## About SCS Global Services

- International leader in third-party environmental, sustainability and food quality certification, auditing and testing since 1984
- Worldwide network of staff, trainers, auditors and affiliates
- Areas of Expertise:
 

Food Safety, Certified Claims & Testing	Sustainable Agriculture	Sustainable Seafood
Green Building	Responsible Sourcing	Responsible Forestry
Climate Change	Life Cycle Assessment	Ecolabels

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## Training

■ FSMA PC and PSA Grower ■ Internal Auditor

■ HACCP



## Training & Certification



GLOBALG.A.P.



GAP/GMP



## Certification Services



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## Preparation of Certification



### Training

Learn about Food Safety Code for Retail

Select Relevant Modules

Register in SQFI Assessment Database System

Use of Consultants

Designate an SQF Practitioner

Prepare Documents

Implement the code requirements

Select a Certification Body

Conduct a Preassessment (recommended)

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## Training 'Implementing SQF course'



via SQFI website

OR  
licensed SQF training center

OR  
Train yourself by downloading the code from SQFI  
website

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## Relevant Modules and Food Sector Category



FSC for Retailers is 24  
and modules are  
2 and 15

Module 2-Systems Elements  
Module 15-Good Retail Practices

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## Mod 2-System Elements

### Example:

Management Responsibility  
 Food Safety and Quality Management  
 Food Safety Policy  
 Management Review  
 Resource Management  
 Document Control/Record Keeping  
 Food Safety Plan  
 Hazard and Risk Management Plan  
 Product Identity and Traceability  
 Product Withdrawal and Recall  
 Internal Audit  
 Corrective Action



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## Mod 15-Good Retail Practices

### Example:

Building condition and design  
  
 Fundamental programs such as:  
 Water testing  
 Maintenance  
 Pest control  
 Sanitation  
 Calibration  
 Personnel hygiene  
 Employee welfare areas  
 Personnel processing practices  
 Storage and transportation practices  
 Chemical handling



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## Register on SQFI Database



### Annual Registration

Fee for initial and renewal based on-  
Size of organization

Total number of stores

Gross annual sales revenue

Fee structure is available on SQFI website

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## Development



Prepare your own program

OR

Use Consultants

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## Designate an SQF Practitioner Qualifications



**Development**

**Implementation**

**Review**

**Maintenance**

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## Initial Certification



**2 stages-Document Audit and Site Audit**

**Stage 1- DOC Audit**

**Preparation of documents 'say what you do'**

**Implementation of documents 'do what you say'**

**Record Keeping: Minimum 2 months of records**

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## Selecting a Certification Body (CB)



**Licensed by SQFI**

**Available on SQFI website**

**The site must have an AGR with CB**

**Application Form issued to determine the scope**

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## Preassessment (Optional)

**Not mandatory ,  
but recommended to provide  
' Health check'**



**Identify gaps in the system**

**Address corrective actions**

**Internal Resources, SQF Consultant, SQF  
Auditor**

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## Scope Confirmation Very Important



**Corporate office**  
**Brands**  
**Banners**  
**Franchises**  
**Stores**

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## Scope Confirmation Very Important



**All food products for sale**  
**Raw materials processed in-store**  
**Finished products**  
**Pet foods for domestic animals**  
**All premises**  
**Support buildings**  
**Silos, loading and unloading bays, external grounds**

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**Scope Confirmation  
Very Important  
Exemptions (part of the store)**



**Exclusions permitted  
(non-food product, commissary, warehouse  
and distribution operations covered by  
alternative certifications)**

**Exemptions and Exclusions must be approved  
by Certification Body**

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**Scope Confirmation  
Very Important**



**Exclusions not permitted  
Individual departments  
Food categories  
In-store processing**

**Exemptions and Exclusions must be approved  
by Certification Body**

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**Scope Confirmation**  
**Very Important**  
**Risk Levels**



**Low Risk Products**  
**Pre-packaged foods sold as ambient stable or**  
**refrigerated, frozen**

**Bulk whole produce**

**Home delivery of ambient stable food**

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**Scope Confirmation**  
**Very Important**  
**Risk Levels**



**High Risk Products**  
**Display of unpackaged foods excluding bulk**  
**Produce**  
**On-site food preparation**  
**Restaurant with food preparation**  
**Cut produce**  
**Off –site food preparation**  
**Home delivery of food-refrigeration, frozen or hot food**

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## Scope Confirmation Very Important



**Scope cannot change once  
document Audit has begun**

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## Audit Duration



**Scope of the Audit**  
Size and number of corporate office, brands,  
banners, franchise, stores  
Number of departments in each store

**Complexity of the processes**  
Number of low and high risk stores  
language barrier

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## Audit Duration

**Desk Audit-Stage 1**  
2 days /corporate office location



**Site Audit-Stage 2**  
Low Risk Products 0.5 day/store  
High Risk Products 1 day/store  
0-30,999 ft = no extra time needed  
31,000 – 75,999 ft = 0.5 extra day  
76,000 – 150,000 ft = 1 extra day

**Additional days based on complexity of processes  
(canning, fermenting, pickling, etc.)**

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## Corrective Actions

**Minor NCR-Must be closed within  
30 calendar days**

**Major NCR-Must be closed within  
30 calendar days**

**Critical NCR-Automatic failure**



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## Audit Score



**Minor-1 point is deducted**

**Major-10 points are deducted.**

**Critical-50 points are deducted.**

**(100-N) determines the rating. N= Total points deducted.**

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## Audit Rating



**96 – 100 = Excellent (yearly audit) Cert issued**

**86-95 = Good (yearly audit) Cert issued**

**70-85 = Complies (6 month surveillance Audit) Cert issued**

**0-69 = Fails to comply . Cert not issued**

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## Suspension



**Fails to permit recertification or surveillance audit**

**Receives F rating**

**Not closing corrective actions on time**

**Fails to permit unannounced store audit**

**Suspension status is updated in SQFI database by CB**

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## How to get out of Suspension status



**Store inspection within 30 calendar days upon receiving CAR plan from the store-48 hrs**

**Re-instate once CARs are successfully implemented**

**Not more than 6 months after suspension, CB to conduct UAA audit at the store**

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## Withdrawal Certification



**Fails to provide CA Plan when under suspension  
within 48 hrs. from receiving suspension letter  
from CB**

**Falsification of records**

**Fails to maintain the integrity of certificate**

**Bankrupt/site closure**

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## Notification of Product Recalls and Regulatory Infringements



**If the store initiates a recall**

**Notify SQFI and CB  
within 24 hours of the event  
[foodsafetycrisis@sqfi.com](mailto:foodsafetycrisis@sqfi.com)**

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## Compliance and Integrity Program



### Monitoring of CB and their Auditors Performance

Validation or witness audits.

SQF authorized staff or auditors

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## Questions and Answers



Thank You!

*Heena Patel*

Technical Director (GFSI Food Safety Program)

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