

The Public Health and Safety Organization

NSF and HACCP

NSF International has been providing HACCP services for many years and is a longstanding and credible HACCP training provider, recognized by the International HACCP Alliance and the Seafood HACCP Alliance. In addition:

- NSF was the first service provider to develop and offer HACCP systems registration in 2000.
- At the same time, NSF began to offer HACCP certification, which was the conceptual forbearer of FSSC 22000 and other GFSI-benchmarked schemes.
- . NSF's auditors and consultants are trained HACCP managers with extensive breadth and
- depth of experience in developing, implementing and managing HACCP programs.

HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) is the internationally recognized risk-based system for managing food safety. As described in the Codex Alimentarius, HACCP provides the general principles of food hygiene from primary production through final consumption, highlighting key hygiene controls at each stage. Built on the foundation of effective prerequisite programs such as training, pest control and sanitation, HACCP applies control measures to prevent, eliminate or reduce significant hazards to an acceptable level.

HACCP Certification Benefits

With decades of food safety and HACCP expertise, NSF is well poised to provide HACCP certification.

HACCP certification helps food manufacturing sites:

- Demonstrate an actively maintained and continuously improving food safety system
- Meet customer (e.g. co-packer, retailer) requirements with confidence
- Provide a complete overview of the interaction of the food safety systems used on-site

Tel: 6250 0102 Fax: 6250 0104

• Contribute to HACCP review and verification activities to ensure documentation is aligned with site procedures

In addition, certification provides:

- Increased internal and external confidence in your products, which translates to greater credibility with global customers/partners and international breadth and recognition to ensure global appeal
- Reduced risk of producing unsafe products, due to effectively implemented and managed programs

Certification Process

Successful HACCP certification requires five steps to achieve the initial certificate, which is valid for three years. Following initial certification, a surveillance audit (which may be unannounced) is required in the following two years.

Prior to embarking on the HACCP certification process, a facility can elect to pursue an optional gap analysis and consultation. Under a separately managed program, an experienced NSF consultant assesses your current HACCP system for fitness and effectiveness. The consultant provides coaching and, if necessary, hands-on assistance in developing your system documentation and recordkeeping procedures.

The HACCP certification process involves five steps:

- 1. **On-site GMP audit** ó An NSF auditor completes an NSF supplier assurance or GMP audit. Facilities with a current GFSI certificate are exempt from this audit, but an on-site GMP audit is required to obtain and maintain HACCP certification.
- 2. **Desktop (off-site) HACCP documentation review** ó An NSF auditor assesses the plan for compliance to the requirements of Codex Alimentarius HACCP principles, national and local legislation, and industry codes of practice and guidelines.
- 3. **HACCP certification audit** ó An NSF auditor visits the site to determine the effectiveness of the HACCP plan implementation. After successful closure of any required corrective actions, NSF reviews the documentation from the audit and makes the final certification decision. Certificates are issued to facilities approved for HACCP certification, which begins the three-year HACCP cycle.
- 4. **Annual surveillance audits** óNSF conducts annual surveillance audits using the HACCP certification audit checklist to verify both HACCP and prerequisite program compliance.
- 5. **Re-certification audit** ó Prior to the expiry of the existing HACCP certificate, NSF conducts a new HACCP certification audit to verify HACCP and prerequisite program compliance. Successful completion of the recertification audit begins a new three-year cycle.

American National Standards Institute (ANSI) **Testing** organizations including **NSF** International are accredited by ANSI. ... They exist to ensure that standards development processes and **certification** programs are of high quality. ANSI evaluates and monitors **NSF** standards development and product **certification** processes

Note: **NSF** International was formerly known as the National Sanitation Foundation. It is a not for profit organization that provides public health and safety risk management solutions. Among those solutions, **NSF** International provides standards development and product **certification**.

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