



Safe Quality Food Program

A Global Food Safety Initiative Recognized Scheme

DQS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS SOLUTIONS | 1500 MCCONNOR PARKWAY SUITE 400 | SCHAUMBURG, IL 60173 | 800-285-4476 | WWW.DQSUS.COM



Food Safety Services Offered by DQS

- Assessments
- GAP Analyses
- Customer-specific (non-certification assessments)
- Training (Internal Auditor or Program)

SQF is a food safety and quality management certification system for all sectors of the food industry, from primary production to transportation and distribution.

There are three levels of certification:

1. *Food Safety Fundamentals (previously Level 1) is an introductory food code for small and developing food businesses.*
2. *Food Safety Code (previously Level 2) is HACCP-based and is benchmarked by GFSI. The code is divided into food safety requirements for five food sectors: Primary Production, Retail, Manufacturing, Food Packaging, and Storage and Distribution.*
3. *SQF Quality Code is a food quality code standard for sites already certified to one of the Food Safety Code standards.*

Benefits of Certification

There are several benefits to buyers who purchase from suppliers using the SQF standard. Requiring SQF certification from suppliers helps protect an organization's brand by focusing on hazard analysis, risk assessment and proactive prevention strategies. This promotes increased customer confidence throughout the United States.

The SQF Program provides online access to a list of SQF suppliers, along with their certification status and audit results, making it easy to identify potential suppliers.

The SQF Code documents, Summary of Changes, checklists, guidance documentation, and more can be found free of charge on the SQF website (www.sqfi.com)

DQS Steps to Certification:

1. *Apply to DQS for SQF Certification*
2. *We assess your readiness for audit, determine if you need a GAP analysis, etc.*
3. *If you are ready, a desk audit is scheduled, and most are performed remotely.*
4. *An onsite certification audit is conducted*
5. *Facility responds to any corrected actions, and DQS verifies/approves*
6. *Certificate is issued. Companies must recertify each year to stay compliant.*