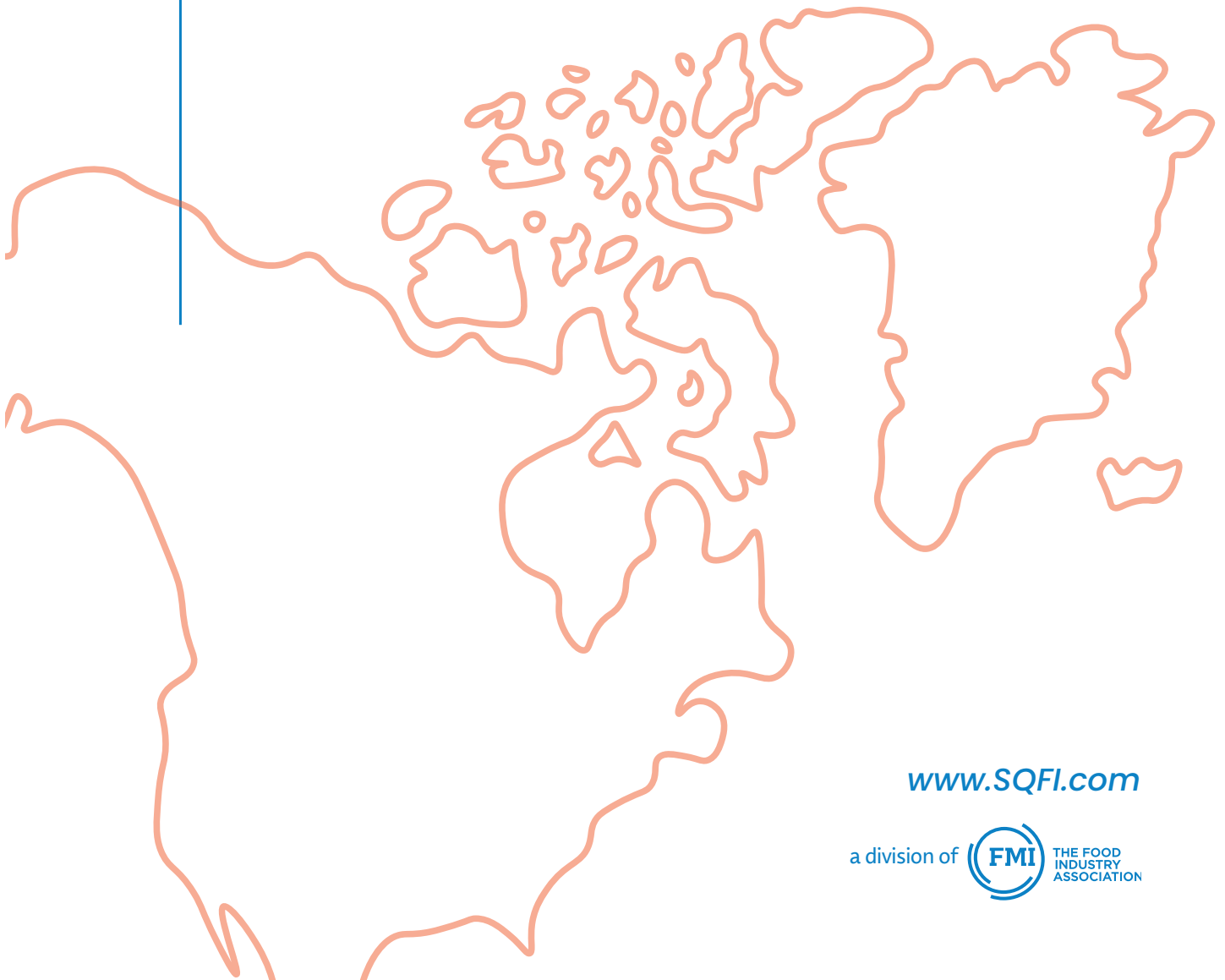




SQF
INSTITUTE

One world. One standard.

SQFI Guide to Food Safety Certification

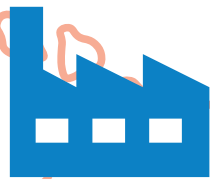


www.SQFI.com

a division of  **FMI** THE FOOD
INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION

Globalization has revolutionized the food supply chain, and with it comes a whole new world of existing opportunities for companies.

Consumer and retailer food safety expectations are high. Your investment in the highest food safety and quality standards will pay off in building your trading partner relationships.





10,000 CERTIFIED SITES IN MORE
THAN **40** COUNTRIES & **6** CONTINENTS

SQFI Creates Certification Clarity

You don't have to undertake the certification process alone. Food operators worldwide are streamlining their processes and growing their businesses with SQF certification. Our process is designed to meet industry, customer, and regulatory requirements for all sectors of the food supply chain.

Through SQF certification, you can:

- Build confidence in your retailers
- Protect your brand
- Expand your reach through strong trading partnerships

SQFI Creates Community and Connection

Becoming a certified site is a clear and manageable process you can feel confident taking on when you choose SQF. The community of SQF professionals will support you in coordinating the right staff, training, and tools to apply the standards to your unique business industry.

As the largest GFSI-recognized Certified Program Owner (CPO) in North America, SQFI does so much more than write and maintain the SQF codes. Our robust library of training materials and resources will help you navigate the daunting terrain of certification.

When you select SQFI, we'll welcome you into an exclusive network of food safety champions where you can get ongoing guidance and support such as:

- Resources to support certificate promotion
- Business development
- On-demand training and education

When you invest in SQF certification, you also gain access to:

- 1,000s of practitioners and professionals in the SQF community
- A network for solution and benchmarking discussions
- Access to the annual SQF Conference

SQF Certification is a Strong Return on Investment

When you invest in SQF certification, your return on investment will be seen through a:

- Stronger brand
- More secure supply chain
- Robust food safety management system



With SQF Certification, You Join Leaders

SQF certification will enhance trust in your business, help expand your collaborative reach, and position you as a leader in food safety.

Retailers, foodservice and manufacturing companies that solidify compliance with international and domestic food safety regulations assure customers that food has been produced, processed, prepared, and handled according to the highest possible standards, at all levels of the supply chain.

The Evolution of the SQF Program

The SQF Codes were first developed in Australia in 1994 and was first recognized in 2004 by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) as a standard that meets its benchmark requirements.

Purchased by FMI in 2003, the SQF Program benefits from direct retail stakeholder input to help food manufacture and production companies meet the highest standards of food safety.

The most recent edition of the SQF Food Safety Codes is the SQF Codes Edition 9, published October 2020.

The SQF Family of Food Safety Codes

Comprised of 13 industry specific codes, the SQF family of Codes provide step by step instruction for production and manufacture sites to become SQF certified.

- Primary Plant Production
- Primary Animal Production
- Aquaculture
- Food Manufacturing
- Pet Food Manufacturing
- Animal Product Manufacturing
- Animal Feed Manufacturing
- Dietary Supplements Manufacturing
- Manufacture of Food Packaging
- Storage and Distribution
- Food Retail *
- Foodservice *
- Quality

**Edition 8.1 Codes, not updated to Edition 9.*

To Access Edition 9 Codes, visit the link or scan the QR code:

www.sqfi.com/resource-center/sqf-code-edition-9-downloads/

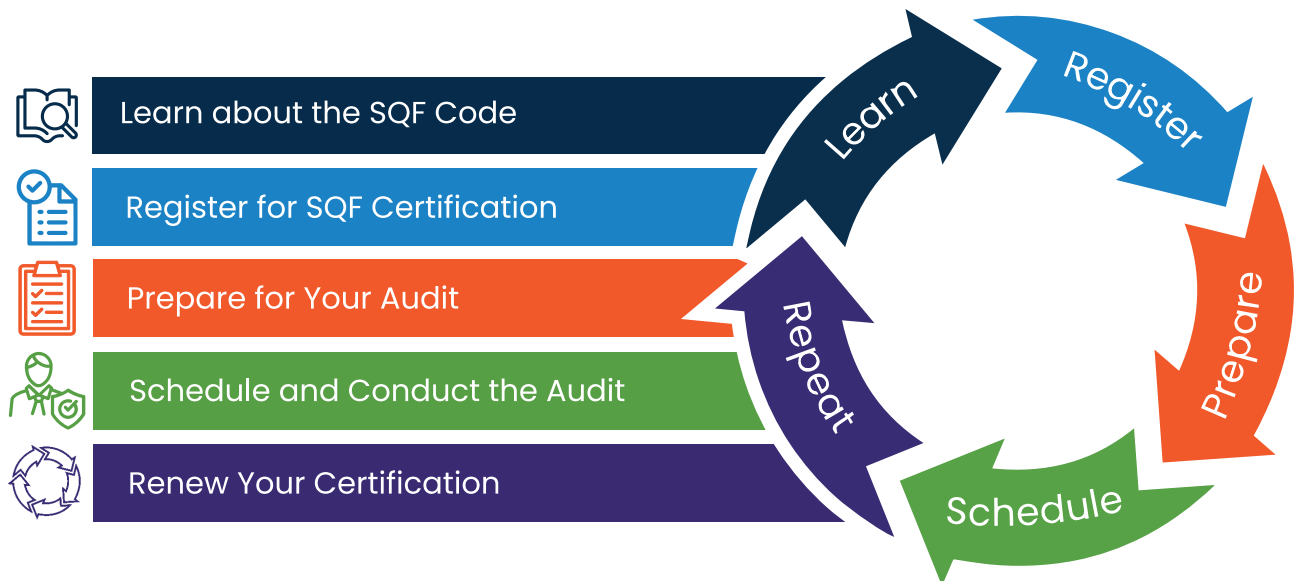


Getting Started

Learn about SQF Certification

There are many options for learning about the SQF Code. Start by downloading the right code that fits your industry. Then look into one of the following:

- **Online Courses** – Our Implementing SQF Systems course is available through our online training center, Zosi.
- **Instructor Led Courses** – Our Licensed Training Centers offer Implementing SQF Systems courses in many different locations throughout the US and Globally.
- **Learn At Your Pace** – Our Codes are available for free to download and study here



Select your SQF Program

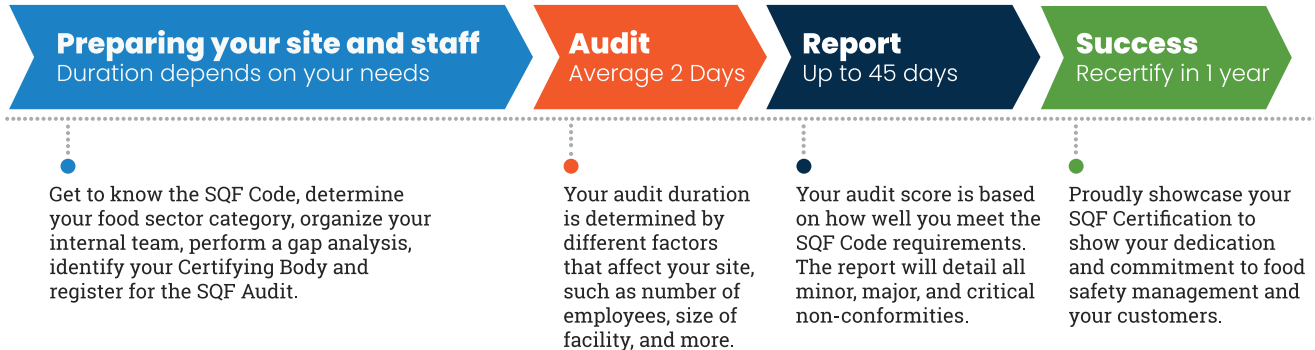
Starting your food safety journey has never been easier; whether you are a small family-owned business or a large chain corporation – it all begins with choosing the most suitable SQF Program. Based on your needs and your Food Sector Category (FSC), SQFI has developed a series of steps to help you identify which Program is best suited for your site.

www.sqfi.com/what-is-the-sqf-program/which-program-is-right-for-me/

SQFI Values Your Time and Wants You to Make the Most of Your Certification Investment

We know gaining SQF certification takes time and money. The certification process can vary depending on how big and complex your operation is. Audit preparation also looks different for everyone.

Although it will look slightly different for everyone, here's a breakdown of the typical process.



How long does it take to gain SQF certification?

The certification process varies based on your organization's size and operations. Also consider the time it will take to prepare for the audit. Your CB will help you determine a target date for completion based on your company's unique circumstances.

How much does SQF certification cost?

There are several costs associated with becoming SQF certified, including registration in the SQF database, the certification audit, consultant assistance (optional) and SQF practitioner training (optional). Your Certification Body will be able to give you an estimate.

SQF Partners Who Can Help Your Certification Journey

Partner with a Certification Body

Certification Bodies are licensed by SQFI to conduct SQF audits and issue the SQF certificate. Certification Bodies are the businesses that employ the auditors who conduct site audits. SQFI partners with licensed Certification Bodies that operate both nationwide and around the globe. Use our interactive map and search criteria below to find a Certification Body near you.

www.sqfi.com/how-to-get-certified/find-a-certification-body/

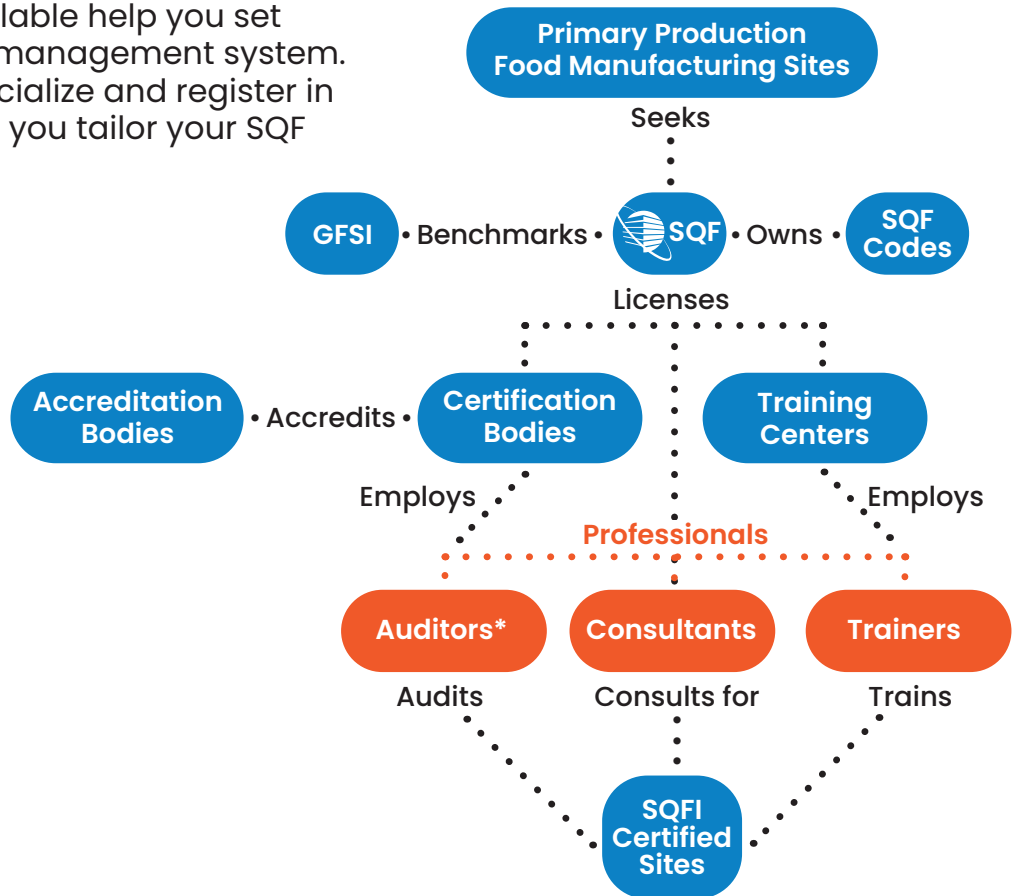
Utilize a SQF Licensed Training Center

Training centers are licensed by SQFI to hold training courses to teach you and your employees everything you need to know about building your SQF food safety system. Training centers employ officially licensed trainers to walk you through implementing and maintaining your food safety management system.

Courses can be held in person, via online modules, or through virtual instructor-led classes.

Connect with a SQF Professional Consultant

A network of qualified, licensed SQF consultants are available help you set up your food safety management system. SQF consultants specialize and register in specific FSCs to help you tailor your SQF system.



The SQFI Commitment

SQF certification assesses and assures the implementation of a site's food safety plan and confirms the site has the necessary tools and training to manage food safety. A site's achievement of SQF Food Safety Certification indicates a commitment to:

1. Produce safe, quality food.
2. Comply with the requirements of the SQF Code.
3. Comply with applicable food legislation.

About SQFI

The Safe Quality Food Institute (SQFI) was established to administer the leading global food safety and quality certification and management system. Since 1995, our mission has been to deliver consistent, globally-recognized food safety. Our certification program is based on sound scientific principles and the highest quality standards applied across all industry sectors. www.SQFI.com

About FMI

As the food industry association, FMI works with and on behalf of the entire industry to advance a safer, healthier and more efficient consumer food supply chain. FMI brings together a wide range of members across the value chain — from retailers that sell to consumers, to producers that supply food and other products, as well as the wide variety of companies providing critical services — to amplify the collective work of the industry. www.fmi.org

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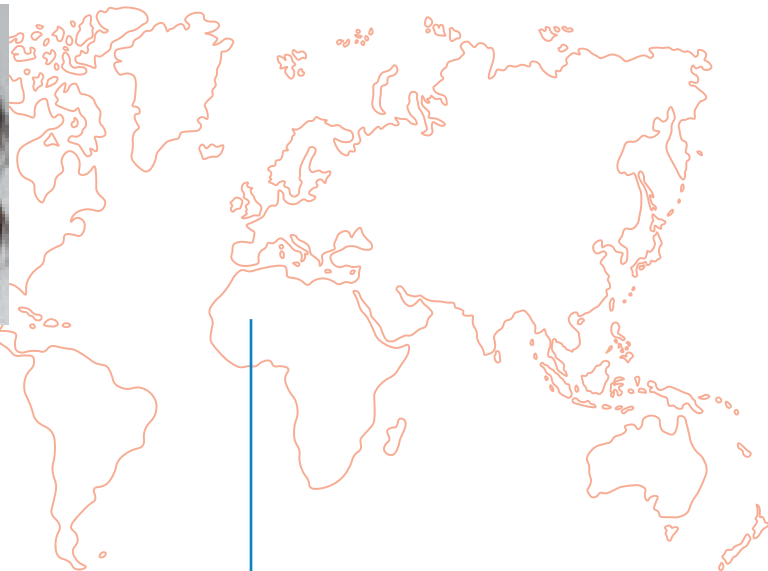
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