

EDITION 9 CODE AMENDMENT – SITE WITHDRAWAL MODIFICATION

Effective Date: February 20, 2026
 Page: 1 of 3

Amendment #: 005
 Approved by: LeAnn Chuboff

1. References

1.1 This Code Amendment applies to references to conditions for withdrawing an SQF certificate in the following SQF Code provisions.

The SQF Food Safety Code: Primary Plant Production, Edition 9	Part A, Step 14
The SQF Food Safety Code: Animal Feed Manufacturing, Edition 9	Part A, Step 14
The SQF Food Safety Code: Pet Food Manufacturing, Edition 9	Part A, Step 14
The SQF Food Safety Code: Storage and Distribution, Edition 9	Part A, Step 14
The SQF Food Safety Code: Manufacture of Food Packaging, Edition 9	Part A, Step 14
The SQF Food Safety Code: Manufacture of Dietary Supplements, Edition 9	Part A, Step 14
The SQF Food Safety Code: Animal Product Manufacturing, Edition 9	Part A, Step 14
The SQF Food Safety Code: Food Manufacturing, Edition 9	Part A, Step 14
The SQF Food Safety Code: Primary Animal Production, Edition 9	Part A, Step 14
The SQF Food Safety Code: Aquaculture, Edition 9	Part A, Step 14
The SQF Quality Code, Edition 9	Part A, Step 14
The SQF Food Safety Code: Food Retail, Edition 8.1	Part A, section 4.9
The SQF Food Safety Code: Foodservice, Edition 8.1	Part A, section 4.9
SQF Fundamentals for Primary Production – Basic and Intermediate, Edition 1.1	Part A, section 4.7
SQF Fundamentals for Food Manufacturing – Basic and Intermediate, Edition 1.1	Part A, section 4.7

1.2 SQF Food Safety Codes, Edition 9, Part A, Step 14 states:

The certification body withdraws the certificate if your site:

Has been placed under suspension and fails to follow the suspension protocol, as defined by the certification body in your notice of suspension;

- Fails to take approved corrective action within the timeframes specified, as determined by the certification body (refer to step 13.1);
- Has intentionally and systemically falsified its records;
- Fails to maintain the integrity of the SQF certificate; or
- Has an administrator, receiver, receiver and manager, official manager, or provisional liquidator appointed over its assets or where an order is made or a resolution passed for the closure of your site (except for the purposes of amalgamation or reconstruction) or the site ceases to carry on business or becomes bankrupt or applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors or makes any arrangement or composition with its creditors.

If your site’s certificate is withdrawn, the certification body immediately amends your site’s details on the SQFI assessment database to a “withdrawn” status, indicating the reason for the withdrawal, and the effective date. The certification body also:

EDITION 9 CODE AMENDMENT – SITE WITHDRAWAL MODIFICATION

- Informs you in writing that the SQF certificate has been withdrawn, the reason for such action, and the effective date. Acknowledgment of receipt of the withdrawal notification is required.
- Notifies SQFI about the withdrawal using the online change and notification form; and
- Instructs you to return the certificate within thirty (30) days of notification.

If your certificate is withdrawn, you are not permitted to re-apply for certification for twelve (12) months from the date the certificate was withdrawn by the certification body. The withdrawn site is posted on sqfi.com for twelve (12) months.

1.3 The SQF Quality Code, Edition 9, Part A, Step 14

The certification body withdraws the certificate if your site:

- Has been placed under suspension and fails to follow the suspension protocol, as defined by the certification body in your notice of suspension;
- Fails to take approved corrective action within the time frames specified, as determined by the certification body (refer to Part A, 13.1);
- Has intentionally and systemically falsified its records;
- Fails to maintain the integrity of the SQF quality certificate; or
- Has an administrator, receiver, receiver and manager, official manager, or provisional liquidator appointed over its assets or where an order is made or a resolution passed for the closure of your site (except for the purposes of amalgamation or reconstruction) or the site ceases to carry on business or becomes bankrupt or applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors or makes any arrangement or composition with its creditors.

If your site's certificate is withdrawn, the certification body immediately amends your site's details on the SQFI assessment database to a "withdrawn" status, indicating the reason for the withdrawal, and the effective date. The certification body also:

- Informs you in writing that the SQF quality certificate has been withdrawn, the reason for such action and the effective date. Acknowledgment of receipt of the withdrawal notification is required.
- Notifies SQFI about the withdrawal using the online change and notification form; and
- Instructs you to return the certificate within thirty (30) days of notification.

If your certificate is withdrawn, you are not permitted to re-apply for certification for twelve (12) months from the date the certificate was withdrawn by the certification body. The withdrawn site is posted on sqfi.com for twelve (12) months.

Withdrawn sites cannot use the SQF Quality Shield on packaging or other printed materials (refer to Appendix 4, 5.1).

1.4 SQF Food Safety Code: Food Retail and Foodservice, Edition 8.1, Part A section 4.9 and SQF Fundamentals for Primary Production and Food Manufacturing (Basic and Intermediate), Edition 1.1, Part A, section 4.7 state:

The certification body shall withdraw the certificate when the site:

- I. Has been placed under suspension and fails to submit approved corrective action plans as defined by the certification body within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving notice of the suspension, or fails to take approved corrective action as determined by the certification body within the time frames specified;
- II. Has falsified its records;
- III. Fails to maintain the integrity of the SQF certificate; or

EDITION 9 CODE AMENDMENT – SITE WITHDRAWAL MODIFICATION

- IV. Has an administrator, receiver, receiver and manager, official manager or provisional liquidator appointed over its assets or where an order is made or a resolution passed for the closure of the site (except for the purposes of amalgamation or reconstruction) or the site ceases to carry on business or becomes bankrupt, applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors or makes any arrangement or composition with its creditors.

When the site’s certificate is withdrawn, the certification body shall immediately amend the site’s details on the SQFI assessment database to a “withdrawn” status indicating the reason for the withdrawal and the date of effect; and in writing:

- I. Inform the site that the SQF certificate has been withdrawn, the reason for such action and the date of effect;
- II. Copy the Compliance Manager, SQFI (compliance@sqfi.com) on the notice of withdrawal sent to the site; and
- III. Instruct the site to return the certificate within thirty (30) days of notification.

A site that has their certificate withdrawn will not be permitted to apply for certification for twelve (12) months from the date the certificate was withdrawn by the SQFI certification body. The withdrawn site will be posted on the SQFI website (sqfi.com) for twelve (12) months.

2. General Principles

- 2.1 The SQF Code defines the conditions and processes under which a certification body may withdraw an SQF certificate.
- 2.2 The SQF Code requires sites to notify their certification body of significant changes that may affect the integrity of their certification, including changes in ownership, senior leadership, or financial status.
- 2.3 The intent of the SQF Code withdrawal provision is to protect the integrity of the SQF program and ensure certified sites have the capability and resources to maintain effective food safety and quality systems.

3. Amendment

- 3.1 SQF is amending the SQF Code to remove bankruptcy, insolvency, or the appointment of an administrator or similar official as an automatic condition for withdrawal of an SQF certificate.
- 3.2 For all SQF Code references listed in Section 1.1 of this Amendment, the following withdrawal condition is deleted:

“Has an administrator, receiver, receiver and manager, official manager, or provisional liquidator appointed over its assets or where an order is made or a resolution passed for the closure of your site (except for the purposes of amalgamation or reconstruction) or the site ceases to carry on business or becomes bankrupt or applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors or makes any arrangement or composition with its creditors.”
- 3.3 A site experiencing bankruptcy, insolvency, or similar event is still required to notify its certification body of the change in status.
- 3.4 Upon notification, the certification body shall evaluate whether the site continues to have the necessary resources, controls, and management commitment to maintain its SQF food safety and/or quality system.