

Have You Reviewed Your Food Safety Program?

Food Safety Programs - What are they? Do you need one? How do you use one?

The Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code sets out the legal requirements for those food businesses required to have a Food Safety Program. If the code applies to your food business then you must undertake a review of your Food Safety Program at least annually to ensure its adequacy and make sure that it is being followed to cover all food handling activities in your business.

Who needs to be involved in this review? This will usually be a team comprising - Owners, Managers and other staff who are assigned responsibility for the program.

Your food safety team needs to undertake a full review of your Food Safety Program annually or undertake a process review when you introduce new equipment or change your processes in any way.

How often should we meet?

Your organisation is in the best position to determine this, quarterly or six monthly reviews maybe more effective in the initial stages in order to achieve continuous improvement. Then you may wish to consider annual reviews.

What are the benefits?

You can improve your Food Safety Program through the review process. The process can also lead to the better management of the program.

What do you have to do?

Conduct the review.

The food safety team should analyse all available data from the review of your Food Safety Program and take the necessary action.

It is useful for a key person within the food safety team to summarise the key findings from internal and external audit reports prior to the meeting. The meeting should also discuss staff training, monitoring records, corrective actions, supplier monitoring, customer feedback, equipment maintenance, cleaning and pest control and any other information relevant to your Food Safety Program within your business.

How can we help?

Think ST Solutions has developed a document containing a checklist entitled "How to Conduct a Review of Your Food Safety Program" that walks you through this process. Visit our Products page to purchase.

