

May Food Safety News:

Standard 3.3.1: Update on the NSW Food Authority Audit Process

What is an audit?

- An audit verifies procedures and operational practices stated in your food safety program:
 - Are current
 - Will ensure safe food is being produced, and
 - Are being complied with (i.e. you are doing what you say you are doing)
 - Your FSP complies with all applicable state and national regulatory requirements

Audit Process

- The NSW Food Authority will check that you meet Standards 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 (i.e. the Support Programs);
- The NSW Food Authority will also check that you have a Food Safety Program based on Standard 3.2.1;
- The audit will give each facility/ organisation a rating based on compliance with these standards; and
- Compliances will be ranked based on whether they are critical, major or minor:-

Defect Category	Defect Definition	Numerical Value
Critical	A defect which will result in the production of unsafe or unsuitable food	32
Major	A defect which is likely to result in the production of unsafe or unsuitable food	8
Minor	A defect which could result in the production of unsafe or unsuitable food	2

Audit Rating

- Businesses receive a rating from A – E based on a cumulative point score

Rating	Total number of allocated points	
A	0 - 15	PASS
B	16 - 31	PASS
C	32 - 47	MARGINAL
D	48 - 63	FAIL
E	64 and above	FAIL

Audit Frequency

- Audit frequency depends on performance
- Improvement notices will be issued where necessary
- Ultimate sanction – an organisation/s license will be revoked

Facility audit rating	Frequency of audits
A rated	12 monthly
B rated	6 monthly
C rated	6 monthly
D rated	Monthly
E rated	Monthly or more frequently depending on severity of issues

Who will conduct the audits?

- At the commencement of the Regulation, businesses will be able to choose from 2nd party or 3rd party audits
- To move to 3rd party businesses must have achieved an A/B rated audit
 - Advisory audits from 1 July 2005 can count retrospectively
- The auditor must be RABQSA certified and have appropriate experience
- The Authority's audit fees are currently \$143/hour with \$35 travel fee. May be increased to \$225/hour
- Audits likely to take 1-5 hrs depending on size of the facility

For Further Information:

NSW Food Authority:

- www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au
 - Click on *For Industry*
 - Click on *Industry Sector Requirements*
 - Click on *Food Service to Vulnerable Persons*
- TEL : 1300 552 406**
E-mail: contact@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au

FSANZ (Food Standards Australia New Zealand)

www.foodstandards.gov.au

NSW Meals on Wheels Association

- Stay in touch with the NSWMOW web site
- Phone the NSWMOW food safety help line on 1800 600 265
- Email the NSWMOW food safety consultant, Isobel Kidd at ikidd@fisherkidd.com