



# SQF Edition 9 - What are the Changes?

## INTRODUCTION

From May 24th, 2021, the SQFI will be introducing SQF Food safety Codes version 9. Changes have been made to meet the requirements of the new GFSI benchmarking document

SQF scheme documents are available on the SQFI website at <https://www.sqfi.com/resource-center/sqf-code-edition-9-downloads/>. You should review these documents to implement the scheme's requirements.

Certified organizations must implement any changes before their first audit after May 24th, 2021. Please read the scheme documents carefully to identify which if any changes apply to your organization.

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR SQF V9

Any organizations still certified to SQF V8.1 must be audited to V9 After May 24th, 2021, before this date all sites will be still audited to v 8.1.

- Obtain a copy of SQF V9 scheme documents
- Undertake a gap analysis
- Ensure you meet existing and new requirements
- Update your Food Safety System

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU?

To remain SQF certified, you must ensure your food safety system conforms to the requirements of the v9 Scheme by the time of your first audit after May 24th, 2021. Features of note include:

- There are no increases in audit duration for the upgrade however SQF have revised audit durations for Food manufacturing, Pet food and Animal feed sites to be 2 days on site audit time, Packaging and S&D to be 1 day on site.
- All recertification audits from May 24th, 2021 will be to SQF V9.
- Sites that scored a C grade in their 8.1 recertification before 24th May 2021 audit will have surveillance audits to v 8.1.
- There has been a reduction of the number of elements/clauses in all Codes, by consolidation/ combining and reducing repetition.
- All improvements and enhancements are made for a better audit experience creating value and confidence in the SQF certificate.
- Commonly used food sector categories incorporated into one Code making for an easier understanding and application of the Code requirements.
- Livestock, aquaculture, primary plant production, animal production, dietary supplements, pet food, and animal feed separated out to better address the risks to each industry scope.
- Scoring for Major NCR changed to from 10 point to 5 points.
- New Requirements: Food safety Culture and Internal Laboratories!