

Food Safety Supervisor

Do I need a Food Safety Supervisor?

Under the *Food Act 2006*, every licensable food business in Queensland will be required to have a Food Safety Supervisor by 22 February 2008. New food businesses licensed after 22 February 2008 are required to notify their local government within 30 days of the issue of their licence. There are penalties for not having a Food Safety Supervisor.

Who can be a Food Safety Supervisor and what is their role?

Anyone, including the business owner, licence holder, employee or an external contractor can be a Food Safety Supervisor for a business provided they meet the required competencies and are reasonably available at all times the business is operating.

A Food Safety Supervisor is required to take a lead role in supervising food safety in your food business. Apart from holding the required competencies, they must also:

- < have the ability to supervise food handling practices in the food business;
- < be reasonably available at all times the food business is operating; and
- < have the authority to supervise and give instructions to food handlers.

What training does a Food Safety Supervisor need?

A Food Safety Supervisor must have a statement of attainment issued by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) for the competencies identified in Table 1 or have demonstrated to an RTO that they have the prior skills, experience or training to meet these competencies.

Food Sector	National Competency Code	Competency Title
Food Processing	FDFCORFSY2A	Implement food safety program & procedures
Retail & Hospitality	THHGHS01B	Follow workplace hygiene procedures
	THHBCC11B	Implement food safety procedures
	or WRRLP6C	Apply retail food safety practices
Health & Community Services	HLTFS207B	Follow basic food safety practice
	HLTFS309B	Oversee the day-to-day implementation of food safety in the workplace
	HLTFS310B	Apply & monitor food safety requirements
Transport & Distribution	THHGHS01B	Follow workplace hygiene procedures
	THHBCC11B	Implement Food Safety Procedures

Table 1 - Minimum Competency Standards for Food Safety Supervisors

Note: Competency codes and titles are set by the National Quality Council (Dept of Education, Science and Training) and may change from time to time. If you are unable to find a registered training organisation who offers the above mentioned competencies, contact Queensland Health on (07) 3234 0938 for the latest list of approved competency codes.

Table 2 below provides examples of the types of food businesses that fall into the above food sectors

Food Processing	Retail & Hospitality	Health & Community Services	Transport & Distribution
Flour mills	Supermarkets	Hospitals	Warehouses
Canneries	Convenience stores	Childcare centres	Bulk food distribution centres
Packers	Grocers	Nursing homes	
Bakers	Delicatessens	Hostels	
Breweries	Restaurants	Meals on wheels	
Catering for airlines	Hotels	Catering for Hospitals, Nursing Homes etc	
Ice manufacturing	Take-away & cafes		
Wine production	Catering for private functions		
Pre-prepared meals	Regular markets & stalls		

Table 2- Food sectors & businesses

Where can I get the required training or recognition of prior competency?

Food Safety Supervisor training is conducted by registered training organisations across Australia. Certain registered training organisations will be registered in Queensland to deliver the competencies identified in Table 1. The list of registered training organisations able to deliver the required Food Safety Supervisor training or assess application recognition of prior learning can be located at: www.ntis.gov.au. Simply search using the competencies identified in Table 1 limiting your search to RTOs in Queensland. Alternatively you can contact Queensland Health at www.health.qld.gov.au, or on (07) 3234 0938.

What is considered 'reasonably available' for a Food Safety Supervisor?

The *Food Act 2006* requires a Food Safety Supervisor to be reasonably available at all times the business is operating in case they need to be contacted by the local government or a food handler. Contact also includes being able to supervise food handling operations of the business if issues arise that cannot be resolved by other forms of contact.

There is no specific requirement to have one (1) Food Safety Supervisor for every store location but they must be reasonably available as described above. If in doubt, discuss the situation with your local government.

Do I need to notify anyone about my Food Safety Supervisor?

Yes, if you are required to have a Food Safety Supervisor you must notify the local government who issues your licence of the details of your Food Safety Supervisor (within 30 days of the licence being issued). You must also notify the local government of any changes to your Food Safety Supervisor, or their contact details within 14 days of the change.

There are penalties for not fulfilling your notification requirements.

Further information

If you have any questions regarding Food Safety Supervisor, contact your local government who issues your licence.

Further information for food industry can also be obtained from the Queensland Health website at www.health.qld.gov.au/industry/food.