

Regulatory Food Safety Auditor System

The Regulatory Food Safety Auditor System allows eligible food businesses to apply for third party audits of their facilities, ensuring compliance with the [NSW Food Act 2003 \(the Act\)](#). This system is designed to make the audit process more flexible and efficient for your business.

Why are food safety audits crucial for your business?

The Act requires food businesses to maintain a Food Safety Program (FSP) to manage food safety risks. Additionally, it is a requirement for a business to prepare, implement, maintain and monitor their FSP. Regular audits are a crucial part of this process, as they help to: protect public health and safety ensure the food you prepare, serve or sell is safe for human consumption verify your compliance with the NSW Food Regulations.

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- protect public health and safety
- ensure the food you prepare, serve or sell is safe for human consumption
- verify your compliance with the NSW Food Regulations.

Audits can be conducted by:

- an authorised officer from the NSW Food Authority, or
 - a regulatory food safety auditor (third party auditor) if your facility is approved under this system.
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Third Party Auditor Scheme

The Third Party Auditor (TPA) scheme is an initiative of the NSW Food Authority that enables approved external auditors to conduct food safety audits in specific industries, and approved high-risk areas including:

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| • Facilities licensed to provide food to vulnerable persons | • Seafood processing |
| • Cold food storage | • Seafood processing–RTE products |
| • Dairy primary production | • Seafood processing–RTE including wet storage |
| • Plant products | • Aquaculture with processing, excluding shellfish–RTE products. |
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Why choose a third party auditor?

- ✓ **Convenience:** schedule audits at a time that fits your business needs.
 - ✓ **Consistency:** build a relationship with the same auditor, ensuring they understand your systems and processes.
 - ✓ **Efficiency:** with a familiar auditor, audits may take less time, minimise need to repeat information.
 - ✓ **Cost savings:** fixed price or negotiated audit fees.
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Auditor powers and limitations

TPAs can rate an audit as 'unacceptable' but do not have the same enforcement powers as a NSW Food Authority employed authorised officer. All audit results, including unacceptable ratings, are shared with the NSW Food Authority for follow-up as required.

TPAs are only permitted to audit food businesses within their approved scope.

Is your business eligible to use a third party auditor?

To apply, your food business must meet the following requirements:

1. A or B rating on your last two audits.
 2. A satisfactory compliance history.
 3. No outstanding enforcement action.
 4. Operate in an eligible industry (Note: export-registered businesses are not eligible).
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How to apply

Applying is simple! Just complete the facility [application form](#) available on the [NSW Food Authority website](#). Your application will be reviewed, and you'll be notified of the outcome of your application.

Where can you find approved third party auditors

A list of approved regulatory food safety auditors is available on the [Food Authority's Auditor Register](#).

Resources on the Food Authority website:

- [Audits in the Food Industry](#)
 - [Guidance on Audits](#) (PDF, 493 KB)
 - [Guide to implementing the Regulatory Food Safety Auditor System](#) (PDF)
 - [Regulatory Food Safety Auditor Manual](#) (PDF, 551 KB)
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More information

- Visit foodauthority.nsw.gov.au
 - Email food.contact@dpird.nsw.gov.au
 - Phone 1300 552 406
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