



AUDITING & TRACEABILITY ASSISTANCE

Food Business Assistance can provide comprehensive assistance for food businesses needing to set up the systems required to audit their internal procedures or external suppliers. Local support that you can trust; practical assistance that works.

Assistance is provided by food industry professionals with extensive auditing experience of both internal quality, technical and operational systems as well as external suppliers and contractors. They also have extensive experience in setting up testing and implementing traceability and product recall systems.

TRACEABILITY & PRODUCT RECALL

Article 18 of General Food Law regulations (EC) 178/2002

Under this article food businesses are required to:

- a. Identify their suppliers of food, food producing animals and any other substance intended or expected to be incorporated into food.*
- b. Identify the businesses to which they have supplied products and*
- c. produce this information to the competent authorities on demand.*

The Food Standards Agency advises that the only information required by Article 18 is to be able to provide the name of the businesses that supply you and to whom you have supplied your products; known as the one step back – one step forward approach.

However EC law should be interpreted according to it's purpose, the role of Article 18 is to make available the information required in order to comply with Articles 19 and 20 (withdrawal, recall and notification).

As a minimum; traceability records should include the address of the customer or supplier, nature and quantity of the materials or products and the date of delivery. Records of customers only need to be kept if they are themselves businesses.

The BRC and EFSIS standards completely reject the one step back – one step forward approach as being wholly inadequate. Under these standards detailed records including batch details are required to be kept and regularly audited.

As good manufacturing practice a food operation should adopt the BRC standard for traceability. This standard also requires food operations to have in place an internal audit plan of their own systems as well as regular audits of suppliers based on documented food safety risks.

CONTRACT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Many small companies can avoid the expense of a full time experienced technical auditor by contracting FBA to provide audit support and backup as required.

The EHO requires that any food business has product traceability in place that meets Article 18. The BRC and EFSIS standards require a more complex and regularly tested system. FBA can provide the support required in order to establish, run and audit effective traceability and recall systems.

SPECIFIC PROCESS ASSISTANCE

FBA can provide assistance in various aspects of external and internal auditing. This can range from introducing the process and the issues involved right through to managing an audit plan and carrying out the audits on your behalf.

INTERNAL AUDIT SYSTEMS

- Introduction to internal auditing and developing an audit plan
- Auditing internal technical management systems
- Auditing internal quality systems
- Auditing internal manufacturing systems
- Auditing internal hygiene systems

EXTERNAL AUDIT SYSTEMS

- Introduction to external auditing and developing an audit plan
- Auditing external raw material & packaging suppliers
- Auditing external co-manufacturers and co-packers
- Auditing external contractors

TRACEABILITY AND PRODUCT RECALL SYSTEMS

- Introduction to traceability and product recall
- Developing and managing a traceability system
- Auditing the traceability system
- Developing and managing a product recall system
- Auditing the product recall system