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Programme Specification

Highfield Certified Food Safety Management Programme

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Highfield Certified Food Safety Management Programme

Introduction

This specification is designed to outline all you need to know about the Highfield Certified Food Safety Management Programme. If you have any further questions, please contact your centre manager.

Introduction to the Programme:

One of the biggest problems faced by the food industry is that, despite spending millions, if not billions of pounds on training and certificating food handlers, carrying out enforcement inspections and third-party audits and implementing many different types of HACCP programmes, food poisoning cases/outbreaks, deaths, food complaints and recalls remain at an unacceptable level.

Many businesses and Governments mandate Level 1 or Level 2 food safety qualifications for food handlers, but very few mandate Level 3 and Level 4 food safety qualifications for supervisors and managers. However, if there is a food poisoning outbreak, in most cases it is the result of poor management as opposed to the fault of a food handler. Quite often Level 2 food handlers end up with a greater food safety knowledge than some managers and this can result in resentment and even direct instructions to ignore what the food handlers were taught. Furthermore, unless supervisors are trained to a higher level than food handlers, they will not be able to ensure that the food handlers implement what they have been taught. The net result is that a few weeks or months after the training, most food handlers forget what they have been taught and businesses are not getting value for money. The situation is exacerbated by auditors and inspectors who accept the “certificate on the wall” as acceptable evidence of trained, competent food handlers.

An additional problem arises when Governments mandate all food business to implement HACCP systems. The situation is such that supervisors and managers are not trained to the correct level to implement HACCP systems, and they are not even able to determine if the consultants employed to develop and implement HACCP systems are competent to do so. The net result can be totally inappropriate, where they end up with complex HACCP systems that nobody in the business understands and they probably gather dust filed in the manager’s office.

Allergens in food are resulting in an increase in customer complaints, anaphylaxis and even death. But how many managers have received specific training on managing allergens and implementing policies and systems to prevent these serious problems?

We need to provide the tools and incentives for food businesses to accept responsibility for food safety. We need to train managers and we need to turn certification into competency. The starting point is to provide managers with sufficient knowledge to implement effective policies and procedures to manage hazards and ensure the sale of safe food. The best way to do this is through appropriate qualifications.

Qualifications benefit the learners with achievement; recognition; compliance; securing interviews and jobs and improved level of knowledge for the industry; but this does not reflect competency. Employers and food businesses will be looking to employ appropriate personnel who are not just qualified in food safety but are trained to effectively implement and manage food safety systems and staff.

The Highfield solution is effective training and qualification of supervisors and managers or potential supervisors and managers. Those who successfully complete one of the food safety management programmes, will be awarded a Highfield Food Safety certificate that recognises their achievement.

Converting qualifications to competency: To assist in achieving competency, the food safety certificates will be valid for only **one** year and renewal will be subject to completing 24 hours of Continuing Professional Development (CPD). This requirement ensures that supervisors and managers will keep themselves up to date with the latest information regarding food safety issues that may affect their business. This will include information on food poisoning outbreaks, food complaints, allergens, recalls, legislation and new scientific information.

Important Note: Highfield recommends that you contact the relevant Government Department in the country that you want to deliver this programme, to ensure that local laws are being adhered to and that there are no additional approval requirements. It may be that you are required to register as a training provider within the country itself. Highfield approves centres, based on its own criteria but does not represent any other organisation or departments. Any Government or compulsory food safety training of food handlers will enhance the effectiveness of the programme.

Certification Categories:

Certification Title	Food Safety Supervisor (Catering) FSSC	Food Safety Manager (Catering) FSMC	Food Safety Supervisor (Manufacturing) FSSM	Food Safety Manager (Manufacturing) FSMM
Level	3	4	3	4
Qualifications covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 3 Award in Food Safety in Catering (RQF/International - 3 days) • Level 3 Award in Auditing and Inspection (RQF/International - 1 day) • Level 3 Award in HACCP for Catering (CODEX/Catering/ RQF/International - 1 day) • Level 3 Award in Allergen Management in Catering (RQF/International - 1 day) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 4 Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering (RQF/International - 5 days) • Level 3 Award in Auditing and Inspection (RQF/International - 1 day) • Level 4 International Award in Managing HACCP for Catering (CODEX/Catering/ RQF/International - 3 days) • Level 3 Award in Allergen Management in Catering (RQF/International - 1 day) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 3 Award in Food Safety in Manufacturing (RQF/International - 3 days) • Level 3 Award in Auditing and Inspection (RQF/International - 1 day) • Level 3 Award in HACCP for Food Manufacturing (RQF/International - 2 days) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 4 Award in Food Safety Management for Manufacturing (RQF/International - 5 days) • Level 3 Award in Auditing and Inspection (RQF/International - 1 day) • Level 4 Award in HACCP for Management (RQF - CODEX Principles) (5 days)
Training Days	6 days or 7 days if all UK quals completed	10 days or 12 days if all UK quals completed	6 days	11 days

Entry requirements

There are no specific entry requirements to register for this programme; however, for the Manager Certification, it is highly recommended that the learner has a level 3 qualification in food safety or in HACCP.

Guidance on delivery

The number of training days for each of the certification categories is a recommendation. The tutor can adjust the number of training days based on a learner's prior learning, experience, needs and local circumstances.

For Example:

If a learner has completed a Level 3 qualification in Food safety/equivalent*, the training days can be reduced by 3 days.

*equivalency of qualifications/prior learning recognition will need to be approved by Highfield.

Important note: Although the training days can be amended, the learner **must** sit the exams for all the individual qualifications, to receive the qualification certificates and the final certified food safety manager certification.

Guidance on Assessment

Irrespective of the number of training days and prior learning, all learners are required to attend the assessment for all the individual qualifications, listed under each certification category. The assessment methodology for each of the qualifications listed above are detailed in their relevant specifications which are available on the Highfield website.

Recognition of prior learning (RPL)

Centres may apply to use recognition of prior learning or prior achievement for learners who have achieved any of the qualifications listed under each certification category. If learners have achieved any of these qualifications* within the **last two years** from the date of application for the certified manager programme, they will only need to complete the training and assessment for any of the missing qualifications.

For further information on how centres can apply to use RPL as described above, please refer to the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) policy in the Member's Area of the Highfield website. This policy should be read in conjunction with this specification and all other relevant Highfield Qualifications documentation.

***Qualifications will need to be recognised qualifications/from a recognised awarding organisation. Highfield reserves the right to confirm what will be considered as suitable relevant qualifications.**

Geographical Coverage

This is an international programme and can be delivered in any country. For delivery in the UK, the learner will need to complete the RQF HACCP qualification, instead of the international qualification.

Tutor Requirements

Highfield requires nominated tutors for the certification programmes, to have suitable qualifications in the relevant subject area. The tutor requirements for each of the qualifications are listed in the respective qualification specifications which are available on the Highfield website.

Reasonable adjustments and special considerations

Highfield Qualifications has measures in place for learners who require additional support. Reasonable adjustments such as additional time for the exam; assistance during the exam such as using a scribe or a reader, is available upon approval from Highfield. Please refer to Highfield Qualifications' Reasonable Adjustments Policy for further information/guidance on this.

<https://www.highfieldinternational.com/policies>

ID requirements

All learners must be instructed, ahead of the course/assessment when the learner registers and/or with any pre-course materials, to bring photographic identification to the assessment to be checked by the invigilator.

It is the responsibility of the Centre to have systems in place to ensure that the person taking an examination/assessment is indeed the person they are claiming to be. All Centres are therefore required to ensure that each learners identification is checked before they are allowed to sit the examination/assessment and write the type of photo identification provided by each learner on the Learner List under "Identification Provided". Highfield will accept the following as proof of a learners' Identity:

- National identity card (e.g. Emirates ID card);
- Valid passport (any nationality);
- Signed photo card driving licence;
- Valid warrant card issued by police, local authority or equivalent; or
- Other photographic ID card, e.g. employee ID card (must be current employer), student ID card, travel card.

For more information on learner ID requirements, please refer to Highfield Qualifications' Core Manual.

Progression opportunities

Successful completion of this programme, provides learners the competence to progress in their careers in the food industry, as safety supervisors or managers. Learners may also complete additional qualifications leading to progression as Hygiene Auditors or Food Safety trainers. Additional qualifications gained in the sector, will also count towards the mandatory CPD points required for the renewal of their certification(s), gained from this programme.

Useful websites

- www.highfieldqualifications.com
 - www.highfieldinternational.com
 - Food Standards Agency - www.food.gov.uk
 - Anaphylaxis Campaign - www.anaphylaxis.org.uk
 - People 1st - www.people1st.co.uk
 - Allergy UK - www.allergyuk.org
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Recommended training materials

- Hygiene for Management, Sprenger, R.A. Highfield Products
 - HACCP A Practical Approach, Mortimore, S & Wallace, C. Aspen Publications
 - Food Industry Briefing Series: HACCP, Mortimore, S & Wallace, C. Blackwell Publishing
 - Level 4 Award in HACCP for Management Training Presentation, Sprenger, Richard A. Highfield Products
 - Griffith, Chris. Effective Auditing & Inspection Skills Course Book. Highfield International Ltd.
 - Sprenger, Richard A. Level 3 Award in Effective Auditing and Inspection Skills PowerPoint. Highfield International Ltd.
 - Level 3 Allergen Management for Caterers PowerPoint Presentation, Highfield International Ltd (updated version due for release early 2019)
 - Food allergen awareness and control in catering Handbook for food handlers and managers; MacAuslan, Euan; Sprenger, Richard A; Hutchinson, Judith.
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CERTIFICATION RENEWAL POLICY

The certified manager programme certifications (FSSC, FSSM, FSMC, FSMM) are valid only for **one** year. Successful learners who complete the 24 hours CPD will be able to use the post nominal letters after their name. As this programme is built to improve sector competence, the renewal of the certification is based entirely on learners being able to demonstrate they have kept themselves up to date with the knowledge and/or the latest information regarding food safety issues that may affect their business, and that they have taken reasonable measures to ensure food safety as supervisors and managers (if employed). The issues/aspects that they focus on could include information on food poisoning outbreaks, food complaints, allergens, recalls, legislations and new scientific information.

In order to demonstrate sector competence, the certified food safety supervisors/managers must achieve **24 hours** of CPD during the year of certification. The possible ways of achieving the 24 hours of CPD could include:

- membership and participation in the Highfield Food Safety Forum or any other food safety forum discussions
- giving Tool box talks
- writing published articles on food safety
- obtaining additional relevant qualification including management qualifications
- attending seminars and webinars
- implementing hygiene improvements in your business if you are employed as a supervisor or manager
- undertaking internal audits and submitting reports to the management
- submitting reports related to the investigation of food complaints.

The evidence of the continuous professional development must be submitted as a portfolio of evidence either electronically or by post. Highfield will directly or through a nominated third party audit the evidence submitted, in order to confirm renewal of the certification.

Although the qualifications certificates received have no end date, the manager/supervisor certification will not be renewed if the CPD requirements are not met; or if there have been safety concerns directly related to the certified person.