

## Consultancy in Food Quality Assurance

Teagasc, through its Food Research Centre at Ashtown, provides a unique specialist technical service package to state bodies, regulatory agencies and industry, especially SMEs. This package encompasses specialist technical advice and standards development, technology/information transfer of research programme outputs and benchmarking through advanced technical assessment of completed processes.

### Background

Emerging stringent legislative principles and quality assurance standards clearly place the responsibility for assuring food safety on food sector management. Commercial customers and retailers are conscious of the realities of market-place incidents and seek assurance from their suppliers on the adequacy and effectiveness of the control systems that are in place.

To address these requirements, food quality management systems (incorporating food safety) must increasingly be robust to meet such demands, whilst also remaining cost effective in order to meet commercial objectives. There is an increasing focus on the quality assurance chain incorporating traceability from farm to fork. This, together with renewed government support, has provided unprecedented challenges and opportunities for the Irish food sector and supporting organisations.

### Benefits to Clients

Companies who implement and operate world class quality assurance standards enjoy the following benefits:

- Increased market access.
- Customer and consumer confidence.
- Enhanced ability to meet stringent legislative requirements.

### Service Details

This is a confidential service. We work with the client to put together the most suitable package in terms of assessment, consultancy and implementation and may include the following service options:

- Independent audits of food/feed businesses against appropriate industry standards.
- Supplier audits.
- Pre-certification audits for various standards including Bord Bia, BRC etc.



- Confidential reports on levels of compliance and non-compliance with relevant legislation/standards.
- Technology capability assessments and advice.
- Trouble-shooting/ problem-solving.

### Of Interest to

This service is relevant to food SMEs, state agencies and regulatory bodies, who wish to benefit from such specialist technical advice.

### How to Proceed

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