

QUANTAS SYSTEM TRAINING AND PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION LIMITED

196 Rose Street. Edinburgh. United Kingdom. EH2 4AT

Phone: 07440461689

Quantascert.co.uk / info@quantascert.co.uk

CERTIFICATION AS A FOOD SAFETY AUDITOR

The FSMS Programme

To be effective, the regulation of food safety needs auditors who understand and are properly competent in the management systems approach. The purpose of the QSTPCL Food Safety management Systems Auditor Certification programme (the Food Safety Programme) is to provide confidence to the regulatory authorities, accreditation bodies, certification bodies, business and industry as well as directly to the public at large that auditors certified to this programme are competent. As part of the certification process we will evaluate you, the food safety auditor, against the requirements which reflect the key skills, knowledge and experience that define the competence you need to demonstrate during an audit.

The Food Safety Programme is based on the standards:

ISO TS 22003:2007, Food Safety Management Systems – Requirements for Bodies providing Audit and Certification of Food Safety Management Systems

- ISO 22000:2005, Food Safety Management Systems – Requirements for any Organization in the Food Chain
- HACCP, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point

and the auditing guidance standard:

ISO 19011:2002, *Guidelines on Quality and/or Environmental Management Systems Auditing*

Our award of certification means we have recognized that you understand and are competent (depending on the grade awarded) to:

uphold the principles of proper ethical conduct, fair presentation and due professional care communicate clearly orally and in writing with personnel at all levels of an organization plan and organize an audit of an FSMS

identify and understand relevant business processes

evaluate objective evidence and determine the effectiveness of an FSMS with particular reference to:

The effectiveness of the organization's management of risk through its risk assessment programme

The capability of an organization to maintain compliance with legislative requirements

The adequacy of the organization's emergency procedures and responses
The implementation of the risk control and improvements programmes
The continuous improvement of food safety performance

The Programme is intended for:

environmental health officers

quality, environmental or health and safety management systems auditors who possess a considerable understanding and knowledge of food safety issues and who are able to demonstrate competence to participate in food safety or integrated management system audits

food safety auditors who wish to have their auditing competence recognized.

This document provides you (new applicants and existing QSTPCL certified auditors) with information and instructions on:

the certification process and how to apply
the requirements for initial certification

the requirements for renewal of certification, including CPD requirements

the types of audits acceptable for certification
fees

the Code of Conduct.

Certification within the FSMS Programme is available, without restriction, to all individuals worldwide who satisfy the certification requirements.

Certification Grades

The FSMS Programme has five grades of certification:

- ⇒ FSMS Provisional Internal Auditor
- ⇒ FSMS Internal Auditor
- ⇒ FSMS Provisional Auditor
- ⇒ FSMS Auditor
- ⇒ FSMS Lead Auditor
- ⇒ FSMS Principal Auditor



To assist you in determining which grade is right for you, we have listed below descriptions of the characteristics of each grade and a brief summary of the certification requirements. You will find a more comprehensive description of these in the next section 'Initial Certification'.

FSMS Provisional Internal Auditor

Who is suited to this grade?

This is an entry or training grade for internal auditors who do not yet have the necessary internal auditing experience required for certification to the Internal Auditor grade. Many internal auditors start at this grade after initial training as the first step.

Summary of certification requirements for this grade:

Education

At least secondary education

Work Experience

Five years, or 4 years with a degree or near degree One year of environmental work experience

Auditor Training

An QSTPCL certified FSMS ISO 22001 Foundation course or accepted alternative An QSTPCL certified FSMS Internal Auditor course or accepted alternative or An QSTPCL certified FSMS Auditor/Lead Auditor course or accepted alternative.

Auditing Experience

None.

FSMS Internal Auditor

Who is suited to this grade?

You should consider this grade if you conduct internal audits of your organization's FSMS. In most cases you will not be a full time auditor, and you may only audit a few times a year, but you will have a good understanding of Food safety management systems and how they add value within your own organization. Because internal auditing is only part of your work, we do not require the same level of qualification and experience as for the other grades. Certification to this grade is valuable to you in the same way as with other qualifications that recognize your competence. It is valued by your employer not only as an indicator of your competence, but also because it supports your organization's ISO 22001 management system. This grade is a natural progression from the provisional grade for internal auditors and you should apply for regrade (from Provisional) as soon as you have completed the internal auditing experience.

Summary of certification requirements for this grade:

Education

At least secondary education

Work Experience

Five years, or 4 years with a degree or near Degree One year of food safety work experience

Auditor Training

An QSTPCL certified FSMS ISO 22001 Foundation course or accepted alternative An QSTPCL certified FSMS Internal Auditing course or accepted alternative or An QSTPCL certified FSMS Auditor/Lead Auditor course or accepted alternative

Auditing Experience

Five audits totalling at least 15 hours.

FSMS Provisional Auditor

Who is suited to this grade?

This is the entry or training grade, and you should consider this if you intend to make auditing your career. The grade recognizes you to have the appropriate personal attributes, educational, professional and technical competences but have not yet had sufficient opportunity to meet the auditing experience requirements necessary for certification to the other grades. Most career auditors start at this grade and it is seen as the first step.

This grade is also used by experienced auditors who are taking a temporary break from auditing or have moved from auditing to management and who still see value in maintaining QSTPCL certification.

Summary of certification requirements for this grade:

Education

At least secondary education

Work Experience

Five years, or 4 years with a degree or near degree

Two years of quality work experience

Auditor Training

An QSTPCL certified FSMS Auditor/Lead Auditor course or accepted alternative

Auditing Experience

None.

Who is suited to this grade?

This grade is a natural progression from the provisional grade and you should apply for regrade (from provisional) as soon as you have completed the required auditing experience. This grade recognizes you as a competent auditor, contributing as an effective member of an audit team. It is regarded as the next step in the career ladder and most auditors who hold this grade intend to move onto either the lead or principal grades.

Summary of certification requirements for this grade:

Education

At least secondary education

Work Experience

Five years, or 4 years with a degree or near Degree Two years of quality work experience

Auditor Training

An QSTPCL certified FSMS Auditor/Lead Auditor course or accepted alternative

Auditing Experience

Four audits as an auditor-in-training totalling 20 days, 10 days minimum on-site.

FSMS Lead Auditor

Who is suited to this grade?

Most auditors working for certification bodies are lead auditors, as are auditors who perform supplier audits for large organizations. This grade is reserved for competent auditors experienced at managing audits and leading teams.

Summary of certification requirements for this grade:

Education

At least secondary education

Work Experience

Five years, or 4 years with a degree or near degree Two years of quality work experience

Auditor Training

An QSTPCL certified FSMS Auditor/Lead Auditor course or accepted alternative

Auditing Experience (in total, i.e. assuming you do not currently hold the FSMS Auditor grade)

Four audits as an auditor-in-training totalling 20 days, 10 days minimum on-site

Three audits as lead auditor-in-training totalling

15 days, 10 days minimum on-site.

FSMS Principal Auditor

Who is suited to this grade?

This grade is designed as an alternative to the Lead Auditor grade and is intended to recognize the considerable experience and competence of two categories of auditors who operate on their own (i.e. as a team of one, performing sole audits); Auditors with a background in quality consulting (whose key competences are implementing quality management systems and performing all aspects of the audit process without assistance) Auditors with a background in leading audit teams (as lead auditors) but who now audit on their own (whose key competences are audit management and team leadership). We consider the Principal Auditor and Lead Auditor grades as being, on balance, of an equivalent standard and we do not intend that auditors hold the Principal Auditor and Lead Auditor grade, or any other grade, at the same time.

Summary of certification requirements for this grade:

Education

Consultant route:

A degree or near degree or

Team leader route:

At least secondary education

Work Experience

Consultant route:



Six years of quality work experience or

Team leader route:

Five years, or 4 years with a degree or near degree Two years of quality work experience

Auditor Training

An QSTPCL certified FSMS Auditor/Lead Auditor course or accepted alternative

Auditing Experience

Consultant route:

Seven sole or lead audits totalling 35 days of which a minimum of 20 days must have been on-site (these numbers assume you do not currently hold the FSMS Auditor or FSMS Lead Auditor grade)

or

Team leader route:

Six years certified to the Lead Auditor grade three sole audits where you were required to demonstrate effective audit management skills within complex and demanding situations.

Initial Certification

We will evaluate your application based on your demonstration of the competences needed for effective audit of quality management systems. You can demonstrate these competences through a combination of education, work experience, auditor training and audit experience. Unless otherwise indicated, we will accept a less comprehensive coverage of the scope and depth of competences for the FSMS Internal Auditor grade.

Education

For all grades except FSMS Principal Auditor (consultant route):

You need to have completed a minimum of secondary education. If you have a degree or near degree level qualification, we will reduce the requirement for work experience. Acceptable qualifications include those awarded by an institution, recognized by a national governmental body or accredited by a national professional body.

For FSMS Principal Auditor grade (consultant route):

You need a degree, near degree or acceptable equivalent. All post graduate diplomas, undergraduate and post graduate degrees awarded in a relevant subject will normally be accepted.

Work Experience

General, relevant work experience:

For all grades except for the FSMS Principal Auditor (consultant route):

You need to have at least 5 years of relevant work experience, this is reduced to 4 years if you have a degree or near degree. We consider relevant work experience to be a technical, managerial or professional position where you are required to exercise judgement, solve problems and communicate with other managers, employees and customers.

For FSMS Principal Auditor (consultant route):

You must have at least 6 years of work experience, all of which must be quality work experience.

Quality work experience:

For all grades except FSMS Provisional Internal Auditor, FSMS Internal Auditor and FSMS Principal Auditor (consultant route):

You must also have completed 2 years (which maybe included as part of the 4 or 5 years total work experience) in a job that is directly relevant to the knowledge and skills requirements detailed above.

Competences

Auditing principles, procedures and techniques that enable you to apply these as appropriate to different audits and ensure that you conduct audits in a consistent and systematic manner.

Management system and reference documents that enable you to comprehend/define the scope of an audit and apply audit criteria.

Quality related methods and techniques the enable you to examine quality management systems and to generate appropriate audit findings and conclusions

Processes and products, including

Generic Auditing Competences

Audit principles, procedures and techniques that enable you to apply these as appropriate to different audits and ensure that you conduct audits in a consistent and systematic manner

Management system and reference documents that enable you to comprehend/define the scope of the

audit and apply audit criteria Organizational situations that enable you to comprehend an organization's operational context Applicable laws, regulations and other requirements relevant to the discipline that enable you to work within, and be aware of, the requirements that apply to the organization being audited.

FSMS Auditing Competences

Quality management methods and techniques that enable you to examine quality management systems and to generate appropriate audit findings and conclusions Quality and technology that enable you to understand the fundamental relationships between human activities and the environment Technical and quality aspects of operations that enable you to understand the interaction of your Organization's activities, products, services and operations with the environment.

Examples of acceptable work experience include:

full-time role as manager, supervisor, engineer or technician involved in technical aspects of facility operation in compliance with quality regulations implementation and maintenance of FSMS or integrated management systems involving health, safety, quality and quality compliance management monitoring compliance with quality law and regulations on behalf of a regulating body auditing FSMS on behalf of an accredited certification body assessment of supplier probity against an acceptable FSMS standard on behalf of an employing organization provision of appropriate consultancy services involving FSMS.

For FSMS Provisional Internal Auditor and FSMS Internal Auditor:

The requirement is for 1 year of quality work experience, and we will accept experience that is more general than that described in the examples above.

For FSMS Principal Auditor (consultant route):

You must have at least 6 years of quality work experience. The significant majority of this work experience must have been conducted at a senior level within an organization, either as an employee or as a contractor. Because we are looking for evidence of quality related competences, acquired through working within relevant fields, we will only accept auditing experience as contributing up to a maximum of half of this requirement. You must have acquired the 6 years of quality experience within the previous 10 years. If your quality work experience is not included in the examples above, you will need to provide us with evidence that supports your claim that your work experience is acceptable. Irrespective of the nature of your job, a key requirement is that you have acquired and can demonstrate knowledge and understanding of risk assessment and risk mitigation. This requirement applies to all grades of FSMS auditor. For all grades, periods of training cannot be included in this work experience requirement.

Auditor Training:

For FSMS Provisional Internal Auditor or FSMS Internal Auditor grades:

You must have successfully completed either an QSTPCL certified ISO 9001 Foundation course (or an acceptable alternative) and an QSTPCL certified FSMS Internal Auditor course (or an acceptable alternative) or the training requirement specified for any of the other grades.

For all other grades:

You must have successfully completed either an QSTPCL certified FSMS Auditor/Lead Auditor course (or an acceptable alternative) or an QSTPCL certified *Generic Auditor/Lead Auditor* course (or an acceptable alternative) and an QSTPCL certified FSMS Auditor Conversion course (or an acceptable alternative). Acceptable alternatives include some FSMS and FSMS courses approved by other training approval bodies. Exceptionally, we will consider accepting training completed through other ways, but the onus will be on you to satisfy us that this training at least meets the learning outcomes of our prescribed courses. You should normally have successfully completed auditor training within the 3 year period immediately prior to application for certification. We may accept training completed prior to this period if you provide evidence of recent, relevant work experience and currency of your auditing skills. If you are already certified as a FSMS auditor to one of the FSMS 2000 grades, we will only require you to have completed the shorter QSTPCL certified FSMS Auditor Conversion course or accepted equivalent. We advise you to refer to the QSTPCL website www.quantascert.co.uk for a current listing of all QSTPCL approved training organizations offering QSTPCL certified FSMS auditor training courses.

Auditing Experience

For FSMS Provisional Internal Auditor grade:

No auditing experience is required for certification to this grade.

For FSMS Internal Auditor grade:

You need to have performed at least 5 internal audits, each of which must have been of at least 3 hours duration and must have included all elements of the audit cycle; audit planning, document review, auditing, interviewing, audit reporting and must not have involved areas or activities that yourself perform. (However, we will accept audits of activities for which you are directly or indirectly responsible, e.g. as a line manager).

For FSMS Provisional Auditor grade:

No auditing experience is required for certification to this grade.

For FSMS Auditor grade:

You need to have performed at least 4 complete audits. Auditing activity must include document review, preparation and performance of on-site audit activities and audit reporting. The duration of these audits must not be less than 20 days, 10 days of which must have been acquired on-site. Although we recommend you should complete all of the audits under the direction and guidance of an auditor competent as a team leader (currently certified as a lead auditor or who has equivalent competence), we acknowledge that for many auditors this will be very difficult and costly to arrange. Consequently, we will accept a minimum of 1 audit under these conditions. We may require this team leader to attest to your competence to audit as a team member.

For FSMS Lead Auditor grade:

In addition to the audit requirement for the FSMS Auditor grade listed above, you must have completed 3 acceptable audits as the leader of an audit team which included at least one other auditor. The duration of the 3 lead audits must not be less than 15 days, 10 days of which must have been acquired on-site. Although we recommend you should complete all of the audits under the direction and guidance of an auditor competent as a team leader (currently certified as a lead auditor or who has equivalent competence), we acknowledge that for many auditors this will be very difficult and costly to arrange. Consequently, we will accept a minimum of 1 lead audit under these conditions. We may require this team leader to attest to your competence to lead an audit team. If you are already certified to the FSMS Auditor grade, you need only perform the 3 lead audits as stated above.

For FSMS Principal Auditor grade:

For the consultant route, you must have completed a minimum of 7 acceptable sole or lead audits totalling 35 days, 20 days of which must have been acquired on-site. If you are already certified to the FSMS Auditor grade you need only perform 3 sole or lead audits of a duration of not less than 15 days, 10 days of which must have been acquired on-site. For the team leader route, you must have acquired a minimum of 6 years of experience as a certified lead auditor (exceptionally, we will consider accepting less than 6 years as a certified lead auditor if you are able to demonstrate a very considerable and comprehensive experience in leading teams within a shorter period) and conducted 3 sole audits, where you were required to demonstrate effective audit management skills in complex and demanding situations. As guidance, we anticipate these to be initial audits of more than 1 day's duration performed within a complex organization.

General Guidance on Acceptance of Audits:

What audits do we accept?

For all grades except FSMS Lead Auditor:

We will only accept audits performed during the previous 3 year period.

For FSMS Lead Auditor grade:

You must have acquired the lead audit experience during the previous 2 years. We define 'previous period' as being that period immediately prior to the date we receive your completed application. We must be able to verify all audit experience you submit in your log sheets. Please make sure you include detailed information of the audits you perform and provide sufficient contact details so that we are able to perform the verification. We will only accept audits that have been performed in accordance with the auditing guidance standard, ISO 19011:2002 and against ISO 22000:2005, ISO/TS 22003:2007(E) or an alternative standard we accept as being equivalent. Audits performed against alternative national, international or company standards may be acceptable.

If you are already certified as an Auditor, Lead Auditor or Principal Auditor on one of our generic programmes, we will accept audits against ISO9001:2000, OH&S 18001, ISO 27001, ISO 20000, SA8000, ISO 14001 or acceptable alternatives where these do not exceed 25% of the food safety audit experience requirement. We will accept supplier audits (also known as second party audits), and certification audits (also known as third party audits, see below) and internal audits (also known as first party audits). We also accept consultancy audits (see below), which can be performed as first, second or third party audits.

Internal (first party) audits:

For FSMS Internal Auditor grade we will accept internal audits performed by you on parts of your own organization where you are independent from the operational activities you are auditing. We will consider accepting internal audits for other grades providing that, in addition to you being independent from the operational activities you are auditing, the scope of the audit was sufficiently broad and the audit was sufficiently complex to require you to use a range of auditing skills. So that we can consider your internal audits for acceptance, we advise you to provide us with appropriate and relevant supporting information.

Consultancy Audits:

We will accept audits performed by you when acting as a consultant for a client if all of the following are satisfied: the client (auditee) already had a fully established FSMS prior to the audit you had no part in setting up the FSMS being audited (except in specific circumstances as described below) you were independent of the auditee the scope of the

audit included all elements of the FSMS. We will also accept pre-assessment audits performed by you on an FSMS that you were involved in developing if the certification body subsequently awarded certification at the first attempt.

Surveillance (partial system) audits:

We do not normally accept surveillance (partial system) audits when submitted for initial certification (except for FSMS Internal Auditor). However, we do accept surveillance audits for renewal of certification. As a general rule we consider five surveillance audits to be equivalent to one full FSMS audit, but recognize that some surveillance audits can be very extensive. In such instances, we will accept fewer than five surveillance audits (as being equal to one full FSMS audit) if you provide us with evidence that supports your claim.

Audits we do not accept:

We do not accept:

audits of the same FSMS that are repeated more frequently than once every 12 months audits of less than 1 day (6 hours of on-site audit activity exclusive of breaks) duration, except for FSMS Internal Auditor grade where we will accept audits of 3 hours exclusive of breaks gap analysis, close out or follow up visits audits performed before successful completion of the formal training requirement.

How to Apply

Request an application pack

We will provide you with an application pack free of charge. Either contact us and we will send it to you by post, or download all the documents yourself from our website.

Tel: 07440461689

Fax: +44118 963 7012

Email: info@quantascert.co.uk

Website: www.quantascert.co.uk

Complete and submit the application form and documents

When you apply for certification, please complete the forms as instructed, enclose all the additional material requested and send to us with the application fee. At the application stage, please send only the application fee. Do not send the annual certification fee. If your application is successful, we will write and ask you to pay the annual certification fee.

We accept applications and supporting documentation in languages:

English

For all other languages we will need all correspondence in support of the application to be in the English language or to be accompanied by certified translations of the originals. This is particularly important for educational qualifications, training courses and audits. All qualifications submitted must be supported by documentary evidence. An example of acceptable evidence would be a good quality photocopy of the original certificate indicating the awarding body, the title and date of the award and the name of the person to whom the award was made. If any of this information is not available or is not clear, we may ask you to supply us with more evidence. The same applies if a copy of the certificate is not available, for example where it has been lost or destroyed. Acceptable evidence would include an official letter from the awarding body confirming the award. A transcript (i.e. an official, detailed account of the course content) of an award would also be acceptable evidence if it clearly states the date and title of the award. If no documentary evidence can be supplied by the awarding body, it is unlikely we would accept your qualification.

What we do

We usually take about four weeks to process your application. But that time may vary depending on the time required to verify the information submitted with the application. Giving us all the information we need will speed up the application process.

The process has four parts:

Administrative check

All applications are checked first by our administration staff to make sure you have included all the information we need.

Technical evaluation

This phase is performed by QSTPCL's technical experts, the Reviewing Officers. The Reviewing Officers evaluate the information submitted against the certification requirements and perform verification of some or all of this information. At the conclusion of the technical evaluation, the Reviewing Officers will make a recommendation on certification to the Certification Manager. We consider verification to be an essential element supporting the overall credibility of the certification process.

Consequently, great care is taken by the QSTPCL Reviewing Officers in reviewing and verifying applications against all aspects of the certification requirements. We will perform the evaluation as speedily as we can, but sometimes it is not possible to be as quick as we (and you) would like. Processing your application is likely to take longer if you have unusual educational qualifications, if your current (or former) employers are slow to provide verification information or if the auditee organizations are not helpful.

Certification

The final decision on your certification is made by the Certification Manager. The certification decision is performed independently from the technical evaluation process (detailed above).

Offer and award of certification

The Certification Manager will write formally to you with an offer of certification to the appropriate grade. We will send you this offer and ask you to pay your first annual fee. Certification will be awarded when we receive your payment of the annual fee. Your details are then added to our online register of certificated auditors and we will send you your certification card.

Fees

Fees are set annually and apply for the calendar year (1 January - 31 December). Contact us direct or see www.quantascert.co.uk for details of current fees applicable for your country.

Application Fee

We need you to pay this fee when you send in your application. Alternatively, we will invoice you on receipt of your application. This fee covers the costs of the application process and is not refunded if the application is unsuccessful.

Annual Certification Fee

This fee covers the annual cost of administering your certification. We will normally invoice you for this fee when we first offer you certification following your application, and thereafter each year one month before payment is due.

Application for Regrade Fee

This fee covers the costs of evaluating your regrade. We need you to pay this fee when you submit your request and, as with the application fee, the regrade fee is not refundable. If you are regarded during the year, we will not ask you to pay any further certification fees for that current year. You may request a regrade at any stage during the certification period. There is no regrade fee if we regrade you as part of the (3 year) renewal of certification process.

Renewal of Certification

For FSMS Principal Auditor grade

You need to have completed at least 5 acceptable audits, all 5 must have been either lead audits or sole audits. You must have performed all audits within the previous three year certification period.

We need you to tell us about any complaints made against your professional conduct. It is important that we know of any complaints as we need to consider these as part of the renewal of certification process. We will investigate all instances of complaints. If complaints are made against your conduct and you do not declare them, the consequences will be far more serious and may result in suspension or withdrawal of your certification.

We need you to make a declaration that you have always acted in compliance with the Code of Conduct (see Appendix III) and finally, we need you to pay the annual fee (please note there is no additional fee for renewal).

Because the fee will be dependent on the grade we offer you after renewal, we do not ask you to pay this fee until after we have completed the renewal. We will write to you with the results of the renewal and enclose the fee invoice and your new certification card. Failure to pay your annual fee will result in your certification being withdrawn.

You must renew your certification every three years, i.e. at the end of the third complete year. We will write to you two months before your certification period expires and ask you to send us your audit and CPD logs and other documents.

We will evaluate these against the renewal requirements listed below and make a certification decision. We will then write to you with the results.

The renewal of certification process involves these five requirements:

- Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- Audit experience
- Declaration of Complaints
- Compliance with the QSTPCL Code of Conduct
- Payment of the Annual Fee.

For all grades except the FSMS Provisional Internal Auditor and FSMS Internal Auditor grade:

You must have completed at least 45 hours of appropriate CPD during the 3 year period immediately prior to renewal of certification. We need you to provide us with evidence that you have met this requirement. (See Appendix I for guidance.)

For both FSMS Internal Auditor grade:

There is no CPD requirement. We need you to record and submit your audit experience on the audit log sheets (QSTPCL/106) which we supply.

For FSMS Provisional Internal Auditor grade:

There is no requirement to perform audits.

For FSMS Internal Auditor grade:

You need to have completed a minimum of 5 audits, the total duration of which must be at least 15 hours.

For FSMS Provisional Auditor grade:

There is no requirement to perform audits.

For FSMS Auditor grade:

You need to have completed at least 5 acceptable audits.

For FSMS Lead Auditor grade:

You need to have completed at least 5 acceptable audits, any 2 of which must have been as the leader of a team which included at least one other auditor.

Certification Categories & Requirements for Certification associated with Part II (b) based on requirements in ISO/TS 2003

Part II is specific to auditors carrying out third party (TPA) certification audits to ISO 22000.

The scope of the Part II certification includes the categories defined within ISO 22003 (see appendix I). We will evaluate your application and provide you with a certificate stating your competence against each of the requirements listed below;

Education

At least post secondary education that includes general microbiology and general chemistry Relevant knowledge corresponding to a postsecondary education that includes courses in the food chain industry category you are applying for; (see Appendix 1 for courses related to each category).

Work Experience

A minimum of five years full-time work experience in the food-chain-related industry including at least two years working in quality assurance or food safety functions within food production, manufacturing, retailing, inspection or enforcement, or the equivalent. The number of years of total work experience may be reduced by one year if you have completed an acceptable degree relevant to food safety.

Auditor Training

An QSTPCL certified Food Safety Auditor/Lead Auditor course or acceptable alternative

Auditing Experience

For an initial certification to your first

category you are required to submit a minimum of twelve FSMS audit days, six of which must have been completed onsite and under the direction and guidance of a lead auditor (or similarly qualified) competent to attest to your competence. The audits must have been conducted within 4 different organizations in the category you are applying for.

Part I I(b)

Requirement for Certification in association with Part II

We will evaluate your application based on your demonstration of the competences needed for effective audit of food safety management systems. You may demonstrate these competences through a combination of education, work experience, training and audit experience.

Our award of certification means we have recognized that you are able to meet the auditor competencies as referenced in ISO/TS 2003 (E), clause 7.2.4.6.2 pages 6 & 7.

Education

You need to have completed a minimum of post secondary education within general microbiology and general chemistry. If you have a degree or near-degree level qualification we will reduce the total requirement for work experience by one year. You are also required to be able to demonstrate knowledge corresponding to post secondary education in the category in which you are seeking certification (see Appendix 1 for courses related to each category). Acceptable qualifications include those awarded by an institution, recognized by a national governmental body or accredited by a national professional body.

Work Experience

You need a minimum of 5 years full-time work experience within the food-chain-related industry.

We consider relevant work experience to be a technical, managerial or professional position where you are required to exercise judgement, solve problems and communicate with other managers, employees and customers. Included within the five years must be at least 2 years of work within quality assurance or food safety functions within food production, manufacturing, retailing, inspection, enforcement or equivalent. The number of years of total work experience may be reduced by one year if you have completed appropriate post-secondary education. Periods of training cannot be included in this work experience requirement.

You must have successfully completed an QSTPCL certified Food Safety Auditor/Lead Auditor course or acceptable alternative. Acceptable alternatives

include some food safety courses approved by other training approval bodies. Exceptionally, we will consider accepting training completed through other ways, but the onus will be on you to satisfy us that this training at least meets our requirements. If you are already certified as an Auditor, Lead Auditor or Principal Auditor on one of our generic programmes, we will only require you to have successfully completed an QSTPCL certified Food Safety Auditor Conversion course and successfully completed a minimum one day training course that includes training in:

- HACCP principles, hazard assessment and hazard analysis, and
- Food safety management principles including relevant pre-requisite programmes (PRP's) of Codex Alimentarius.

You should normally have successfully completed auditor training within the 3 year period immediately prior to application for certification. We may accept training completed prior to this period if you provide evidence of recent, relevant work experience, and currency of your auditing skills. We advise you to refer to the QSTPCL website

www.quantascert.co.uk for a current listing of all QSTPCL approved training organizations offering QSTPCL certified food safety auditor training courses.

Audit Experience

For initial certification to your first category you need to have performed a minimum of 12 FSMS audit days all under the direction and guidance of a lead auditor (or similarly qualified) competent to attest to your competence. The audits must have been conducted within 4 different organizations in the category you are applying for.

General Guidance on Acceptance of Auditing

What audits do we accept?

We will only accept audits performed during the previous 3 year period. We must be able to verify all audit experience you submit in your log sheets. Please make sure you include detailed information of the audits you perform including the category you are auditing against and provide sufficient contact details so that we are able to perform the verification.

For Part II we will only accept **third party** audits that have been performed in accordance with the auditing guidance standard, ISO 19011:2002 and against ISO 22000:2005, ISO/TS 22003:2007(E) or an alternative standard we accept as being equivalent. Audits performed against alternative national, international or company standards may be acceptable.

Audits we do not accept:

We do not accept:

internal, second party or consultancy audits audits of the same food safety management system that are repeated more frequently than once every 12 months audits of less than one day (6 hours of on-site audit activity exclusive of breaks) duration will accept audits of 3 hours exclusive of breaks gap analysis, close out or follow up visits audits performed before successful completion of the formal training requirement. surveillance audits submitted at the time of initial application.

How to Regrade

You can apply to be regraded to another grade at any time. When we offer you initial certification we will indicate the audit experience and competences you need to attain the next grade(s) of certification. To apply for regrade, you should complete QSTPCL/106 log sheets, enclose any additional information requested and send to us with the regrade fee. A successful application for regrade will not normally result in a change to your renewal of certification date. If you decide not to apply for regrade during your certification period, we will write to you two months before your certification period expires as part of the renewal of certification process and ask you to send us your audit and CPD logs. At this point we will let you know the current regrade requirement. There is no regrade fee if you are regraded as part of the (3 year) renewal of certification process. Please contact us if you need further advice on how to regrade.

Other Information

You have the right to appeal against any certification decision taken by us. We operate a quality system that includes established procedures for considering appeals and complaints.

We enforce (i.e. suspend or withdraw) certification for two reasons:

If you fail to meet the certification criteria for the grade to which you are certified. This enforcement occurs when you apply to renew your certification. In most cases withdrawal will be preceded by an offer of an alternative grade for a period during which you have the opportunity to meet the requirements and be reinstated to the grade you originally held. If you breach the Code of Conduct, we reserve the right to undertake action against your certification if we find you to have acted contrary

to the Code of Conduct. Options available include suspending, or in instances of serious or sustained breach, withdrawing your certification.

We undertake to consider as strictly confidential all information, correspondence and documentation submitted by you to us in support of your certification activities. We reserve the right to publish relevant details of each certified auditor in the register available online at www.quantascert.co.uk.

The certification of auditors by us and all activities associated with the administration of the register is governed in accordance with English Law and is subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts.

When your application is successful, we award certification for a period of 3 years, beginning in the month we award certification. This 3 year period is referred to as the certification period. At the end of each certification period we require you to renew your certification. If you are successful at renewal, we award you certification for a further 3 year certification period, and so on. During the certification period, at the end of the first and second years, you may maintain certification by payment of the annual certification fee and by compliance with the Code of Conduct. We don't require you to submit any other documentation at the end of year 1 and year 2. At the end of the third year, all certified auditors are required to complete the renewal of certification process.

We will accept audits performed against standards which we evaluate as being equivalent or complementary to ISO 9001, e.g. those associated with quality sustainability, social responsibility and EMAS. We maintain a list of acceptable alternative standards but it is possible that you may claim audits against a standard that is not on this list. We have a procedure for evaluating new standards and you are advised to contact us for advice where you consider an alternative standard may be acceptable to us.

Certification Cards, certificates and the Register

We will send you a Certification Card following initial award of certification and annually thereafter when you pay your annual fee and comply with any other applicable requirements. This card is your primary evidence of certification and you should present this when you first begin an audit and thereafter whenever appropriate. Although the card is issued to you, it remains our property and you must return it to us should we ask you to. The QSTPCL Certificate is intended for display as a formal recognition of your certification to a specific grade. You should not use it as proof of certification. Please contact us if you wish to purchase a certificate. You can find details of all certified auditors in each country on the 'Find an Auditor' section of the QSTPCL website www.quantascert.co.uk

Appendix II

Guidance on Continuing Professional Development

CPD is a framework that encourages you to continuously update your professional knowledge, personal skills and competences. The purpose of CPD is to make you more effective as an auditor and to make the auditing profession more credible. The concept of CPD and the value it contributes is now recognized and accepted throughout all professional fields. As part of the renewal of certification process, you must demonstrate to us you have completed at least 45 hours CPD within the last 3 years in subjects that are broadly related to auditing and FSMS. Because there are so many topics that we recognize will enhance your auditing competence, we do not attempt to list them here. But we categorize these into 2 areas which are consistent with the 2 main areas of competence required by FSMS auditors:

1. Environment related
2. Auditing related

We recognize that no single method for learning suits everyone. Therefore, we will accept CPD acquired in ways that range from the very informal (e.g. reading and self study) to the formal (e.g. classroom training). We recognize that some ways of acquiring CPD are more effective than others, so we apply a 'weighting' where some activities are accorded more recognition than others. The activities are divided into 3 broad categories:

a) Unstructured; where 3 hours are accepted as one CPD hour

Included in this category would be distance and open learning study which is not assessed and does not lead to a qualification, the reading of professional and technical journals, books and other publications as well as relevant aspects of on-the-job training, where specific outcomes have been planned and identified. Reading QSTPCL IN form, our e-magazine available from www.quantascert.co.uk, or contributing to the QSTPCL online discussion forum, also available from our website, is also accepted.

b) Semi-structured; where 2 hours are accepted as one CPD hour

Included in this category would be non-interactive lectures, talks, etc., informal professional body meetings of a more social nature (networking opportunities), the research, preparation and first delivery of lectures/courses, publishing articles and forms of open and distance learning that involve assessment and that result in the acquisition of a qualification.

c) Structured; where each hour is accepted as one CPD hour

Examples of this category would be interactive and highly participative training courses and seminars, professional body meetings with formal lectures, active participation in development of standards. The range of activities that may be included within each category is extensive and the small number of examples above are intended to provide broad guidance only. Most auditors submit evidence of activities that include all 3 categories, but it is not a requirement that you do so. The only restriction we place is that unstructured CPD cannot constitute more than 1/3 (i.e. 15 hours) of the total acceptable CPD hours. It remains your responsibility to provide a case for acceptance of any activity you submit, and this must be supported by sufficient, appropriate evidence. This will involve you making and retaining records of your activities and having these properly verified where possible. We have developed a CPD and training log sheet (QSTPCL/173) for this purpose. It is in your interests to provide us with information in a clear, logical and easily understandable format. The speed with which we are able to evaluate and renew your certification will depend on this.

Appendix III

Definitions

Audit

A systematic independent and documented process for obtaining audit evidence and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which audit criteria are fulfilled.

Auditee

The organization being audited.

Audit Client

The person or organization requesting an audit.

Generic

Programmes where most of the initial requirements are the same: FSMS, QMS, OH&S, ISMS, ITSMS, Social Systems

Audit Team

Two or more auditors performing an audit, one of whom is appointed as leader.

Lead Audit

An audit where the auditor performed the audit whilst leading a team of at least one other auditor.

Sole Audit

An audit where one auditor performed all phases of the audit.

First Party Audit

An audit performed within an organization by that organization's own auditing resource. Also referred to as an internal audit.

Second Party Audit

An audit of contractors/suppliers undertaken by, or on behalf of, a purchasing organization. This may include the audit of companies or divisions supplying goods or services to others within the same group. Also referred to as a supplier audit.

Third Party Audit

An audit of an organization performed by a body that is independent of the organization being audited, e.g. certification body or registrar.



Appendix IV

Code of Conduct

It is a condition of certification that you agree to act accordance with, and be bound by the following Code of Conduct:

1. To act in a strictly trustworthy and unbiased manner in relation to both the organization to which you are employed, contracted or otherwise formally engaged (the audit organization) and any other organization involved in an audit performed by you or by personnel under your direct control.
2. To disclose to your employer any relationships you may have with the organization to be audited before undertaking any audit function in respect of that organization.
3. Not to accept any inducement, gift, commission, discount or any other profit from the organizations audited, from their representatives, or from any other interested person nor knowingly allow personnel for whom you are responsible to do so.
4. Not to disclose the findings, or any part of them, of the audit team for which you are responsible or of which you are part, or any other information gained in the course of the audit to any third party, unless authorized in writing by both the auditee and the audit organization to do so.
5. Not to act in any way prejudicial to the reputation or interest of the audit organization.
6. Not to act in any way prejudicial to the reputation, interests or credibility of QSTPCL.
7. In the event of any alleged breach of this code, to co-operate fully in any formal enquiry procedure.

