











## Choosing a Quality Assurance Standard

Considerations :	
1	What are the Quality Assurance requirements for supply to my current and future customers?
2	Is the QA Standard recognised by my current and future customers?
3	Does the QA Standard include HACCP – Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Points?
4	Who audits the QA Standard and do they have auditors based in my state / vicinity?
5	How much will the audits cost - Initial Gap audit, Desk audit and certification audit?
6	What additional audit costs may be incurred (Travel etc)?
7	How often will I need to be audited - 6 monthly, Annually?
8	What formal training will I or my personnel need to attend? Where, when and how much?
9	What QA records will I need to keep?
10	What verification testing will I need to perform?
11	What new requirements will people who supply me have to comply with?

### Food Safety Quality Standards Available in Australia –

Standard :	By Invitation Only?	Includes HACCP?	Best Suited To :	More Information :
Codex HACCP Alimentarius			Food Production and Handling	<a href="http://www.who.int/foodsafety/fs_management/haccp/en/">http://www.who.int/foodsafety/fs_management/haccp/en/</a>
Freshcare			On-farm production	<a href="http://www.freshcare.com.au/">http://www.freshcare.com.au/</a>
SQF1000			On-farm production	<a href="http://www.sqfi.com/">http://www.sqfi.com/</a>
SQF2000			Post Production, Handling and Distribution etc	
ISO9001:2008 + HACCP			Food Production and Handling	<a href="http://www.iso.org/iso/home.html">http://www.iso.org/iso/home.html</a>
Woolworths Quality Assurance			Woolworths Suppliers	<a href="http://www.wowlink.com.au">http://www.wowlink.com.au</a>
Global GAP			Exporters	<a href="http://www.globalgap.org">http://www.globalgap.org</a>
Coles QA			Coles Suppliers	<a href="http://www.supplier.coles.com.au/quality/default.aspx">http://www.supplier.coles.com.au/quality/default.aspx</a>
British Retail Consortium			Exporters	<a href="http://www.brcglobalstandards.com">http://www.brcglobalstandards.com</a>

## **Auditing Bodies –**

Auditing Bodies are licensed by the owners of Quality Assurance Standards to conduct audits of Quality Systems for the purposes of certification.

Before choosing an Auditing Body you should –

- Confirm they are licensed to audit the QA Standard which you are seeking
- Check they have auditors who operate within the vicinity or state where you are located
- Seek an estimate of audit costs from them (complex systems may take 2 or 3 days to audit)
- Agree upon an audit date which is convenient.

Most food safety Auditing Bodies can audit Codex HACCP requirements.  
Freshcare, SQF, Woolworths and Coles have their own licensed auditors.  
There are usually multiple auditing bodies which you can choose from.

Some of the Auditing Bodies who currently provide auditing services in Australia include –

- Silliker <http://www.silliker.com.au/html/auditing/index.php>
- Sci-Qual <http://www.sciqual.com.au/>
- Aus Qual <http://www.ausqual.com.au/>
- SGS International <http://www.au.sgs.com>

The frequency of re-certification audits is determined by the requirements of each Quality Standard.  
Note: All industry recognised QA systems require external audits at least annually.

TQAS assists clients in preparation for their audits by checking all operational records and management reviews. We also provide solutions to maintaining Approved Supplier programs.