

# FOOD TECHNICAL SERVICES

TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND TRAINING FOR THE FOOD INDUSTRY

## Assistance with site certification

### BRC Global Food Standard

BRITISH RETAIL CONSORTIUM



The British Retail consortium (BRC) is the trade association for British retailers - including the likes of Asda, Coop, M&S, Morrison, Sainsbury, Tesco and Waitrose. The BRC Food Technical Standard was first introduced in 1998; it has seen continual development and is now recognised as a global standard. It's a standard designed to assist brand owners to supply consistent quality and safety of food and to assist in due diligence defences. [www.brc.org.uk](http://www.brc.org.uk)

BRC certification is seen as a necessity for manufacturers wishing to supply retailer brand product. Those manufacturers not targeting this market, those considered too small or those without the required competencies could consider the SALSA scheme (see below).

Having:

- Been audited (whilst operating as Technical manager & Director) against BRC and its predecessor the EFSIS std since 1997.
- Supplied support to a variety of plants seeking BRC since 2007.
- Worked with each of the various upgraded BRC standards since version 1 of 1998.
- Coordinated the design and build of a new high care food plant and getting it to the top grade in the first year and successive years thereafter.

We appreciate that achieving BRC certification is not always simple.

It is however, well worth having. We have the experience and can provide support in a variety of ways to help you reach the standard.

To discuss whether or not it would be appropriate to have our involvement in any way - please contact Ian Meek via 01463 229593 or 07780 965049 or email [ianmeek@foodtechnicalservices.com](mailto:ianmeek@foodtechnicalservices.com)

Link back to website [www.foodtechnicalservices.com](http://www.foodtechnicalservices.com)

## **SALSA – Safe and local supplier assurance**



The SALSA Food safety certification scheme was set up as a simpler lower cost alternative to the BRC scheme (see above). It's recognised as the best certification scheme for small to medium sized producers not supplying retailer own brand.

Ian Meek (Food Technical Services) is approved by the both the IFST as a mentor and by SALSA as SALSA mentor.

[www.salsafood.co.uk](http://www.salsafood.co.uk)

The scheme has attracted much support; some examples:

**Asda** are endorsing the SALSA scheme as it provides the re-assurance that locally sourced branded products are safe and legal and are to the quality expected by our customers."

**Sainsbury:** "We're working hard with the SALSA scheme to ensure it delivers an effective means for small producers to demonstrate due diligence."

**3663** are working with the scheme, with the intention of making it part of our due diligence supplier approval system."

**Wicks Manor:** "Our SALSA approval can be likened to a master key which opens the different locks on various reputable customers. It also proves to the customer that we take food production and food safety seriously, therefore installing customer confidence"

**Waitrose:** "The SALSA scheme assists suppliers in securing advice and support, alongside an auditable standard and therefore gives assurance of product compliance."

**Ocado:** Now accept the standard

**NHS:** Now accept the standard.

### **Funded assistance:**

SALSA Mentoring is a straightforward way of getting your site to the standard. Mentors costs can attract up to 100% funding depending on business type and location.

**Of our mentoring clients audited, all have passed and gone onto enjoy the benefit of SALSA certification.**

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## Organic certification



Organic standards across the UK are governed by Defra, certification bodies include the following:

- Organic Farmers and Growers (GB-ORG-02),
- Scottish Organic Producers Association (GB-ORG-03),
- Organic Food Federation (GB-ORG-04),
- Soil Association (GB-ORG-05).

Having worked with each of them, we're able to help you to set the appropriate systems to achieve your accreditation, then for you to continue alone if you wish and manage the requirements yourselves.

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## Other certification

There are many other food standards across the UK including the following:

- Freedom foods – welfare and supply chain traceability stds
- Marine stewardship council - marine sustainability and supply chain traceability stds,
- Kosher standards (various)
- Scottish quality wild venison standards (capture and processing)

Having worked with each of them, we're able to help you to set the appropriate systems to achieve your accreditation, then for you to continue alone if you wish and manage the requirements yourselves.



We work with many certification schemes. Please do not hesitate to call should you require assistance in meeting standards or to determine if they're appropriate to you and if it is appropriate for us to assist.

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