

# HACCP Australia

## Food-safe Equipment Materials and Services

### New Pest Management Standard



#### INTRODUCTION

HACCP Australia operates a certification scheme for providers of food-safe equipment, materials and services to the food industry. The HACCP Australia Pest Management Standard lists the requirements to be met by a pest management organisation to achieve or maintain HACCP Australia Certification. It is a voluntary standard. Compliance to the standard is evaluated by auditing the operations of the pest management organisation. The audit process includes a review of documentation, records and on-site services.

The HACCP Australia Pest Management Standard has been updated. Issue 2.0 contains a number of new requirements. In almost all clauses there are substantial increases in guidance and definitions of requirements. This issue has a significantly different format from previous issues.

#### BACKGROUND

HACCP Australia has been auditing pest management organisations and their on-site operations for compliance with food industry requirements and food safety standards for over a decade. Organisations that comply with HACCP Australia's standards are offered certification. HACCP Australia's standard for pest management services was last updated in 2008.

The new version, Issue 2.0, was developed using extensive consultation over a period of three years, with pest management professionals, food businesses and food safety professionals all contributing extensive input. The final drafts of the standard were reviewed, discussed, amended and ultimately approved by a consensus committee of competent individuals representing pest management organisations, food manufacturers, food safety auditors and food safety certification body.

#### OVERVIEW of CHANGES

Issue 2.0 includes a number of new requirements. Most of these have been added to define and describe current best practice for pest management services for food businesses and to provide guidance for service providers and food businesses.

Pest management organisations that are currently certified by HACCP Australia are already compliant with the most of the new requirements, with the exception of a change to that which is required for approved chemical lists and a completely new requirement to undertake annual internal audits. Internal auditing is not currently practiced by some certified pest management organisations and those organisations will need to create and implement new systems to be compliant with the standard.

Detailed descriptions of the new requirements, some background on each and an estimate of the impact on currently certified organisations can be found on page 2.

#### TIMEFRAMES FOR COMPLIANCE

There is a two year transition period, starting 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017, for currently certified pest management organisations. During the transition period, compliance to the 'new' standard (Issue 2.0) will be assessed and reported to auditees but non-conformities will not be raised. Conformance with the 'old' standard (Issue 1.3) will continue to be required for re-certification until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

From 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019, re-certification audits will be conducted against Issue 2.0 and compliance with Issue 2.0 will be required for all pest management organisations that wish to be re-certified.

New applicants for certification will be assessed against the requirements of Issue 2.0 from March 2017.

## GET A COPY

*Pest Management Services for Food Businesses HACCP Australia Food Safety Standard Issue 2.0* is available free of charge to food businesses and pest management professionals.

To download a copy of the standard [click here](#).

## NEW REQUIREMENTS IN ISSUE 2.0

The tables below describe requirements that are new in Issue 2.0 and include an estimate of how much work is required for a currently certified pest management organisation to meet the new requirement.

<b>3.2</b>	<b>Technical expertise</b>
Intent	The pest management organisation shall have sufficient technical expertise to set up pest management systems, provide support to technicians performing services and provide advice to clients about pest management matters.
Purpose	To ensure that the pest management programmes and services provided by the pest management organisation are effective.
Requirements	A 'designated expert' is defined in the standard and certified pest management organisations must have at least one 'designated expert' for each branch that operates to this standard. Expert person/s should be responsible for designing and implementing pest management systems on food sites.
Comments	Technical expertise has been assumed but not explicitly addressed in previous HACCP Australia standards. The new requirements are not onerous; they reflect current industry practices and should not require any significant changes to current operations for certified pest management organisations. They will, however, prevent inexperienced persons from achieving certification for new single-operator businesses.

<b>4.3.1</b>	<b>Treatments on food sites</b>
Intent	Pest management activities shall be performed without risking food safety.
Purpose	To ensure food-safe servicing is provided by pest management organisations operating to this standard.
Requirement	Chemical treatments and other activities must be performed without contaminating food, food equipment and food packaging materials. This requirement should be addressed by including appropriate instructions within standard operating procedures.
Comments	Not a new concept, but the requirement is addressed much more explicitly in Issue 2.0 compared to previous issues of the standard. There are extensive guidelines accompanying this clause, which define best practice for performing treatments in food handling areas. The guidelines were developed with significant discussion and input from the pest management industry and have been agreed upon by a committee of stakeholders.

<b>5.1.3</b>	<b>Register of approved chemicals</b>
Purpose	To clearly state which chemicals, including pesticides, may be used when servicing food sites. To ensure that chemicals are chosen with due diligence.
Requirement	The register should distinguish between chemicals approved for use in food handling areas of food sites, other areas of food sites and non-food sites.
Comments	Previous issues of the standard did not require this level of detail in approved chemical lists. Changes will be required to approved chemicals lists in order to meet this new requirement.

<b>7.1</b>	<b>Equipment and devices for use in food handling areas of food sites</b>
Intent	Devices such as rodent bait stations, traps, flying insect controllers and insect lures which are provided by the pest management organisation shall be appropriate with respect to food safety and food industry best practice.
Purpose	To prevent contamination of food from unsuitable pest management devices, installations or equipment.
Requirements	Requirements for the physical characteristics of equipment and devices, as well as requirements for procurement systems are included in this clause.
Comments	Past issues of HACCP Australia's standards have not explicitly addressed pest management equipment and devices. The new requirements are accompanied by guidance about various types of devices. They closely align with current industry best practices and should not require any significant changes to current operations.

<b>7.2</b>	<b>Location of devices</b>
Intent	Devices such as rodent bait stations, traps, flying insect controllers and insect lures shall be appropriately located on food sites.
Purpose	To prevent contamination of food from pieces of equipment, dirty equipment, pesticides, pests and parts of pests.
Requirements	Requirements for locating and recording the location of devices and equipment are described in this clause.
Comments	There are no new concepts here and the requirements reflect current best practices. Pest management organisations that are currently certified should not need to make any changes to current operations to meet this new requirement.

<b>7.3</b>	<b>Labelling of rodent bait stations and other devices</b>
Intent	The pest management organisation shall properly label stations and other devices on food sites.
Purpose	To ensure that people on food sites can easily know what is inside equipment placed by pest management technicians.
Requirements	Requirements for labelling of stations that contain both toxic and non-toxic rodent baits, glue boards, snap traps and insect stations are described, as is a requirement to label devices with numbers.
Comments	Labelling was not explicitly addressed in prior issues of the standard. The new requirements describe well-accepted food industry conventions and are aligned with current good practice. Most pest management organisations that are currently certified are already in compliance with most if not all of these requirements.

<b>10.2</b>	<b>Internal audit system, including corrective action records</b>
Intent	The pest management organisation shall monitor the quality of its servicing and the suitability of its services for food businesses.
Purpose	To identify and rectify any problems occurring on food sites. To identify opportunities to improve pest management services on food sites. To monitor compliance with the requirements of this standard.
Requirements	Formal reviews of operations ('internal audits') must be performed at each HACCP-compliant food site at least once every 12 months. The internal audits must include a check of compliance to the on-site elements of the standard, including on-site activities, equipment, service reports, site maps and the like. There is a requirement for corrective actions to be formally recorded and closed out in a timely manner.
Comments	Internal audit requirements were not included in previous issues of the standard, because it was assumed that certified pest management organisations would provide appropriate oversight of on-site operations as a matter of course. Significant risks to food safety have been identified within some operations that are not subject to appropriate oversight in multiple audits over many years by HACCP Australia auditors, food businesses and other parties. HACCP Australia therefore proposed that internal auditing be formalised within the standard. This proposal was accepted by a committee of stakeholders, who also approved the final wording of the requirements. This is a significant change to the requirements for certified organisations. Some organisations will need to create and implement new systems to meet this requirement, other organisations will need to modify their existing internal auditing activities.

<b>11.1.2</b>	<b>Documented training plan</b>
Intent	The pest management organisation shall have defined the training requirements for its pest management technicians.
Purpose	To ensure that pest management technicians are appropriately trained and that skills are maintained.
Requirements	The organisation's training requirements must include knowledge of and competency in the organisation's standard operating procedures and other policies mentioned in this standard.
Comments	This concept has been assumed but not explicitly specified in previous issues of the standard. The requirement is a reflection of industry best practice and most currently certified organisations should not need to make any changes to meet the requirement.

## QUESTIONS?

Ask us! Contact your HACCP Australia Project Manager, call us on (02) 9956 6911 or write to us at [info@haccp.com.au](mailto:info@haccp.com.au).