

QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER

EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS

FBP20121 - Certificate II in Food Processing

This qualification describes the skills and knowledge required for those who work in operational roles, under supervision, in a food processing environment. At this level, workers have the technical skills to use a limited range of machinery and/or equipment to process food and carry out routine tasks guided by established procedures.

FBP30121 - Certificate III in Food Processing

This qualification reflects the role of individuals working as operators in a food processing environment who have responsibility for overseeing all or part of a processing plant and related equipment. They are required to work autonomously, use judgement, interpret information, and apply solutions to routine and some non-routine problems. They may also take some responsibility for the output of others.

This qualification offers specialisations in:

- Bottling and Packaging
- Brewing
- Confectionery
- Dairy Processing (cheese, powder and/or milk)
- Distilling
- Edible Oils (refining or cold pressing edible oils)
- Milling
- Non-alcoholic Beverages (fruit juice, cordial)
- Pet Food (companion animals)
- Sales
- Stock Feed (cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, poultry, fish – animals that produce for human consumption).

There are specialisations for poultry, meat and seafood processing that cover specific legislative and packaging requirements for these products.

FBP40321 - Certificate IV in Food Processing

This qualification reflects the role of workers who work in supervisory or middle management roles within food processing environments. Workers contribute specialist technical skills and knowledge to solve food production problems and supervise the work of others. Emphasis is on monitoring the implementation and quality control of food processing systems and procedures for optimal performance.

FBP50221 - Diploma of Food Safety Audit

This qualification reflects the role of workers who apply specialist knowledge and skills in food safety for auditing purposes. They conduct a range of audits in different environments to monitor food quality and safety according to relevant legislation, including food standards included in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code and industry codes of practice relating to validation and verification of a food safety program, and the audit requirements detailed in the National Regulatory Food Safety Auditor Guideline and Policy.

Regulatory food safety audits in Australia are covered by state, territory and Commonwealth legislative frameworks that support the requirements of the National Food Safety Audit Policy 2009.

For further information or advise contact
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CAREER PATHWAYS/SPECIALISATIONS

Some areas that Quality Assurance Officers might specialise in or progress towards:

Operations Manager:

Operations managers oversee their company's production of food related products. They oversee various departments, such as purchasing, warehousing, and manufacturing. They must make sure that their company's products meet or exceed clients' or customers' expectations and that their company's operations run smoothly and efficiently in addition to this they may be required to oversee budgets and meet production targets. Depending on the size of their company, they may be involved in establishing sales and profit goals as well as implementing changes to processes and policies. They must make sure that their company conducts their business in a safe manner by complying with safety and environmental rules and regulations.

Food Safety & Quality Assurance Manager:

The primary responsibility of this position is to ensure the Safety and Quality of products manufactured at the food processing facility. You will be expected to develop and implement food safety and quality management systems as well as review, revise or implement and monitor Food Safety Plans/ HACCP program, SSOP, GMP and other Quality Assurance and Food Safety programs. As the manager you will also lead certification audits and provide successful solutions to problems and track report, review Food safety and Quality to meet company KPIs. Your role will also require you to take on responsibility for meeting the legal requirements of a food processing company as they relate to product content and packaging and staff safety.

Product Specialist

The food processing industry is so diverse that the opportunity to become an industry leader or specialist in the quality assurance of a specific product is very high. Quality assurance skills are transferrable across industries so you may like to explore some of the niche industries that require staff to fill QA roles such as -

Wine and spirits industry, Meat industry, Cheese industry, Gourmet food industry, Fresh produce industry, Pet food and by products, Seafood industry, Confectionary and Baking.

For further information relating to this job click on the industry logo or scan the QR code.

	<p>Australian Food & Grocery Council</p>	
	<p>Food and Agribusiness Growth Centre</p>	
	<p>Dept of industry, science, energy & resources – food sector.</p>	
	<p>Australia Unlimited</p>	

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HINTS ON HOW TO APPLY FOR THIS JOB

The first thing to do is to look up the local food processing plants or employment agencies and ring them or meet with them to discuss the opportunity to work in this industry. If you can't locate a contractor then follow the 10 steps below that could assist you to secure work with a Quality Assurance Officer -

1. identify your strengths and weaknesses, especially in problem solving and botany as these are essential to being successful as a Quality Assurance Officer. Completing any of the following; hospitality, white card, food hygiene or forklift ticket training units of competence as well as using tools or machinery will provide the practical skills that will assist you to meet the selection criteria that employers set.
2. decide where you want to work; are you willing to relocate to get your dream job? There may be more opportunities in cities than in regional areas.
3. do some research, as to who the key employers are that could employ a Quality Assurance Officer such as food manufacturers, wineries, packaging plants or wholesale bakeries. Consider what area of the industry you would like to specialise in before making enquiries to see if they will take on trainees.
4. research information about these employers or companies that you would like to work for; find out what the entry requirements or essential criteria are that must be met; such as do you need to complete an aptitude test before getting an interview?
5. make a shortlist of potential prospective employers to contact. You may also like to chat to your job search agent or search some of the online employment agencies such as SEEK, Jobsearch, Indeed or Linked In to find job vacancies for electricians in your region.
6. create a quality resume and include your academic achievements, experience, interests and passions.
7. contact potential employers by writing or directly calling them to demonstrate your interest and communication skills. Prospective employers highly value self-starters and prospective career aspirants with initiative who take such steps to seek for themselves employment as an apprentice.
8. if you are still at school, you may be able to take up a school-based apprenticeship. There are opportunities available in some schools that allow you to take on a part-time apprenticeship known as a School-Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SBAT). Ask your school if they support this government initiative and ask the employer if they would be interested in such an arrangement. SBATs are a really good way to allow you to finish school and at the same time learn and earn as an apprentice.
9. your employer should contact the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASNs) - <https://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/> for further information on how to sign you up.
10. sign up to your traineeship with your employer (and support of your family if you are under 18 years old) to start "learning and earning" to be a Quality Assurance Officer.

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HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THESE RELATED JOBS?

There is a broad array of job opportunities in the food processing industry that may assist you to gain experience prior to commencing a career as a Quality Assurance Officer, some of which are listed below -

- ⇒ Cheesemaker
- ⇒ Oil Mill Processing Operator
- ⇒ Food / Beverage Packaging Technician
- ⇒ Confectionery Process Worker
- ⇒ Food Processing Sales Assistant
- ⇒ Pet Quality Assurance Officer
- ⇒ Dairy Process Operator
- ⇒ Feed Mill Operative / Miller's Assistant
- ⇒ Food and Beverage Salesperson / Sales Assistant
- ⇒ Distillery Cellar Hand
- ⇒ Bottling and Packaging Technician / Operator
- ⇒ Stock Feed Mill Hand / Attendant
- ⇒ Stock Feed Production Crew
- ⇒ Assistant Quality Officer, Food / Beverage Quality Control Officer
- ⇒ Brewery Cellar Hand, Sales Representative – Food Industry
- ⇒ Food / Beverage Production Technician / Process Worker, Brewer



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