

Food Safety Audits A Retailers Perspective

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The ASDA logo consists of the letters "ASDA" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid blue oval background.

ASDA

Agenda

- Introduction
- Where we were
- Why we moved to 2nd party auditing
- How we approached developing the audit
- What we have learnt over the last 3 years
- What next

Introduction

A little bit about me.

- **Over 35 years in the Food Industry**
- **Very much came from the factory**
- **Worked my way up from line operative to Factory Technical Manager & Group Technical roles**
- **Gained a PGD in Food safety management in my 40s**
- **Have worked for Big Brands and own label suppliers**
- **Moved to Asda in 2020 after a period auditing for another retailer**



**Where we
were**

- 2013 –‘Horsegate’ hit.
The food industry comes under pressure like never before
- 2014 Elliot report is published.
One of the recommendations being for a core food safety audit with retailer modules and less, more focused audits that are unannounced
- 2015 Asda launches the ‘ASDA bolt on’ with the BRC audit, with a requirement for fully unannounced



- 2021 more than 300 auditors from 30 + certification bodies across the world registered to complete audits on behalf of Asda
- Very few issues specific to Asda requirements being identified
- Asda Technical Managers heading to site completing other audits picking things up, that we really felt should have been picked up by the bolt on



**Why second
party audits?**

- Closer relationship with the auditors representing Asda
- Team dedicated to us that we have a say in
- Ability to move quickly if we have to change



- Auditor Consistency
- Better reporting
- Direct access to Myself and the Asda Technical team
- Audit findings that drive changes to policy and focus across our business



**How we
developed
the Asda Star
(Standards and requirements)
audit?**

- Tender process started in January 2022
- Trialled with a number of suppliers
- Started with a blank piece of paper
- Asked for honest feedback on the day



- It was key that we didn't just duplicate the GFSI audit
- 1 day Unannounced factory focused audit
- Compliance to Asda Policy, and key Food safety requirements



- Phased implementation, with first audits in October 2022 (selected suppliers and semi- announced)
- Personally, wrote to each supplier and asked for feedback
- Full roll out of unannounced programme February 2023



**The last 3
years**

- The approach works
- Our suppliers feel that it adds value to their sites
- We've introduced policy as a direct result of non-conformance trends
- We've introduced earned autonomy to reward good performance.



What next ?

- Keep reviewing, keep it fresh
- Keep listening - I'm always happy to take feedback, good or bad
- Be prepared to change based on trends we see in non-conformances or feedback from the supply base



**Thanks and
any
questions?**