



SQF Edition 10: Overview, Key Changes And How Rootwurks Can Help





Release Timeline:



Delayed due to GFSI benchmarking extension (through March 2026).

Edition 9 remains current for audits; minimum 6-month transition period.

Release date undetermined; sites should prepare now.

Key Focus Areas:



Change Management:

New documented procedures for all changes (e.g., equipment, vendors) to prevent risks proactively.



Food Safety Culture:

Mandatory plans for communication, training, feedback, and continuous improvement—beyond checklists to organizational mindset.



Environmental Monitoring:

Mandatory risk-based assessments; tailored strategies instead of uniform protocols.



How Rootwurks Supports SQF Edition 10

Food Safety Culture:

SQF Edition 10 defines food safety culture as a strategic evolution that transforms food safety from a mere procedural requirement into an organizational mindset. It requires moving beyond checklists to demonstrate comprehensive strategies in the following areas:

Effective Communication:

Ensuring clear and consistent messaging about food safety practices across all levels of the organization.

Comprehensive Employee Training:

Providing thorough, engaging training to equip employees with the knowledge and skills to uphold food safety standards.

Systematic Feedback Mechanisms:

Establishing structured processes to collect and address employee input, fostering a continuous dialogue on safety improvements.

Continuous Improvement Processes:

Implementing ongoing efforts to enhance food safety practices, adapting to new challenges and maintaining high standards.

This approach empowers employees at every level to become active guardians of food safety, emphasizing a proactive and holistic commitment rather than compliance alone.

Note that since Edition 10's release is delayed (pending GFSI benchmarking through March 2026), these details are based on preparatory guidance provided by SQF, with full implementation to follow a minimum six-month transition period after release.

SQF Requirement:

Demonstrate strategies for employee empowerment and proof of culture.

Rootwurks Solution:

Food safety culture course and assessment help determine company goals. Custom training modules with manager assessments and trackable checklists validate learning and on-floor application; AI-driven multilingual content (English/Spanish+) ensures engagement and culture buy-in.

SQF Requirement:

Show clear, effective communication and messaging for food safety.

Rootwurks Solution:

Employees use checklists to notify supervisors of issues before they worsen. Management can use Rootwurks to praise employees, helping build a culture of encouragement and accountability.



How Rootwurks Supports SQF Edition 10

Change Management:

SQF Edition 10 defines change management as a groundbreaking requirement that mandates organizations to develop documented procedures for handling all types of changes, such as equipment modifications or vendor transitions. This proactive approach ensures potential risks are identified and mitigated before they escalate, potentially reducing recall incidents. Additionally, it requires organizations to demonstrate comprehensive strategies in the following areas:

Risk Assessment:

Conducting thorough evaluations to identify potential hazards associated with changes.

Documentation and Training:

Maintaining detailed records and providing targeted training to ensure staff understand new procedures.

Monitoring and Verification:

Implementing ongoing oversight and validation processes to confirm compliance with updated protocols.

Continuous Review:

Regularly assessing change management effectiveness to adapt and improve safety measures.

The focus is on creating a structured process to manage changes effectively, maintaining food safety standards throughout operational shifts. Note that since Edition 10's release is delayed (pending GFSI benchmarking through March 2026), these details are based on preparatory guidance provided by SQF, with full implementation to follow a minimum six-month transition period after release.

SQF Requirement:

Documented procedures for handling changes to reduce recall risks.

Rootwurks Solution:

Built-in content builder for quick SOP creation/import; digital checklists and action plans for proactive risk management; hands-on customer success team helps build tailored course.



How Rootwurks Supports SQF Edition 10

Environmental Monitoring:

SQF Edition 10 defines environmental monitoring as a key update that mandates conducting a risk-based assessment to determine specific environmental monitoring needs, moving away from uniform protocols. This shift enables sites to develop monitoring strategies tailored to their operational risks and environments, enhancing food safety effectiveness. Additionally, it requires organizations to demonstrate comprehensive strategies in the following areas:

Risk-Based Assessment:

Performing detailed evaluations to identify site-specific environmental hazards and monitoring priorities.

Sampling and Testing:

Implementing regular, targeted sampling and testing protocols to detect contamination risks.

Data Analysis and Response:

Analyzing monitoring data to trigger corrective actions and prevent safety breaches.

Continuous Optimization:

Regularly refining monitoring plans based on emerging risks and audit feedback to maintain compliance.

The focus is on creating a flexible, proactive system to safeguard food safety tailored to each facility's unique conditions. Note that since Edition 10's release is delayed (pending GFSI benchmarking through March 2026), these details are based on preparatory guidance provided by SQF, with full implementation to follow a minimum six-month transition period

SQF Requirement:

Risk-based assessments for site-specific monitoring.

Rootwurks Solution:

Embedded SQF9/10 internal audit tools with risk assessment templates; verification features (e.g., observations, reports) provide auditable proof; all-in-one platform streamlines compliance.