As food production and distribution networks become ever more complex, food safety requirements have extended to suppliers at all levels of the supply chain. Many food packaging and packaging materials producers are now required to complete facility audits, product or material testing, and food safety certification, among other industry and regulatory requirements.

With 70 years of experience working with the food industry and protecting public health, NSF International understands the challenges that packaging producers face meeting customers’ quality and food safety demands. As a company that offers a variety of services from in-house laboratory testing to food safety audits, consulting, training and certification, NSF is your single source for packaging industry risk management services.
AUDITS AND CERTIFICATION

NSF provides a choice of food safety audit services for the packaging industry, up to and including audits leading to Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) certification.

Audits – Audits play a key role in verifying proper food safety practices at packaging and packaging material manufacturing plants. Its report data is used to help select suppliers, demonstrate due diligence for customers, and validate internal policies and procedures.

NSF’s Supplier Assurance Audit is a non-certified audit which has been used by the packaging industry for many years. It is an excellent tool for evaluating a facility’s compliance to HACCP and GMP requirements. Additionally, NSF works closely with several major retailers and foodservice companies to conduct proprietary audits for their packaging suppliers.

Certification – Today, many companies in the packaging sector are undertaking GFSI certification to help ensure food safety and brand protection and secure new business opportunities with customers specifying GFSI-certified packaging suppliers.

NSF is the leading global certifier to GFSI benchmarked standards, with exceptional technical expertise, consistently calibrated auditors and capacity for a timely path to certification. Our GFSI audits enable packaging and packaging materials manufacturers around the globe to demonstrate compliance to the world’s highest food safety standards. NSF is accredited to the following GFSI-benchmarked standards for packaging:

NSF also has the added benefit of being able to bundle any of the above audit types with ISO 9001 or ISO 14001 audits to provide cost savings, consistency, and convenience for the packaging producer.
CONSULTING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

NSF provides a broad range of consulting and technical services tailored to your needs as a packaging supplier to food manufacturers. These services include:

- **Package Integrity Testing**: Test the strength and integrity of your product’s package stored under various conditions.

- **Closure Testing**: Industry standard test methods are used to evaluate the performance of water and carbonated soft drink closures.

- **Permeation Testing**: Certified testing laboratory for oxygen transmission rate (OTR) and water vapor transmission rate (WVTR) of packages and films.

- **Shelf-life Testing and Improvement**: Maintain or extend your product’s shelf life by suggesting appropriate materials and packing techniques (including modified atmosphere packaging).

- **Troubleshooting Issues**: Determine the cause of shortened product shelf life or package failure.

- **Package/Product Interactions**: Evaluate the sensorial properties of packaging to ensure that undesirable odor or taste is not transferred to the food product.
AUDITING

In today's food safety environment, audits play a major role in ensuring brand protection. At NSF, we offer a wide range of second and third-party auditing services to support your desired objectives.

NSF has worked diligently to build the highest qualified and best calibrated auditor network in the food industry, with sector-specific expertise, capable of supporting your global food safety program. With many having 20 or more years of food industry experience, NSF auditors bring a wealth of expertise supporting clients in all key industry sectors, from restaurants, supermarkets and foodservice outlets to agriculture and processing plants, to storage and seafood sites, and more.

To help you manage your cost and your global programs, NSF employs multi-lingual local auditors in countries around the world. Using strong internal systems, technology, and oversight, we ensure competency, consistency, and quality of our auditors. Auditor training and calibration is not a single event but rather a continuous process, which NSF takes very seriously.

NSF’s Supplier Assurance Audit is an industry recognized food safety audit, often specified for non-GFSI certified food processors looking to supply food to major retailers. This one-day audit focuses on the areas of greatest food safety criticality, including Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs), HACCP, and supplier approval. It is the ideal precursor to Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) certification, and helps processors prepare for FSMA compliance.

Whether we are auditing food systems or products, NSF provides consistently high quality inspections, designed to add immediate value and improve your operational excellence.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

We were very happy with the service provided by NSF International and especially by our project manager. She was able to get things together for us that we needed to complete on an action list and reach everyone in our team to help them understand what needed to be completed prior to our audit.

We were down to the wire when working on our SQF certification, and this project would not have been possible to complete on time without NSF’s help. Our NSF contact is great at what she does, has a lot of experience and explains things very well to help everyone understand how things relate to food certification. She is very approachable, flexible and has great customer focus.

Cindy Ferguson, Operations Manager
Shepherd Thermoforming & Packaging
FOOD CONTACT MATERIAL REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

In addition to performance testing of your packaging, NSF offers a wide range of service offerings as a passport into three of the largest and most stringent food contact materials markets: the United States, Canada and Europe. To that end, NSF can provide the following materials evaluations:

21 CFR MATERIAL REVIEWS (US)
- Toxicological review to 21 CFR for intended end uses of the packaging
- Detailed compliance report identifying testing and specifications required

US FDA TESTING
- 21 CFR end product testing
- Compliance Policy Guide testing
- Migration testing
- Food Contact Notifications submission package to the FDA

HEALTH CANADA
- Food Contact Substance Migration testing to support Health Canada submissions

EU COMPLIANCE
- Toxicological review to the Framework Regulations and EU Directives
- Overall and Specific chemical migration testing
- Complete dossier to support Compliance
TRAINING

With constant changes in product testing and packaging technologies, it is difficult to stay on top of the latest trends and regulations. Trust NSF’s 20 years of training expertise to keep you informed, as we offer a series of training programs designed for the packaging industry. Our interactive courses cover the fundamentals of packaging and the information you need to ensure that requirements are met for packaging and product safety, suitability of use and sustainability initiatives.

> HACCP for Manufacturing Food Packaging Materials
> BRC Global Standard for Packaging and Packaging Materials Issue 5 – Understanding the Requirements
> Food Packaging Workshop: Material, Performance and Applications
> Implementing SQF Systems for Food Packaging Manufacturers
> IFS PACsecure, Version 1

NSF also offers a wide range of training courses designed to help prepare companies for GFSI certification, including SQF, BRC and FSSC 22000. Whether your organization is striving to become certified to a GFSI benchmarked standard or looking to maintain certification, NSF Training & Education Services’ wide range of training programs can meet your learning needs and help your organization focus on the development and ongoing management of your food safety and quality management systems. To see a list of upcoming public training courses or request a quote for onsite training, visit www.nsflearn.org or email us at nsflearn@nsf.org.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSURANCE

Under pressure from government, the media and consumers, the packaging industry is continually searching for new methods to make products more sustainable. Through product evaluation, testing and verification, the Sustainability division of NSF International offers a variety of services to support the packaging industry.

> The NSF Landfill-Free Program establishes criteria to evaluate and verify an organization’s waste management processes, and grants recognition to companies that can demonstrate that less than 1 percent of process waste is being sent to landfill.
> NSF can verify environmental claims made by your company, including recycled content, bio-based material, as well as compostability and biodegradability.
> NSF is an accredited reviewer for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Safer Choice program, which recognizes products that are safer for people and the environment. Products must meet stringent ingredient and product-level criteria and packaging is also reviewed to achieve Safer Choice labeling.
> The NSF Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) provides a responsible fiber sourcing certification that assures customers that your packaging materials come from reliable sources that promote sustainable forest management.
NSF International is a global public health organization that operates in more than 170 countries, with worldwide laboratory testing facilities, and expert resources across a wide range of professional fields including health sciences, software, food and beverages, sustainability and agriculture.