



The Vocational Education Training (VET) System

Vocational Education Training (VET) System is the primary means for the delivery of food safety and hygiene training to the food manufacturing sector.

Vocational education and training (VET) is education and training for the workplace and is part of a broader educational network in Australia that includes schools, universities and adult/community education.

The Australian VET system is:

- **Industry-led**

The employers, unions and professional associations of an industry define the outcomes that are required from training.

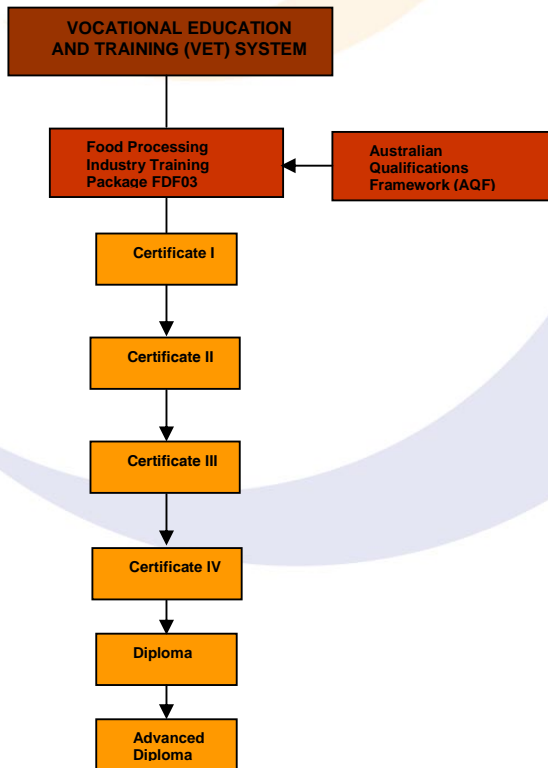
- **National**

The VET system is jointly-managed by state, territory and Australian governments, in partnership with industry and training providers.

Under the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), the achievement of a group of competencies leads to the attainment of a VET qualification.



What VET Qualifications are available?



Who Can Deliver VET Training?

Only an organisation registered under the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) can deliver nationally recognised training and/or assessment and issue Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualifications or statements of attainment. The 'Dairy Food Safety Note 12 – The National Training Framework' explains more about this.¹

In order to become registered, an organisation must apply to a state or territory registering body which will evaluate an organisation's operations against the Standards for Registered Training Organisations. In Victoria, this is the Office of Training and Tertiary Education (OTTE).

Food Industry Training Packages

The most commonly used VET package for the food industry is the FOOD PROCESSING TRAINING PACKAGE, known as course FDF03.

The Certificate's I & II in Food Processing (FDF20103) give the appropriate level of training to most factory level staff. Certificate's III & IV may be suitable for advanced levels such as supervisor's and quality assurance (QA) staff.

For example, in relation to food processing, which includes dairy food manufacturing, the minimum competency standards under the 'Victorian Food Act' are:²

For general food handlers:

- FDFCORFS1A – Apply Basic Food Safety Practices (AQF Level 1).
- FDFCORFS2A – Implement the Food Safety Program.

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For the person nominated as the company's Food Safety Supervisor:

- FDFCORFSY2A – Implement the Food Safety Program and Procedures (AQF Level 2).

Where do we find a trainer?

The Department of Human Services (Food Safety Unit) Victoria has done a comprehensive study of the food safety supervisor program. This can be found at :

www.health.vic.gov.au/foodsafety/research/fss

Dairy businesses should take note that this study has found some limitations with the subjects delivered if the content has a 'retail' rather than a 'manufacturing' focus. Component 3 of the report is titled 'Food Safety Training Available in Victoria.' Appendix 2 of the report has further information on training providers in Victoria.

A list of institutions delivering TAFE courses with food safety content can be found at www.tafe.vic.gov.au/providers. There are several TAFE institutions that have experience with the manufacturing sector. Often the best advice comes from trainees who have attended one of these courses, however you may wish to also consult the Dairy Food Safety Note – 'Engaging an External Provider' for some useful tips.³

References

1. Dairy Food Safety Victoria, (2006), 'Dairy Food Safety Note 12 – The National Training Framework.'
2. State Government of Victoria, (1984), 'Food Act.' Available at: [www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au/Domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubLawToday.nsf/a12f6f60fbd56800ca256de500201e54/C7078A3123FC872CCA25720300176E13/\\$FILE/84-10082a071.pdf](http://www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au/Domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubLawToday.nsf/a12f6f60fbd56800ca256de500201e54/C7078A3123FC872CCA25720300176E13/$FILE/84-10082a071.pdf)
3. Dairy Food Safety Victoria, (2006), 'Dairy Food Safety Note – Engaging an External Training Provider.'

Further information

- VET training information: www.training.com.au; www.tafe.vic.gov.au
- Food safety training: www.haccp.com.au; www.health.vic.gov.au/foodsafety/
- Training packages: www.tpatwork.com.au; www.dest.gov.au

Other Dairy Food Safety Notes are available at www.dairysafe.vic.gov.au

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