

Food Safety Culture

What is food safety culture?

The food safety culture of a business is how everyone, regardless of role or responsibility, thinks and acts in their daily job to ensure that the food they make is safe. It refers to shared values, beliefs and norms, which affects mindset and behaviour toward food safety.

Successful culture change is more than the implementation of a process or procedure; it needs both top-down and bottom-up commitment, engagement and action – and their effective integration.

Why is food safety culture important for your business?

A mature food safety culture delivers many benefits and is a powerful tool to improve business performance.

LESS MATURE	MORE MATURE
Higher risk of food safety incidents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More mistakes, costing time and money • Higher risk to your brand reputation 	Greater protection from food safety incidents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects consumers from foodborne illness • Protects your brand reputation • Protects your business from financial loss
Ineffective leadership	Top-down and bottom-up commitment and action
Lack of food safety plans and systems	Food safety plans and systems are built cooperatively and universally embraced
Reactive	Proactive
Reluctance to change	Continuous improvement
Lack of accountability	Everyone is accountable and there is greater trust
Poor risk management	Greater, better integrated risk management

Working on your food safety culture:

- Engages staff and promotes a shared responsibility for food safety across all functions
- Improves food safety outcomes, and provides a toolkit to continuously improve management of food safety
- Strengthens compliance and reduces compliance costs
- Improves business performance and reputation
- Reduces risks associated with people and practices

Why are DFSV assessing food safety culture?

Good food safety outcomes rely on people and behaviours. DFSV is undertaking a program called Dairy RegTech aimed at assessing food safety culture and supporting businesses to identify strategies to strengthen it.

Do you want to know more?

DFSV licensed manufacturers can visit our website or get in touch with the team at regtech@dairysafe.vic.gov.au