



SQF EDITION 10

Internal Food Defense Auditing

A live, instructor-led course on proving your food defense program works — not just that it exists on paper.

DATE

**Monday, Dec. 7,
2026**

TIME

**11:00 AM – 3:00
PM Eastern**

DELIVERY

**Live online via
Zoom**

DURATION

**4 hours, incl.
short break**

TUITION

\$349

per participant

— Course Overview

A practical, audit-focused course designed to help food industry personnel assess the implementation and effectiveness of their facility food defense programs in the context of SQF Edition 10. Participants will practice gathering objective evidence, identifying gaps, reporting findings, and following up on corrective actions.

— Who Should Attend

- ▶ SQF practitioners
- ▶ Internal auditors
- ▶ Food defense coordinators
- ▶ Quality and food safety managers
- ▶ Plant security professionals
- ▶ Personnel responsible for maintaining audit-ready food defense programs

Learning Outcomes

- 1** Interpret relevant SQF Edition 10 food defense expectations and connect them to site procedures and records.
- 2** Plan and conduct a structured internal food defense audit using interviews, observation, and document review.
- 3** Evaluate threat assessments, food defense plans, access controls, personnel practices, and supporting verification records.
- 4** Write evidence-based findings and evaluate corrective-action effectiveness.



Certificate of Completion. Participants receive course materials and an opportunity to complete a knowledge assessment. A GFDI Certificate of Completion is issued upon successful completion of the course requirements.

Four-Hour Live Virtual Schedule

Mon., Dec. 7, 2026
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM ET

11:00 – 11:30 AM	M1	SQF Edition 10 food defense framework
11:30 AM – 12:15 PM	M2	Threat assessments and food defense plans
12:15 – 1:00 PM	M3	Internal audit planning and evidence collection
1:00 – 1:10 PM	<i>Break</i>	
1:10 – 1:55 PM	M4	Facility controls, people, and cyber-physical risks
1:55 – 2:35 PM	M5	Findings, corrective actions, and case exercise
2:35 – 3:00 PM	M6	Assessment, questions, and close



Instructional Approach

Instructor-led discussion, practical audit examples, a guided case exercise, and a knowledge assessment. Participants should be prepared to engage in discussions and review sample records.



Audit Emphasis

The course focuses on demonstrating **implementation** — not merely checking whether a written plan exists. Activities emphasize objective evidence, consistent audit documentation, and verification that identified weaknesses have been addressed.

Scope note. This is GFDI training. It is not presented as an SQFI-endorsed course or as a substitute for an official SQF certification audit. Exact clause references should be confirmed against the final applicable SQF Edition 10 code before publication.

Modules & Practical Applications

1 SQF Edition 10 food defense framework

Purpose of food defense; roles and responsibilities; relevant code expectations; what constitutes objective evidence.

Application: turn a requirement into an audit question.

2 Threat assessments and food defense plans

Reviewing the facility threat assessment, mitigation measures, plan ownership, update triggers, and records.

Application: identify gaps in a sample food defense plan.

3 Internal audit planning and evidence collection

Defining scope and criteria; building an audit checklist; interviewing personnel; sampling documents; observing controls; distinguishing observations from findings.

Application: construct an evidence trail.

4 Facility controls, people, and cyber-physical risks

Access control, restricted areas, visitors and contractors, sensitive process points, incoming materials, employee awareness, and cybersecurity interfaces with food defense.

Application: review sample site-control scenarios.

5 Findings, corrective actions, and case exercise

Writing clear nonconformities, linking findings to criteria and evidence, determining root cause, tracking corrections, and verifying effectiveness.

Application: document a finding and assess a corrective-action response.

6 Assessment and course close

Knowledge check, discussion of common audit challenges, key takeaways, and next steps for applying the methods at the participant's facility.

Completion & Certificate

Participants are expected to attend the live course and successfully complete the course assessment. GFDI will issue a Certificate of Completion to participants who meet the stated course requirements.

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Questions? Call 202-368-3007

Draft agenda and syllabus for organizer review; session allocations and assessment details may be refined before the course.