

## **Food Safety Assessment, Audit & Inspection PDG**

**Meeting Called to Order:** Sunday, July 27, 2025 8:30 A.M.

**Minutes Recording Secretary:** Tracie Sheehan

**Old Business:** Approved the previous year's meeting minutes with no adjustments.

**New Business:** Betsy read the antitrust guidelines. Betsy read the IAFP Updates on a new podcast, symposium sessions, and free webinars in June, and affiliate meetings. Attendees mentioned their activity in the New York, Ontario, and Arkansas affiliate meetings.

Committee Webinar Topics:

Committee IAFP 2026 Workshop, Symposia, Roundtables or Posters:

- Rocelle Clavaro wants support of PDG for a Workshop on Food Safety including Supplier Auditing, Testing Methods for Ingredients that must have a kill step. Drive where inside of equipment should you test EMP and what records should you check like spray driers and gaskets.
- Auditor Training – look at standards but don't focus on methods of auditing, working on body of knowledge in food safety, likes doing webinars.
- Data Driven Insights & Impact of AI to Auditing – high risk data driven dashboards (Amit) Secondary Sponsor – Data PDG.
- Leveraging Third Party Audit Data & Regulatory Inspection Data as a Tool to Improve Food Safety in the Industry (FSSC, Shield Safety (UK), Mark Australia Regulator). Check with Steve from AFDO.
- Allergens mentioned by Betsy.
- Importance of Internal Assessments to Improve Food Safety (Shahram, McCormick). Who

should do them, what is the training, what should they audit? Some retailers rely on GFSI but they still have recalls so what are we missing? Should the responsibility be on the internal or external auditor? How many internal auditors should a company have? How should we approve suppliers? For internal auditor think company size of 5 people vs. 500 people.

- Allen audits RSPO and if internal audits are broader and by risk you will have no NCs in the GFSI audit.
- Third Party Audits including FSSC have been removed as a verification step in internal audits so regulators cannot have access. Repeat from last year is a minor NC. Don't use a piece of paper in an internal audit.
- Clint Stevenson, NC State – how do we raise better students. USDA project – intro undergraduate program with network portal for hiring. Research based marketing campaign.
- Is there interest in this PDG exploring into retail audits?
- Submissions due September 30.
- Virtual Meeting–August 22, 2025.

**Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

1. Recommend to appoint Srinivasarao Bandla as Chair of the PDG. Previous Vice Chair unable to fulfill the term.
2. Recommend Jose Guerrero as Vice Chair of the PDG.

**Next Meeting Date:** Sunday, July 26, 2026, New Orleans, LA.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 10:00 A.M.

**Chairperson Name:** Betsy Craig (Past Chairperson).