



Intrepid NSF-CMI certifies the parts others cannot reach

You may think that food safety certification is all pretty boring stuff – but be assured it has its moments – no more so than when Tupkaraganborg, a contract catering company in Kazakhstan, embarked on a path to achieve formal certification to the ISO22000 standard. No ordinary food company, Tupkaraganborg is in the unique position in supplying its service on the oil fields both on- and off-shore in Kazakhstan.

Indeed Tupkaraganborg has now become the first local company in Kazakhstan, and one of the few catering companies in the world, to achieve certification to ISO22000.

The project was managed by Advanced Food Safety Limited who brought in experts NSF-CMI to carry out the certification audits. Travel by helicopter was required to reach the off-shore facilities – but only following the mandatory flight training and essential H&S training required for off-shore. Poor weather conditions, fog and snow often delayed some of the flights. The weather was also an unknown factor, as in this region winter temperatures drop to minus 30°C and in summer temperatures soar to plus 40°C. Fog is not unusual in the short transition period between summer and winter and can severely restrict flights off-shore.

Stage 1 of the audit took place as planned the first week of March 2009 with the auditor from NSF-CMI visiting the site for the initial documentation review. Poor weather hampered inspection of the off-shore facilities but it was a successful initial audit. With no time to lose, this was followed four weeks later with the Stage 2 audit. This time there was no problem in visiting two off-shore facilities to see them in action and the audit plan worked like clockwork.

Jon Burn, the NSF-CMi visiting auditor summed it up as follows, "As far as I am aware this is the first time an audit has been conducted by a representative of NSF-CMi on a man-made island 100 miles off-shore. It was definitely the first time my journey to and from work was done via helicopter.

"I was impressed with the level of work and the attitude of the operations in Kazakhstan who performed very well in both stages of the assessment, especially when it is remembered that they are operating 100 miles off the Kazakhstan coast. The head office in Atyrau has been working with Advanced Food Safety Limited and has developed a Food Safety Management System that not only meets the requirements of the standard but is also able to be managed remotely in both on- and off-shore kitchen units".

There was a wait of several weeks for the final confirmation that certification to the ISO22000 standard had been awarded. This came through at the end of May and was met with a flood of congratulatory emails to Tupkaraganborg on becoming the first company in Kazakhstan to achieve ISO22000 certification and the first catering company audited to ISO22000 by the UK office of NSF-CMi, a company represented in over 40 countries worldwide.

Jon Adams, Business Development Manager at NSF-CMi commented, "This has been a great project for us to work on with Advanced Food Safety. Being able to deliver an ISO 22000 audit in such a remote part of the world was a real achievement. Credit has to go the management and staff of Tupkaraganborg who made the commitment to achieve high standards of food safety in their catering operations. It is a great first in setting the standards in their industry; not only in Kazakhstan but by demonstrating that formal certification to ISO22000 is possible in a catering environment."

NOTES TO EDITORS

ISO22000 Launched in 2005, the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) 22000 standard was designed to help food companies throughout the food chain manage their food risks in a proactive and collaborative way.

It specifies requirements for a food safety management system where an organisation in the food chain needs to demonstrate its ability to control food safety hazards in order to ensure that food is safe at the time of human consumption.

NSF-CMi Certification is the leading provider of independent assurance and certification services to the agriculture, produce and processing industries, delivering individual and combined assessments to a broad range of international, national, and client specific standards. It is Europe's largest certification provider in the food and farming sector, certifying over 40,000 clients.

It is part of NSF-CMi, a leading international consulting, risk services, assurance and technical services provider in the global food supply chain.

NSF-CMi protects consumers and enhances business through the design, management and implementation of best practice consumer assurance solutions which also deliver commercial advantage to our business clients.