

Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs)



Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) are the basic operational and environmental conditions required to produce safe foods. They ensure that ingredients, products and packaging materials are handled safely and that food products are processed in a suitable environment.

GMPs address the hazards associated with personnel and environment during food production. They provide a foundation for any food safety system. Once GMPs are in place, processors can implement a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system to control hazards that may affect the ingredients and packaging material during food processing.

GMPs Address

- **Environmental control (premises):** location, design, and construction of the building and its interior, equipment, and water supply
- **Personnel practices:** personal hygiene, hand washing, clothing/footwear/headwear, injuries and wounds, evidence of illness, access and traffic patterns, chemical use
- **Shipping, receiving, handling, storage:** inspection procedures for transport vehicles; loading, unloading, and storage practices; inspection procedures for incoming products; shipping conditions; returned and defective products; allergen control; chemical storage; waste management
- **Pest control:** monitoring procedures for the exterior and interior of the building (e.g., surveillance, fumigation) and the use of pesticides
- **Sanitation:** cleaning and sanitizing procedures and pre-operational assessment
- **Equipment maintenance:** procedures describing preventive maintenance and calibration of all the equipment and instruments that can affect food safety (e.g., thermometers, thermocouples, metal detectors, scales, pH meters)
- **Recall and traceability:** procedures that ensure final products are coded and labelled properly; incoming materials; in-process and outgoing materials are traceable; recall system is in place and tested for effectiveness (e.g., procedures for mock recalls)
- **Water safety:** water safety monitoring procedures for water, ice and steam, and water treatment procedures that ensure it is potable for use in food processing

Components

GMPs have two main components: written programs and implementation. Both are essential for the success of your food safety system.

Written programs are all the policies and

procedures required to meet the standards listed in each GMP program. These include:

- policies and procedures (e.g., standard operating procedures (SOPs), sanitation standard operating procedures (SSOPs))
- monitoring procedures
- record keeping (e.g., how records are kept and handled)

Implementation involves conducting the activities required to meet the standards and monitoring them.

To ensure the policies and procedures in your program are performed as described, you need to train your staff in these procedures. Ensure:

- training involves everyone in the facility and meets all employees' requirements
- training is recorded (e.g., who was trained, by whom, date, type of training)
- staff is retrained when you modify your programs

To monitor your procedures:

- Review procedures and record your observations (e.g., environmental controls checklist, monitor personnel practices).
- Review records to ensure they are completed properly and that appropriate corrective actions are documented.
- Inspect and test for effectiveness (e.g., perform microbial testing on cleaned and sanitized food contact surfaces to check the effectiveness of your cleaning and sanitizing procedures).

Where to start

- Ensure commitment: GMP implementation requires effort and commitment from upper management and/or owner of the company. Confirm the dedication of time and resources for the program.
- Understand the requirements of your food safety standard.
- Obtain resources: As you start developing and implementing your GMPs you may require the technical knowledge and expertise of a food safety consultant. See consultant list at: manitoba.ca/agriculture/food-safety/at-the-food-processor/list-of-food-safety-consultants.html
- Write your programs.
- Implement your programs.

Reference Material

For more information review these factsheets:

- How to select a food safety consultant
- HACCP
- Written programs
- SOPs
- Records

For more information on food safety please contact the Food Safety and Inspection Branch at foodsafety@gov.mb.ca.