

# VEGAN CERTIFICATION FOOD MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

GLOBAL STANDARD FOR FOOD TRANSPARENCY

The number of consumers choosing to adopt a vegan lifestyle has increased considerably since the beginning of the 21st century, with the most rapid growth occurring in the last five years.



The rise in vegan food products in the market has brought additional concerns for the consumer, such as;

- Adequate controls for the separation of meat or dairy ingredients on production sites which are not exclusively vegan
- For food products to be acceptable as vegan, producers must consider not just the ingredients but the production process, the packaging materials and the cleaning chemicals used
- Verification of the acceptability of suppliers, ingredients and production procedures
- The absence of an agreed legal definition of 'vegan'
- The growth in use of other descriptors, such as 'plant-based' can make choosing acceptable vegan food products even more difficult without supporting information

Vegan food choices can also involve moral and ethical decisions and therefore a comprehensive and robust program of product approval is required in order to ensure their suitability.

## The Solution

The Intertek Vegan Certification Program is designed to allow manufacturers and retailers of vegan products to demonstrate, in a simple, clear and defined way, that they understand these concerns and are committed to the integrity of their products for vegan consumers.

The program covers every aspect of vegan food production, from new product development and supplier approval to despatch to the consumer. The three key stages for participants in the program are:


- **The Desktop Study** – a remote document review of all ingredients, packaging materials and cleaning chemicals employed in the production of vegan foods
- **The Site Inspection** – inspection of the production site to assess controls against a defined checklist and to verify information supplied in the Desktop Study
- **Certification and ongoing approval** – successful participants in the program can have additional products approved through remote assessment and can add to their portfolio as they wish

Businesses that wish to participate are allocated a Project Manager as a single point of contact. The Project Manager oversees the entire qualification process, performs all checks, inspections and assessments and offers advice on any areas of operation which require additional attention in order to meet the requirements for certification.

The Intertek Vegan Certification Program is supported by our team of legal and technical experts who can provide advice to businesses producing in, importing from or exporting to, over 100 countries worldwide.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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