

Retail 3rd Party Audits

Informal Survey Results

Information compiled by Terry Levee, Winn Dixie Stores

1. Are you currently doing in house food safety audits, using a 3rd party to do those audits or a combination of both?
Most use a combination of in-house and 3rd party audits. 3rd party audits are used to standardize the in-house auditors, troubleshoot problems, train and conduct extras.
2. How many audits do you average per store per year from any of the above audit categories?
4-5 audits per year.
3. Do you use a sliding frequency for the number of visits, e.g., if a store has an issue, low score, etc. does it receive additional audits? By the same token, does a better store get audited less frequently?
Stores with issues, low scores, problems, etc. are generally graded more often as the need arises.
4. Do the audit records or scores stay with the store manager as they move around?
The audit scores and records stay (or are cross-referenced) with the store, the store manager and district manager.
5. What are the pros and cons of different methods?
Most respondents like to use 3rd party audits to validate their own program. They also use them for troubleshooting when other staffing issues arise.

6. What is the average time for your audit?

3.5 to 4 hours per visit.

7. Do you have multiple audit formats (monthly or quarterly etc.)?

No, most use a single format audit. Most stores have their own self-inspection tool, which mirrors a shortened audit.