

# Differences and Similarities Between the Role of Certification Bodies and Consultants

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COMPREHENSIVE FOOD SAFETY



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*We all walk the same path,  
but got on different shoes.  
Live in the same building,  
but got different views...*

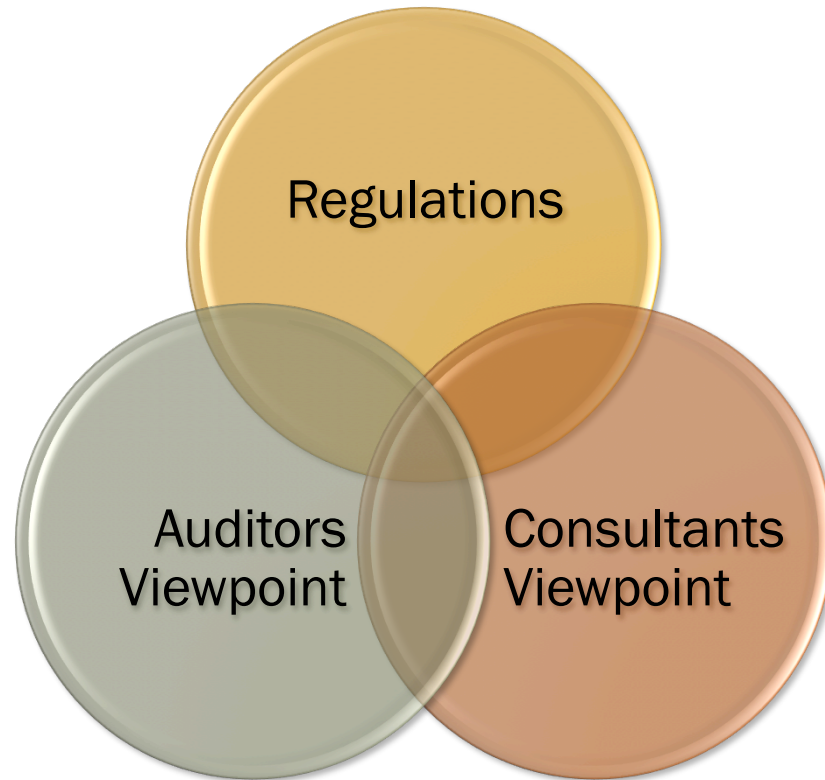
AUBREY DRAKE GRAHAM

*Lil Wayne Ft. Drake "Right Above It"*



# Auditor vs Consultant

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# Certification Bodies

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# Certification Body (CB) role:

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- Provides accredited and unaccredited audits
  - **Accredited audits** are benchmarked against a global scheme (SQF, BRC, FSSC, etc.); considered to be 3rd party audits
  - **Unaccredited audits** are schemes that are owned by the audit firm usually conducted against a body of industry-best practices (GMP, GDP, etc.)
  - **Client specific audit schemes** are unaccredited but sometimes carry equal weight (Costco GMP, Amazon, Hershey, etc.)

# Certification Body (CB) role:

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- Tasked with ensuring auditor competencies (standardization, calibration, credentialing, etc.)
- Responsible for ensuring audits are conducted timely
- Responsible for ensuring auditor availability i.e. adequate people resources

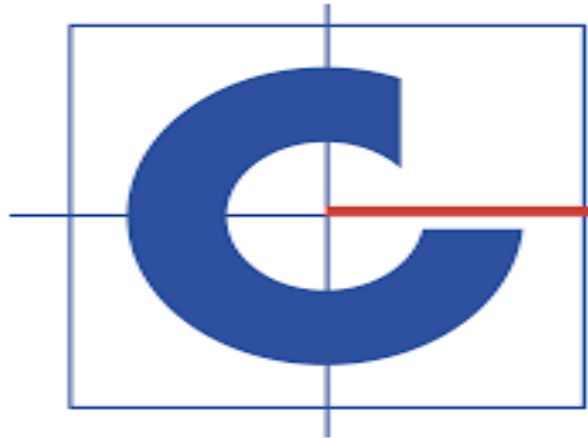


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# Accreditation Bodies

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**JAS-ANZ**





# Accreditation Body (AB) role:

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- Accreditation is “the independent, third-party evaluation of a conformity assessment body (such as [certification body](#), inspection body or laboratory) against a recognized standard”
- Ensure that CB’s are meeting minimum standards and requirements as outlined.

# Auditor - Qualifications

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## Basic requirements

- Work experience in that particular industry
- Prior auditing experience helpful but not a deal breaker
- Knowledge of the laws and regulations of the industry
- Formal lead auditor training required before field work
- Able to follow an evidence trail

# Auditor - Credentials

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Responsible for ensuring auditor is credentialed to audit that particular food sector

- Bakery
- Dairy
- Meat processing
- Confectionary
- Seafood, etc.

Meet the minimum qualifications for a particular audit scheme

# The Audit Window

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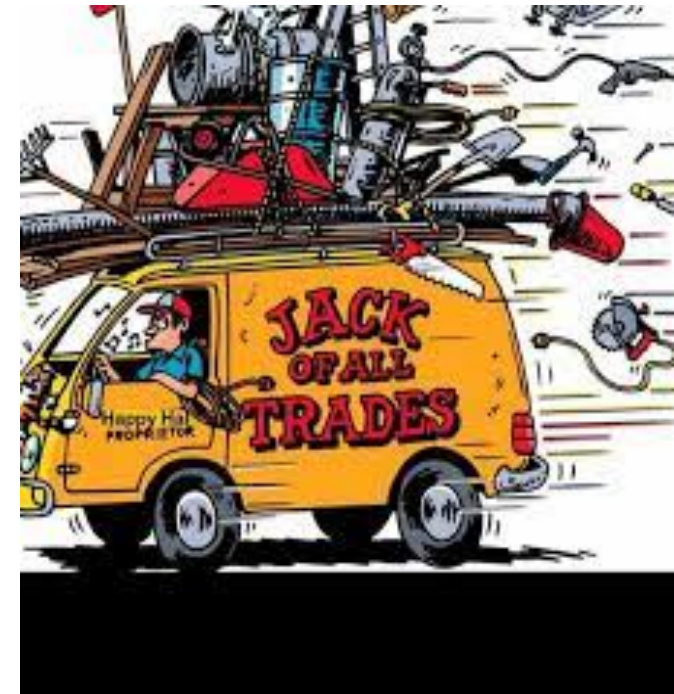
- CB is responsible for ensuring audit is conducted within a specific timeline, known as the “audit window”, usually +/- 30 days from the date of the very first audit.
- Failure to execute audit during the audit window as a result of CB not meeting their responsibilities can jeopardize their accreditation



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# Consultant Requirements

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# Consultant Requirements

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- A good auditor does not always make for a good consultant
- A good consultant does not always make for a good auditor
- So what's the secret to being a really good consultant?  
How does one bridge that transition?

# Consultant Requirements

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- Expert level knowledge of the industry?
- Top flight listening skills
- Investigative skills that would make Detective Columbo and Leroy Jethro Gibbs jealous
- Certifications in industry



# Consultant role

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- Help client navigate through the regulatory requirements
  - FDA
  - USDA
  - FSMA Preventive Controls, etc.
- Expert listening skills; understand the challenges that the client is facing
- Help their client understand the expectations of regulatory requirements



# Consultant role

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- Guide and lead the client through the process of implementing a food safety management system that meets and exceeds regulatory and client expectations.
  - Baseline assessments
  - Gap analyses
  - Document development and implementation of all objective evidence forms
  - Awareness training
  - Mock audits
  - Onsite support for certification audit
- Act as the technical support resource for the client during the corrective action process
- Provide technical resource support and act as a sounding board throughout the relationship

# Ethics

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## Auditor should not

- Consult in any manner
- Accept gifts or anything of monetary value
- Socialize after hours with the auditee team

## Consultant should not

- Do the “work” for the client
- Give advice or opinion outside their expertise

THIN  
L N E  
AUDITOR  
CONSULTANT



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