

What license do I need for my food or beverage business?

There are two options AND a consideration for what markets you want to access



	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	Additional Program Considerations
	HEALTH LICENSE OR PERMIT	SAFE FOOD FOR CANADIANS LICENSE	GFSI (Global Food Safety Initiative) CERTIFICATION *CB = Certification Body
Who issues the license?	Provincial Department of Health or Agriculture	Federal Government Agency - the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)	No license. Certificate provided upon successful completion of an audit from a CB (Certification Body).
What does the license or certificate do?	Allows you to process food and sell it.	Allows you to process food and sell it. You can import food from outside Canada. You can export food out of Canada.	Certification proves that the operators of the facility and the conditions in the facility will result in safe food and beverage if followed. You will need a license to operate from Option 1 or 2.
Can we sell out of province?	No	Yes.	No. Not without a license from Option 2. Option 1 does not allow out of province.
Can we sell out of country?	No	Yes.	No. Not without a license from Option 2.
Can we sell to retail?	Maybe. Not all retail will buy from you with this kind of license.	Maybe. Not all retail will buy from you with this kind of license. You will need to have a certificate from GFSI.	No. Not without a license from Option 1 or 2.
Can we sell to foodservice?	Maybe. Not all foodservice will buy from you with this kind of license.	Maybe. Not all retail will buy from you with this kind of license. You will need to have a certificate from GFSI.	No. Not without a license from Option 1 or 2.
Can we import food from outside Canada?	No. You must move to column B.	Maybe. Not all retail will buy from you with this kind of license. You will need to have a certificate from GFSI.	No. Not without a license from Option 2.
What is the cost?	\$50.00 - 1000.00 per year for all inspections. Fees vary by province or territory.	\$250.00 per 2-year period for all inspections.	1st Audit - \$8,000 - 15,000 1st and 2nd Year Partial Audits - \$8,000 - 12,000 per year. Recertification Full Audit at year 3 - \$8,000 - 15,000 No inspections.
Discussion	If you want to manufacture food and beverage to sell in your province. Requirements for operating are fewer and easier to meet.	If you want to manufacture food and beverage and sell it in other provinces and/or export out of country and/or if you want to import food and beverage into Canada you will need this license.	If your customers demand this certification you will need to get this. You cannot operate a food and beverage facility with this certificate alone. You must have a license to operate first. CFIA license would provide greatest access to markets.



FOOD & BEVERAGE ATLANTIC

In order to discuss your specific food licensing and food safety certifications needed for your food or beverage, please contact us at: admin@atlanticfood.ca. We can provide a listing of food safety professionals that may help guide you for your specific business goals.