

CREATING AN EFFECTIVE FOOD ALLERGEN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

What are the critical elements of an effective food allergy management program?

An effective allergen program includes, but is not limited to, guidelines and policies in the following areas:

- 1) Research and development (new product innovation)
- 2) Supplier and raw material regulation
- 3) Cross-contamination prevention during production
- 4) Validated cleaning and sanitizing procedures
- 5) Product label and packaging controls
- 6) Rework management
- 7) Personnel education and training
- 8) Storage and shipment requirements
- 9) Consideration of consumer end use

How can Ecolab help my plant develop an allergen control plan?

A validated cleaning and sanitizing program is an important part of every allergen management program. Your Ecolab representative can help design a robust program that meets the unique challenges and needs of your processing plant and lays the foundation for sanitation standard operating procedures (SSOPs). SSOPs are ultimately the responsibility of the plant and each customer is responsible for any required validation and verification of their food safety plan and allergen management program.

How can I have my plant tested and monitored for food allergens?

To assess and monitor food allergens within a plant, the Food Allergy Resource Research Program (FARRP) offers quantitative testing for those located in North America. During validation, verification or routine testing, samples are collected by plant personnel and sent to FARRP laboratories in Lincoln, Nebraska.

What allergen detection technologies exist for my plant personnel to use?

Several allergen detection technologies exist that can be used by personnel. Advantages of using on-site testing kits include faster time to result and lower cost. Kit choice will be dependent on allergen of concern, level of sensitivity needed, time to result desired, and nature of sample (e.g. environmental samples vs. finished product). Understanding of proper use and controls is needed to avoid false negative/false positive results. Please consult with individual allergen testing providers for guidance on kit choice.