Audit Report Global Standard Food Safety Issue 9

1. Audit Summary			
Company name	The Amalgamated Sugar Co. LLC	Site code	1424306
Site name	The Amalgamated Sugar Company LLC		
Scope of audit	Melting of granulated sugar into liquid sugar packed into totes and bulk trucks. Warehouse storage of granulated sugar in bags and totes received from sister facilities.		
Exclusions from scope	None		
Justification for exclusion	None		
Audit start date	2/28/2023	Audit finish date	3/1/2023
Re-audit due date	5/24/2024	Head office	No

Additional modules included			
Modules	Result	Scope	Exclusions from Scope

2. Audit Results					
Audit result	Certificated	Audit grade	A+	Audit programme	Unannounced – mandatory 1 in 3 years
Previous audit grade	AA		Previous audit date	5/24/2022	

2. Audit Results

Certificate issue date	4/13/2023	Certificate expiry date	7/5/2024
Number of non-conformities		Fundamental	0
		Critical	0
		Major	0
		Minor	6

3. Company Details

Site address	1963 South 1900 West, Ogden Utah 84401		
Country	UNITED STATES	Site telephone number	+12083836594
Commercial representative name	Kelly Malone	Email	kmalone@amalsugar.com
Technical representative name	Lacey Messing	Email	lmessing@amalsugar.com

4. Company Profile

Plant size (metres square)	<10K sq.m	No. of employees	1-50	No. of HACCP plans	1-3

4. Company Profile		
Shift pattern	1 shift, 7:30am to 4pm MST, 5 days per week	
Seasonal site	No	
Seasonal opening times (Start/end date)		
Other certificates held	Kosher	
Outsourced processes	No	
Outsourced process description	N/A	
Regions exported to	North America	
Company registration number	FDA Registration Xxxxxxx1932 valid to 2024-12-31	
Major changes since last BRCGS audit	Facility runs 1 shift a day, 5 days per week with 2 employees in production.	

Company Description

Part of the Amalgamated Sugar Company LLC., this facility was built in the 1800s with additions in the 1920s with a total size of 11,148 sq. mt. The sugar mixing campus encompasses 5 acres and includes 3 mixing vessels with 5 bulk liquid storage tanks and a granulated sugar warehouse used for bagged sugar storage.

Granulated cane sugar destined for liquid production is received in supersacks or trucks from Amalgamated sister facilities and kept in a segregated area of the warehouse. Liquid sugar production is manufactured from sugar received in bulk trucks. All products are ambient stable and shipped into liquid bulk tankers or liquid totes. The plant operates with 3 full-time employees in 1 shift. Approximately 15-30 bulk tankers are shipped per week.

This audit was conducted as the mandatory 1 in 3 unannounced.

5. Product Characteristics

5. Product Characteristics					
Product categories	15 - Dried food and ingredients				
Finished product safety rationale	Products shelf stable with low aW				
High care	No	High risk	No	Ambient high care	No
Justification for area	Products received and shipped are shelf stable with low aW. There were no high risk, high care, and ambient high care zones identified.				
Allergens handled on site	None				
Product claims made e.g. IP, organic	Kosher				
Product recalls in last 12 months	No				
Products in production at the time of the audit	Liquid Sucrose loaded into bulk tankers.				

6. Audit Duration Details			
Total audit duration	17	Duration of production facility inspection	5
Reasons for deviation from typical or expected audit duration	Limited number of employees, very small site, paperwork preparation high		
Combined audits	None		
Next audit type selected	Announced		

Present at audit					
Note: the most senior operations manager on site should be listed first and be present at both opening & closing meetings (ref: clause 1.1.11)					
Name	Job title	Opening meeting	Site inspection	Procedure review	Closing meeting
Steve Woody	Site Manager/Warehouse Manager	X	X		X
Jared Gibby	Assistant Warehouse Manager	X	X	X	X
Lacey Messing	Food Safety and Quality Professional	X		X	X
Kelly Malone	Corporate QA Manager				X

GFSI Post Farm Gate Audit History			
Date	Scheme/Standard	Announced/Unannounced	Pass/Fail
7/29/2020	BRCGS Food 8	Announced	Pass
6/22/2021	BRCGS Food 8	Announced	Pass
5/24/2022	BRCGS Food 8	Announced	Pass

Document control
Certification Body
SGS United Kingdom Ltd

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Standard Issue	9	*Template issue date*	12/16/2022
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Non-Conformity Summary Sheet

Critical or Major Non-Conformities Against Fundamental Requirements			
Clause	Detail	Critical or Major	Re-audit date

Critical		
Clause	Detail	Re-audit date

Major						
Clause	Detail	Correction	Proposed preventive action plan	Root cause analysis	Date reviewed	Reviewed by

Minor						
Clause	Detail	Correction	Proposed preventive action plan	Root cause analysis	Date reviewed	Reviewed by
3.11.4	Not all procedures in the management of recalls and/or product withdrawal were documented according to the Standard. In the event of a significant food safety incident, the site notifies their certification body; however, no requirement to provide sufficient information to assess effects of the incident including corrective actions, root cause analysis, or	Submitted a change request to NSM on 3.2.23 to update the Recall Plan SOP to include "the certification body to assess any effects of the incident on the ongoing validity of the current certificate within 21 calendar days. As a minimum, this shall include corrective action, root cause analysis and a preventive action plan." Document updated on 3.14.23	3.2-01 Recall Plan SOP section 3.9 page 5- has been added "If the site is BRCGS certified, the information surrounding the recall, including corrective action, root cause analysis and a preventive action plan will be supplied to the Certification Body for assessment within 21 days of notification."	Did not mention the 21 days because the Recall Plan SOP stated "submits a documented recall notification to the FDA, all consignees, and applicable certification bodies within 24 hours of a recall/withdrawal determination." Thought the 24 hours was sufficient for the time frame.	3/17/2023	Eric Taft

Minor						
	preventive action plans are provided within a 21 calendar day time frame.					
4.9.2.1	The policy for the controlled use and storage of sharp metal instruments did not appear to be consistently followed. At the liquid shipping table, a folding knife was found in a desk drawer that contained a rusted blade with small sections of the disposable blade missing.	The knife was removed the day of the audit. Purchased new knives on 3.10.23	Knives will be tracked through the form attached.	The knife was being used to open the pallet wrap. The knife was removed from the liquid room before but has appeared again.	3/17/2023	Eric Taft
4.11.1	One area of the facility did not appear to be consistently maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. Minor spider webbing and whole insect carcasses were	Informed Sprague of the minor. Spider webbing was knocked down during the inspection on 3.7.23.	Insecticide spraying will be completed in the summer. See inspection report "Tech Comment" on 3.7.23 PCO Inspection. Exterior Spray is already being completed monthly from April-November but they	Small insect size openings allow bugs and spiders to enter the facility.	3/17/2023	Eric Taft

Minor						
	noted along the back wall of warehouse #4.		will spray up the walls and around the entirety of the overhead door.			
6.4.3	Reference measuring equipment was not consistently calibrated to a traceable recognized national or international standard. The pH meter #10 buffer in use at this location had an NIST calibrated record indicating expiration on 2022-11-30.	Purchased two more bottles of pH Buffer 10 from Cole-Parmer. The Paul, Idaho Factory has sent over a bottle that does not expire until Feb 2024.	Quarterly the Food Safety & Quality Professional will inspect the pH Buffer expiration dates.	Buffers are used daily but do not require to be changed out or add in more buffer to the container to check. The bottle is not used very often to notice the expiration date.	3/17/2023	Eric Taft
7.1.6	The requirements for records of training did not appear to have all the elements required under the Standard. Duration of training was not recorded in the records of training reviewed at this site.	Added in the duration onto the Training form.	Will use the form for both in person training and Basic Safe Training.	Basic Safe Training has a time stamp and the script has the length of time. Toolbox Meetings are completed within minutes of discussion. Thought these would be sufficient.	3/17/2023	Eric Taft

Minor						
7.2.1	Good manufacturing practices were not consistently followed in all areas. An employee in the liquid room was noted wearing earrings during the inspection not in accordance with the GMP policy at this site.	Employee was notified of the minor finding and was asked to remove the earrings.	Employee performed a refresher training on the Module 2 Prerequisite Programs on Basic Safe dated 3/14/23. Slide 10 “No piercings”. continue to have visual inspections of the employee and if anything is found then it will be recorded in our monthly inspection	Employee is aware of the earring requirements but forgets to take off the jewelry before starting work.	3/17/2023	Eric Taft

Comments on non-conformities

Additional Modules / Head Office Non-Conformity Summary Sheet

Critical		
Clause	Detail	Re-audit date

Major						
Clause	Detail	Correction	Proposed preventive action plan	Root cause analysis	Date reviewed	Reviewed by

Minor						
Clause	Detail	Correction	Proposed preventive action plan	Root cause analysis	Date reviewed	Reviewed by

Audit team

Lead auditor		
Auditor number	**First name**	**Second name**
22038	Eric Taft	Taft

Audit team				Attendance (YYYY/MM/DD, 24hr: MM)			Presence	
First name	Second name	Auditor number	Role	Audit Date	Start time	End time	Remote or physical	Professional recognition number
Eric	Taft	22038	Lead Auditor	2023-02-28	08:00	16:00	Physical	
Eric	Taft	22038	Lead Auditor	2023-03-01	07:30	16:00	Physical	

1. Senior management commitment

The site has a documented policy Commitment to Food Safety and Quality 2022-08-10 stating their intention to produce safe, legal, and authentic products to the specified quality and its commitment to it's customers. This policy is signed by the Warehouse Manager at this location, communicated through postings and trainings, and includes statements indicating the sites commitment to improve food safety and quality culture activities through annually reviewing objectives.

The site maintains a clear plan (Food Safety and Quality Culture Improvement WHS-WI-003 for the development and continuing improvement of a food safety and quality culture. Activities based on Training, Behaviour changes, Clear and Open communications on product safety through Monthly Toolbox Meetings, feedback, and Performance Measurement on product safety, authenticity, legality and quality related activities. All findings were evaluated annually. The quality and food safety culture plan were last updated on 2023-01-24 (annually at a minimum).

The following objectives (defined in to maintain and improve the safety, legality and quality have been set:

1.Food Safety Objectives/Quality Metrics of

a.Successful shipment rate of 99.5% calculated by a ratio of number of shipments and complaints

b.Successful shipment rate of 99.9% for food safety related issues where culpability is assigned to facility

c.Reduce total cost of complaints per shipment by 3%.

d.Complaint response goal of 100%

2.Third Party Audit Certification – Maintain A grade

3.Documentation and Recordkeeping

a.MSS completion rate of 85%

b.Preventive maintenance inspections with completion rate of 80%

4.Food safety and Quality Internal Issues

a.Reduce number of incidents by 3%

b.Reduce number of unplanned equipment repairs by 3%

c.Maintain zero catches in designated no-catch zones

d.Reduce number of HACCP deviations by 3%

e.Meeting all internal facility inspection criteria

f.Reduce the number of unplanned Liquid-only shipments by 5% annually

All were found to have goals and clear measures of success and each were monitored, and results reported on a quarterly at a minimum basis (last on 2023-01-16 and prior on 2022-10-06. Each target is monitored by the Assistant Warehouse Manager and reported in Management reviews.

Management Review Meeting Notes reviewed from 2022-04-27 indicated that the company goals are currently being met. Management review meetings (monthly and at least quarterly) that include discussion of previous actions, audit results, objective/CAPA, customer complaints, incidents (including recalls), non-conforming product, HACCP, food defence, authenticity, the food safety and quality culture plan, and resource requirements are held annually, and a summary of the most recent review was dated 2022-04-27.

Employees are encouraged to bring one-on-one discussion to supervisors and a weekly meeting (Toolbox meeting) takes place between supervisors that allows food safety, legality and integrity to be brought to senior management attention. Employees were aware of the need to report any evidence of unsafe or out-of-specification product or raw materials, to upper management to enable the resolution of issues requiring immediate action.

There is a confidential reporting system in place for employees who have concerns relating to product safety, integrity, quality and legality; this includes a designated phone number to file complaints. The procedure for assessment is to have all suggestions reviewed by Human Resources at corporate where the phone number for confidential reporting is located. This is posted for employees to review and is documented in the company code of business conduct pages 4-5.

Sufficient resources were noted. A budgetary plan, set out by the plant manager, was in place to assist in the development of the food safety systems.

The site is kept informed of new risk to authenticity, scientific and technical developments, industry codes of practice, and regulatory issues in the country where the product will be sold through

Email notifications from NSM (corporate), website information from FDA, BRCGS, and a designated corporate member.

A genuine electronic copy of the Standard is available on site and there is awareness of the change to the standard through subscription to the BRCGS Participate website.

The audit is occurring during the window listed on the prior certificate.

The Plant Manager attended the opening and closing meetings. Additional department heads were available for relevant sections of the audit. The quality culture plan was evaluated using input from a member of the senior management team, Food safety, Warehouse Manager, and Assistant Manager.

The previous 5 non-conformance issues were found to be addressed with corrective and preventive actions and did not recur during this audit.

The site is currently registered with the FDA Bio-terrorism act with registration number xxxxxxx1932 with a valid expiration date of 2024-12-31. Additional registrations are not required by the State of Utah.

There is an organization chart Organizational chart WHS-DI-004 Rev 1 dated 2023-01-10 that clearly defines responsibilities of management to ensure effective implementation of the product food safety,

authenticity, legality, and quality systems. The CEO is listed at the top of the page with the Plant Manager reporting to this position. Deputies are listed in Organizational chart on the 2nd page with backups listed as Assistant Warehouse Manager as the backup for Warehouse Manager.

Responsibilities include ensuring staff are aware of their responsibilities; job descriptions are detailed and discussed upon hire. Reviewed information for two individuals (Warehouse Manager and Assistant Warehouse Manager.) Documents reviewed included JSA-REC-001 Version 0. Both are signed by the person in this position to ensure they are aware of their job duties.

Included in job descriptions and job duties is the requirement to all employees to report any evidence of unsafe or out-of-specification product, equipment, packaging or raw materials that may be subject to non-conforming.

The site maintains an in-house food safety team. A Food Safety Professional visits the site on a quarterly basis and this individual works for the company.

Details of non-applicable clauses with justification	
Clause/Section Ref	Justification
1.1.13	The BRCGS logo is not used.

2. The Food Safety Plan – HACCP

The HACCP team consists of 4 members (2 from corporate) and is led by the Food Safety and Quality Professional Manager L.M. who has the following training: FSPCA for PCQI dated 2016-08-26 and HACCP from Food HACCP Plan Development from SAI Global dated 2016-02-18. Additional team members include the Assistant Warehouse Manager with Intro to Food Safety and HACCP workshop by the University of Idaho training dated 2012-04-26. The scope covers all the products and processes that are manufactured at this site summarized as follows:

The 1 HACCP plans at this location covers all products produced at this site with no exclusions The scope covers Production of liquid sugar from granulated sugar packed into totes, bags, and bulk trucks and warehouse storage. One CCP is listed which is outgoing filter inspections for liquid sugar at this location. The plan covers all activities as witnessed during the audit. No allergens are used at this location.

Pre-requisite programs (PRPs) are included that include items such as:

1.Pest Control

2.GMP

3.Customer Complaints

4.Recall Program

5.Liquid Tank Wash

Each of these programs are risk evaluated based on the risk zones applicable to the site as defined in site diagrams.

Monitoring for each pre-requisite program listed is included in the HACCP program at this site with requirements for monitoring and documenting any issues.

Product descriptions are included that include Product Ingredients and their origins, packaging requirements, intended use, shelf life, target market, and labelling requirements.

All information needed to conduct a hazard analysis appeared to be in place for this plan and included comprehensive information based on food safety sources to ensure that the hazard analysis was conducted thoroughly.

This lists all items as intended for ingredient in many food products and functions as a sweetener. Any alternative uses have been considered including vulnerable groups of the population.

Flow diagrams are on file dated 2023-02-03 that included receipt of raw materials, packaging, storage and all relevant process steps as well as designation of enclosed and product areas. Steps identified for further analysis including Air treatment including UV and filtration, Liquid Sugar Mixing, and Bulk Sugar Receiving.

The accuracy of the flow diagrams is reviewed on an annual basis (or when changes occur), the last on-site review was completed during the internal audit in January by the Food Safety Professional.

The hazards included in the study included: - microbiological (None identified), physical (glass, metal), chemical (Aflatoxin, allergens), radiological, fraud, and malicious contamination in additional risk assessments. Subsequent and preceding steps in the process chain are also taken into account in this hazard analysis.

The actual hazard analysis had considered the likelihood of occurrence and severity for each identified hazard to determine if it was significant. If the hazard is controlled by a current PRP it is listed in the analysis such as Supply Chain Controls.

A decision tree had been used to assess if the control point is a critical one (CCP); there are 1 actual CCPs identified.

The identified CCP, filter inspection, has a critical limit, defined through validation, of:

Porosity of 100 microns or less inspected for each load.

Validation of this CCP is listed as Regulatory requirements in 555.425, customer specifications and customer complaint evaluation as validation studies are not feasible for this type of device. Final filters are an industry-accepted device for controlling metal contaminants.

Monitoring of the CCP in this location is defined in the HACCP plan and occurs every load by qualified technicians.

Records of the monitoring procedures are signed by the operator at the time of the check and are verified by the designated QI at this location. Records reviewed from the product trace date were found to include the date, time and result of measurement. They were also signed by the person performing the monitoring and verified 2 days later by a PCQI. Records of shipments on 2023-02-28.

At all steps where deviation from HACCP procedures are noted, corrective actions have been taken and documented.

Validation procedures of the entire study included: - internal audits, violation of critical limits, review of complaints and review of incidents of product withdrawal or recall. An example of this is included in the internal audit and monitored at least quarterly and reported to the HACCP team.

Annual reassessment was conducted on 2022-07-12 at this location. The requirements are to perform this review annually and upon any changes.

Documentation and record keeping appeared to be sufficient to enable the site to verify that the HACCP and food safety controls, including controls managed by prerequisite programmes, are in place and maintained.

Details of non-applicable clauses with justification	
Clause/Section Ref	Justification
N/A	

3. Food safety and quality management system

3.1 Food safety and quality manual, 3.2 Document control, 3.3 Record completion and maintenance

The company's food safety and quality management system (FSQMS) is electronically maintained and made available to relevant departments through a shared electronic drive and printed copies in the FSQA folders.

Members of the facility staff have access to the relevant portions of the FSQMS as needed through electronic access.

The FSQMS is composed or various levels of documents, procedures and work instructions that are written in English.

3.2

The document control procedure Section 2.0 of the Food Safety and Quality Assurance Manual includes a list of controlled documents as well as the process for identification, version control, authorization, amendments and system to replace the former copy.

The system for the electronic control includes password protection to ensure controlled access to documents along with backups to a corporate server system to prevent loss. Documents are maintained electronically and backed up using suitable storage systems to ensure they are stored securely and easily accessible

The following documents were cross checked in this audit:

Document 6.3-02.0 Rev 3

Document 8.2-01 Daily Liquid Loadout Batch Trace Rev 0 dated 2020-01-21

Outbound Truck inspection Document 10.9.1-02 Rev 1 updated on 2023-02-24.

There were all found to be the correct version.

3.3

The process for management of records is covered in section 2.2 Records: Completion and Retention. This includes a procedure for the alteration of hand written records. All records are stored securely and any electronic records are backed up to prevent loss.

Filled out records included:

CCP monitoring for filter inspection.

These were all found to be in good order.

Records are retained for a minimum shelf life plus 12 months for all BRCGS requirements. These records are backed up daily at corporate and retrievable for review (as evidenced during trace).

3.4 Internal audits

There is a schedule for internal audits of the FSMS (Internal audits that includes, HACCP, PRPs, Food Defence, Fraud and the written procedures) that is scheduled throughout the year summarized as follows:

A detailed internal audit procedure section 8.4, was conducted throughout the year with all elements of the BRCGS Standard covered. Reviewed reports for 1st quarter section 5.09 that lists all potential hazards for each process step that covered sections 2 on 2022-09-26 and 4 of the BRCGS Global Standard performed 2022-11-08. Additional audits performed on 2023-01-10 and 2022-04-06.

The frequency for these audits is based on risks associated with the activity and/or results from previous audits.

Each of the listed audits has a scope for the program being audited.

There are 5 internal auditors performing internal audits to the BRCGS Standards at this location. Training for internal auditors included D.D. with Internal Auditor Workshop dated 2018-10-10. These were consisting of auditors from corporate with no duties at this location and separated from the activities inspected.

Training for internal auditor K.M. dated 2011-07-20.

Training for internal auditor L.M dated 2013-01-11 by RR Nuts.

Verification recorded on an electronic CAPA database that included root cause analysis and tracking to completion. Internal audits included generated CAPA numbers that were linked back to a database containing actions taken. Example included # 5641.

A documented program of self-inspections is carried out at this location. This includes Monthly Self Inspections. Records dated 2022-11-08 Audit # 104380 housekeeping audits reviewed. Also reviewed complete report in BASICSAFE on 2022-12-06.

All areas including inside and outside of the facility including building fabrication and production areas. Hygiene practices were also monitored during this inspection. A summary of results is also presented during the management review meetings reviewed in Section 1 of this Standard.

3.5 Supplier and raw material approval and performance monitoring

3.5.1 Management of suppliers of raw material and packaging

The company has a documented risk assessment of raw materials (including ingredients) also including primary packaging to identify potential risks to product safety, legality and quality and includes risks of: - allergen contamination, foreign-body risk, microbiological contamination, chemical contamination, substitution or fraud and any risks associated with raw materials which are subject to legislative control.

The significance or impact of a raw material to the quality of the final product is also included. This was conducted per Risk/Vulnerability Assessment: Ingredient/Raw Material Rev 3 dated 2022-02-23 for Liquid Tote and 2023-02-22 for Granulated Sugar.

The risk assessment forms the basis for the raw material acceptance and testing procedure and for the processes adopted for supplier approval and monitoring.

The risk assessment is updated when: - there is a change in a raw material, the processing of a raw material, or the supplier of a raw material or if a new risk emerges. In addition, an update is conducted following a recall or withdrawal where a specific raw material has been implicated and at least every 3 years. Documents reviewed included finished product from the product trace, packaging material (liquid sugar loaded onto bulk trucks).

The company also has a supplier approval procedure Approved Supplier Program section 5.18 that is also based on risk and requires one or a combination of the following: - Valid GFSI certification, supplier audits that includes records of auditor competence and review of a completed audit report.

The suppliers selected earlier had been approved by: a documented risk assessment is in place for each material and included in the food safety plan. COA are additionally required for each load. Items can only be received from an approved supplier. Each supplier is required to provide documentation and/or testing results based on the documented process of review. Examples provided included Granulated Sugar received from location with SQF certificate # 6214 valid through 2024-01-28 and Liquid Totes through customer specific supplier LOG from supplier and a valid SQF certificate from AIBI to SQF Code Cert# 13945.

List of suppliers maintained in electronically which included raw materials and packaging materials.

This procedure also covers ongoing performance and requires review annually. The approved supplier list is maintained electronically and the current version was reviewed. The suppliers from the product trace and also current production items were reviewed.

All vendors are required to have a traceability program.

Procedures for exceptions to this policy are defined. Additional product testing may be required. When customer specific items are produced, the customer is made aware of the relevant exceptions.

3.5.2 Raw material and packaging acceptance, monitoring and management procedures

The packaging and raw materials received are approved based on the information included on the COA and compared against the specifications and considering the information related to the truck inspection and the condition of the materials.

All materials are inspected for condition with packaging inspected for damage and is tested as required upon receipt.

Raw material acceptance for the Granulated sugar, the ingredient traced in the vertical audit, was examined and found to be complete. Random materials observed and documented during the audit could be matched with the approved supplier list and the supporting documents. The receiving information was reviewed for raw material and packaging materials included as part of the vertical audit documents generated on 2022-12-19 and 2023-02-28.

3.5.3 Management of suppliers of services

Management of suppliers of services is covered in Approved Supplier program listed above and is based on risk to the safety and quality of the products, legal compliance and risks to security (identified in vulnerability and food defence assessments).

The following services were reviewed during this audit:

Pest control

Waste management

Uniforms for production area

Laboratory services

Formal agreements were maintained on file for local suppliers and reviewed during the inspection. Included in the procedure for management of suppliers of services is a requirement to review performance on an on-going basis. Records were reviewed for each of the above service providers to ensure compliance on Register No# 1.0-01.0 Version 1 Approved Supplier Registry 2023.

3.5.4 Management of Outsourced processing

No outsourced processing occurs at this site.

3.6 Specifications

Specifications are on file for raw materials/packaging materials and services that ensure compliance with relevant safety and legislative requirements. The specifications include defined limits for relevant attributes of the material which may affect the quality or safety of the final products (e.g. chemical, microbiological or physical standards).

The specifications reviewed in this audit included:

Type O Liquid Sucrose – 30 day shelf life in accordance with HACCP plan.

Specification Sheet for Readyfill Liquid Container for Liquid Sugar dated 2022-10-10.

Up-to-date specifications also existed for finished products that included customer and/or legal requirements as well as the safe use of the product.

Example provided for Type 0 Liquid Sucrose dated 2022-09-21.

Specifications are reviewed every three years or whenever products change. All specifications reviewed during this audit were found to be within the 3 year time frame. Reviews and any changes were specified on the documents.

3.7 Corrective and preventive actions

There is a procedure for handling and correcting failures identified in the food safety and quality management system:

Section 1.4 Corrective Actions and Root Cause Analysis

If the non-conformity places the safety, legality or quality of product at risk investigation is carried out that includes: - clear documentation, assessment of the consequence, immediate correction, action to address the immediate issue, timescale for corrective action, responsibility and verification. The procedure also includes root cause analysis as part of the tool for implementation of ongoing improvements to prevent recurrence that is supported by non-conformance trends to identify the need for this.

Examples reviewed during this audit included:

Verification recorded on an electronic CAPA database that included root cause analysis and tracking to completion. Internal audits included generated CAPA numbers that were linked back to a database

containing actions taken. Example included # 5641.CAPA from housekeeping audit performed 2021-12-29.

Section 1.4.2.3 lists actions to prevent recurrence based on root cause analysis.

3.8 Control of non-conforming product

The procedure for control of non-conforming (out-of-specification product) is contained in section 7.2 of the Quality policy under Non-conforming Product and Materials. The process in place includes

reporting, identification (putting items on hold physically), secure storage (tagged), proper management of returned items, notification to brand owners, record keeping requirements, and authorized personnel to disposition products. The responsibility of the program lies with Warehouse/General Managers for determining nonconforming product and ensuring warehouses label and segregate items. Final disposition of any hold material are also the responsibilities of the General Manager or Assistant.

Material stored in back warehouse #4 and sent back to sister facility. No examples of hold of finished product were observed at this site as disposition typically entails remelting through the process or shipping to production locations for granulated and/or other sugars.

3.9 Traceability

The site has a documented traceability procedure Section 4.4 designed to maintain traceability throughout the site's processes. The procedure includes: - how the traceability system operates, and the labelling and records required.

The site tests the traceability system across the range of product groups to ensure traceability can be determined from the supplier of raw material (including primary packaging) to the finished product and vice versa, including quantity check/mass balance that is carried out at least annually; this is done in conjunction with the mock recall test. This test includes a summary of documents referenced, Information about the trace, product types, quantities, raw material log numbers, consignee/customers, and Processing documentation (CCP records, BOL and COA's). Documents are retained for prior tests of the system.

Last tested on 2023-01-11 with packaging and 2023-02-01 with product and scenario foreign material in liquid sugar with 100.00% success rate in 48 minutes.

A vertical traceability test was conducted during the audit on Liquid Sucrose, Customer specific in Finished Product 025211-0269 with a production date of 2021-12-19 with a 100 percent traceability. This included all finished goods and packaging materials used within 35 minutes.

20100 gallons produced on this day and the shipping records showed that 3 orders shipped on P.O numbers that week. 100% traceability was achieved in 35 minutes.

The following ingredients were traced: - granulated sugar and packaging material bulk tankers to the lot codes and receiving data (as well as supplier approval status and specifications, etc.)

A mass balance was conducted on the granulated sugar. 16000 lbs were received. It was used for this product run on 2021-12-19 with 100% mass balance achieved.

This exercise was also used to check the records for the controls including control points at each stage of the process, packing and shipping as well as sanitation, maintenance and operator trainings around the selected packing date. This exercise (trace) part took 35 minutes.

Where product is reworked and/or any reworking operation, traceability of the materials is maintained through AS400. A resource number is assigned to the items to ensure traceability. Returned items to sister locations are then melted and passed back through the systems.

3.10 Complaint-handling

Complaints are recorded and investigated according to Customer Complaint Management section 1.6.

Actions appropriate to the seriousness and frequency of the problems identified are carried out promptly and effectively by appropriately trained staff (final decision by Plant Manager/QA).

Complaint data is analysed for significant trend and if there is an increase or a serious complaint, root cause analysis is used to implement ongoing improvements to product safety, legality and quality, and to avoid recurrence through root cause analysis of the issue. This analysis is be made available to relevant staff and reviewed on a quarterly basis.

Trending reports were available on an electronic system, reviewed monthly by the facility. Trend information was reviewed for this location and no complaints were on file for this location.

Complaint information for 2021 to current was available for review. Information from sister facilities is also housed in this database and reviewed for compliance to the Standard. Complaint information is regarded as a KPI and is tracked monthly. No plan attributed complaints were on file for this location. Typical complaints consist of off-colour and/or issues with shipment (count).

3.11 Management of incidents, product withdrawal and product recall

The procedure(s) for managing incidents and potential emergency situations that impact food safety, legality or quality is contained in a formal crisis management program Emergency Plan for Product Doc # 3.8-01 Rev 12 for employee, facility, or product issues.

Contingency plans are included to maintain product safety, authenticity, quality and legality. Incidents listed included:

Mail handling issues

disruption to key services such as water, energy, transport, refrigeration processes

staff availability and communications

events such as fire, flood or natural disaster

malicious contamination or sabotage including digital cyber-security

Where products which have been shipped/released by an incident, consideration is given for the need to withdraw or recall products.

The procedure for managing withdrawal and recall is listed in Section 3.2 Recall Program & Testing. This procedure includes:

•identification of key personnel constituting the recall management team, with clearly identified responsibilities

•guidelines for deciding whether a product needs to be recalled or withdrawn and the records to be maintained

•an up-to-date list of key contacts (including out-of-hours contact details) or reference to the location of such a list (e.g. recall management team, emergency services, suppliers, customers, certification body, regulatory authority)

•a communication plan including the provision of information to customers, consumers and regulatory authorities in a timely manner

•details of external agencies providing advice and support as necessary (e.g. specialist laboratories, regulatory authority and legal expertise)

•a plan to handle the logistics of product traceability, recovery or disposal of affected product, and stock reconciliation

•a plan to record timings of key activities

•a plan to conduct root cause analysis and to implement ongoing improvements, to avoid recurrence.

The procedure is tested at least at least annually, last on 2023-01-11. Results on file indicated liquid sugar was recovered with a 100% traceability in under 4 hours.

The recall part of the procedure included the requirement to notify the CB within 3-days; there had been 0 recalls in the last 12 months.

Details of non-applicable clauses with justification	
Clause/Section Ref	Justification
3.5.1.5	No brokers are used.

3.5.4.1 – 3.5.4.6	No outsourced processing is used.
3.6.3	No customer-branded products are manufactured.

4. Site standards

4.1 External standards

The site is suitably sized, located, constructed and maintained to reduce the risk of contamination and facilitate the production of safe and legal finished products.

Local activities include industrial areas with manufacturers of non-food items that presented no contamination risk to the item produced at this location. The facility was established in 1897 with several developments over the next few years and the inspection included the production location, warehouse storage, and outside areas.

External travel routes are surfaced in gravel in front and grassed areas in back of the production location in adjacent lots. Residential streets extend next to one side of the building far separated from the site. A rail spur crosses the location but is not currently utilized. All areas are in a state of repair that does not present a risk to the products manufactured and/or stored. Heavy snow prevented a deeper inspection of each area.

Building fabric is maintained to reduce the risk of contamination, ingress of water and pests.

Policies were in place to record visitors and/or contractors. All were made aware of the requirements when entering the site.

Only authorised personnel have access to production and storage areas. Any person entering the area are the responsibility of a nominated site contact.

Staff are trained in site security procedures, last on 2023-01-24 based on records reviewed on Safety & Food Safety Meeting 3.6-01 Rev 1.

External intake pipes into the location were locked and secured. No material is stored in outside tanks.

4.2 Site security and food defence

The company conducted a documented risk assessment (internal and external threat assessment) last conducted on 2022-01-19 by L.M. who was training FSPCA Food Defense Awareness on 2019-04-12. This individual has site specific knowledge of this location and principles of food defence. The risk assessment considered all the potential risks to products from any deliberate attempt to inflict contamination or damage.

The output of this was documented in a threat assessment plan (Food Defense Protocol 9.1-01 Rev 3) that is reviewed annually or whenever a new risk emerges or following an incident where product security of food defense is implicated. As this facility only exports to North America, no legal requirements in the

country of sale or intended use were required. Key pads and/or keys are required for all areas. These are also included in the annual review.

Mitigation strategies are in place for any areas identified at a significant risk level and are controlled, monitored, and reviewed at least annually along with the plan. This includes not only raw materials but also packaging.

Staff are trained in food defence procedures, last on 2023-01-24 based on records reviewed.

4.3 Layout, product flow and segregation

The factory layout, flow of processes and movement of personnel is sufficient to prevent the risk of product contamination and to comply with relevant legislation.

The site has assessed the production risk zones as required in the Standard and have not identified any areas of high risk, high care, or ambient high care.

There are site maps, dated 2023-01-19 and 2022-02-22 that show:

Production risk zones, access points for personnel, access points for raw materials (including packaging), semi-finished products and open products, routes of movement for personnel, routes of movement for raw materials (including packaging), routes for the removal of waste, routes for the movement of rework, location of any staff facilities, including changing rooms, toilets, and smoking areas (none on site), production process flows, and any areas requiring time segregation to complete different activities.

This was provided to the auditor in electronic copy to review.

Contractors and visitors, including drivers, are made aware of all procedures for access to premises and the requirements of the areas they are visiting and contractors who work in product processing or storage areas are controlled by a nominated person – a sign-in was made available to the auditor upon reception at the site for every day of the audit.

The movement of personnel and also process flow did not appear to add risk to the safety or contamination of product.

There was sufficient working space and storage capacity to enable all operations to be carried out properly under safe hygienic conditions. Space was limited in some areas of the facility; however, the site properly managed all areas.

4.4 Building fabric, raw material handling, preparation, processing, packing and storage areas

The fabrication of the site, buildings and facilities is suitable for the intended purpose.

The walls were made from concrete and paint to resist stains designed hygienically in most cases.

The floors were made from concrete and maintained in suitable condition.

Drainage consisted of adequate drainage from all areas. Circle drains were available in production areas. No drainage was required in the warehouse areas which consisted of approximately 80% of the total site size.

Ceilings were made from wood crossbars in warehouse area and metal in production areas and did not present any contamination risk.

Doors (internal and external) were maintained in good order, external doors were suitably proofed to prevent pest ingress. Any that needed to be open during production were fitted with proper seals and cushions around the door to ensure they were adequately pest proofed.

The standard of lighting was adequate in all areas that included storage, process, packing areas to allow inspection of product and monitor results of cleaning.

Adequate ventilation and extraction were also provided in key areas.

4.5 Utilities – water, ice, air and other gases

Utilities used within the production and storage areas are monitored to effectively control the risk of product contamination.

A municipal water supply is used for the following: - hand washing, cleaning, personal use and ingredient mixing.

The municipal water is potable at point of use and poses no risk of contamination according to applicable legislation. Evidence to support this included: City water report 2021. Water was also analysed according to risk to ensure water stored and handled on site is managed properly.

Samples are tested annually by the facility, last on 2023-01-18 . Results were on file for chemical analysis as well as micro results to include Arsenic, Cadmium, Lead, Mercury, TPC, coliform Count, and E.Coli Count.

There was a schematic diagram that shows the water distribution system on site, including sources of water and drainage from different areas as appropriate. The diagram had been used as a basis for the sampling points and the management of water quality.

Air and other gasses used for food contact are monitored; filters are in place. Compressed air is not used in direct contact with products.

4.6 Equipment

All the food-processing equipment is suitable for the intended purpose and is used to minimise the risk of contamination of product; it was constructed of appropriate materials, designed and located to allow for effective cleaning and maintenance.

The purchasing of equipment is performed according to a documented purchase specification detailing the site's requirements for purchase depending on its intended use and requires authorisation from a multi-disciplinary team (maintenance log and capital approval). Suppliers of equipment provide detailed diagrams and contracts to ensure that equipment meets these requirements. Any new equipment will be subject to the Change Management procedure in section 1.2. No examples are on file for this site as new equipment installation has been limited in the past 50 years.

The design and construction of equipment, based on risk, appeared to be maintained to prevent product contamination. No issues were noted during the inspection.

All items were made of stainless steel or were industry standard equipment.

Records of a risk-based commissioning procedure for equipment were reviewed including post-installation cleaning.

Movement of static equipment, if needed, is addressed in the commissioning procedure.

Storage of infrequently used equipment or equipment removed from service did not appear to have any negative effect on food safety.

Mobile equipment (forklifts and other lifts) did not appear to have an impact on the risk to the product. Equipment appeared clean and sanitary during the inspection.

Battery-changing areas were removed from production areas to ensure no risk to products handled.

Capital expenditure Authorization form dated 2022-09-07 was reviewed for Liquid Sugar Blend Tank #7 to replace with a stainless tank. This required approval from Project Manager, Director of Warehouse and Logistics, Corporate Engineering, VP of operations, CFO, and President. Additional approvals were noted for quality, safety, and environmental to ensure material is food safe.

4.7 Maintenance

There is a maintenance programme in operation for plant and equipment to prevent contamination and reduce the potential for breakdowns. The planned maintenance program is addressed through Section 5.6 Facility and Equipment Maintenance, it includes a schedule of work and a condition monitoring system (inspection of equipment where there is a risk of product contamination) that includes all plant and processing equipment. The maintenance requirements are defined when commissioning new equipment or based on history. The system also covers unplanned or breakdown maintenance using a work order system. PM are included in the Master Cleaning Schedule form 10.6-01 Rev 1 which was reviewed for January 2023.

The following planned schedules were reviewed during this audit:

Grease Mixers on #1 Mix #4 Mix and #7 Mix tanks.

Inspect all U.V. Light Systems on all tanks.

While maintenance policy is in place, it should be noted that repairs at this site are performed by contractors as no maintenance personnel are present.

There was a temporary repair policy covered in Temporary Repair Procedure section 5.6.2.5 listing procedure and materials to be used, no issues were observed linked to this during this audit.

There was a documented hygiene clearance procedure for line clearance. Maintenance, operations, and QA must sign off on the form prior to work being completed. All areas subject to maintenance are cleaned by facility-designated personnel and documented on the MSS for the week.

Materials used (non-equipment chemicals, lubricating oils) are required to be 'food approved' according to the label and the SDS. Examples reviewed during this audit included:

PVC-21 Pipe Cement

4.8 Staff facilities

Changing facilities for factory personnel included: - locations for the storage of employee personal items along with rules for the correct storage.

Visitors and contractors are required to perform donning of hair nets/beard guards and washing hands prior to entrance.

Sufficient size storage locations (locker rooms) were provided to accommodate personal items.

Segregation of outdoor clothing was achieved by racking systems for the storage of uniforms and hangers for uniforms for the mixing area with no outdoor clothing allowed.

Handwashing stations were located at the entrance to production and within restrooms in the office; and included:

-advisory signs to prompt handwashing

-water at adequate temperature

-hands free taps

-soap (liquid/foam)

-drying with single use paper towels.

Toilet areas appeared to be adequately segregated and did not open directly into production or packing areas. No issues were noted with the hand-washing facilities inside toilet areas.

Smoking (including the use of electronic cigarettes) is allowed in outside areas only. Adequate arrangements for dealing with smokers' waste was provided.

Areas for the proper storage of food brought into the site is provided inside the employee break area.

4.9 Chemical and physical product contamination control: raw material handling, preparation, processing, packing and storage areas

4.9.1 Chemical control

Processes are in place to manage the use, storage and handling of non-food chemicals to prevent chemical contamination listed in Chemical control section 5.17 Chemical Control and Approval; these included:

An approved list of chemicals for purchase, availability of material safety data sheets and specifications, confirmation of suitability for use in a food-processing environment, avoidance of strongly scented products, labelling and/or identification of containers of chemicals at all times, a designated storage area with restricted access to authorized personnel, use by trained individuals only, procedures to manage any spills, and procedures for the safe, legal disposal or return of obsolete or out-of-date chemicals and empty chemical containers contained in Spills and Disposal of chemical or cleaner bottles.

Chemicals reviewed in this audit included:

Spears PVC-21 Pipe Cement

WD-40

The risk of taint or contamination during building work was also covered in these procedures where strongly scented material have to be used to prevent the risk of taint contamination of products.

4.9.2 Metal control

There is a documented Physical Contaminant Control section 5.9 for the controlled use and storage of sharp metal implements including knives, cutting blades on equipment, needles and scissors. This section of the FSQM also notes policies for glass and wood discussed in later sections.

The policy also prohibits the use of snap-off blades and any disposable blades in production.

The policy also prohibits the use of staples, paper clips or push pins in areas where there is open product such as in make-up and production areas.

No issues of concern were noted during this audit.

4.9.3 Glass, brittle plastic, ceramics and similar materials

Policy statements indicate that all glass and other brittle materials will be excluded or protected in open product areas.

Procedures for handling glass and other brittle materials are contained in Physical Contaminant Control section 5.9. This includes:

A detailed list indicating the location and type of each instance of material was in place (Inventory list audited 2023-02-08).

This includes procedures for cleaning and replacing line items to minimize the potential for product contamination. A local work instruction is in place titled Glass and Brittle Breakage and Clean-up 10.8.1-01 Rev 1

Documented procedures are in place to address the following areas:

Training

Quarantining of product

Cleaning

Inspection

Changing of workwear and inspection of footwear when needed

Responsible personnel

Record keeping

Disposition of products affected.

Where glass windows pose a risk to product, these are protected against breakage and monitored.

All strip lights were noted to be shatterproof. The site requires that only shatterproof bulbs be used.

4.9.4 Products packed into glass or other brittle containers

No glass or other brittle containers are used at this location.

4.9.5 Wood

The use and condition of wood is covered in Physical Contaminant Control section 5.9 to ensure that all wood is inspected prior to use. No wood utensils were noted in open product areas and no issues of concern were noted during this audit. Any wood used for food contact purposes is fit for food use in regards to condition and any treatments and/or paint/taints used.

4.9.6 Other physical contaminants

Procedures are in place to prevent physical contamination of product to include debagging and deboxing procedures in GBW-PPP-1042 dated 2022-01-22. Procedures ensure that all packaging materials are only opened with company issued tools that are monitored.

Pens and other handheld portable equipment (mobile phones, tablets and similar) are controlled to minimize the risk of physical contamination. Employees are only authorized to use company approved metal detectable pens in product areas.

Based on risk, other types of foreign-body contamination not listed in section 4.9 of this standard is addressed in the HACCP program at this location.

4.10 Foreign-body detection and removal equipment

4.10.1 Selection and operation of foreign-body detection and removal equipment
A risk assessment had been conducted in conjunction with the HACCP / Food Safety Plan study to determine if equipment was needed to detect/remove foreign matter in the process. This assessment identified the need for: -filter (oil) / screens (sifters) The equipment identified was documented (location and sensitivity) in the facility Food Safety Plan; in the FSQM section 5.9; and in equipment specific SOPs for the identified control devices. The frequency of the testing/checking of the foreign-body detection and/or removal equipment is defined in various documents including those mentioned above. These take into consideration the site's ability to identify, hold and prevent the release of any affected materials, should the equipment fail. These documents also detailed corrective action to be taken. Records reviewed in this audit included: oil filter checks, metal detector monitoring, sifter screen inspection; magnet inspection and cleaning from several dates. These records are used to document checks performed and any findings noted. Trends are reviewed during management meetings (held as noted in Section 1) to determine if corrective action/preventive action is necessary. No records of foreign material are present for this site.
4.10.2 Filters and sieves
The liquid used for foreign matter detection had the following mesh/gage size: 100 micron or greater for liquid filters. This is listed as the sole CCP at this location. Liquid Filters are checked to ensure there are no holes or other damage per CCP Monitoring: Liquid Filter Document 6.3-02 Rev 4. This lists a monitoring frequency of after each load. Any deficiency must be reported to senior management and recorded on 6.3-04 HACCP Deviation: Liquid Filter Rev 2. No deviations were on file within the past year.
4.10.3 Metal detectors and X-ray equipment
Risk assessment had been used to determine the lack for metal detection equipment located prior to loading. The risk assessment is performed on Doc 8.1-01 Rev 2 and takes into account product types, regulatory requirements, customer specifications, customer Complaint evaluation, scientific References and Operating Data Collection. As this site does not produce granulated sugar, no metal detection is required and was revised/reviewed 2023-01-03.
4.10.4 Magnets
No magnets are used.
4.10.5 Optical sorting equipment
No optical sorting equipment is used at this location.

4.10.6 Container cleanliness – glass jars, cans and other rigid containers
No rigid containers are used at this facility

4.10.7 Other foreign-body detection and removal equipment
No other foreign body detection and removal equipment is used.

4.11 Housekeeping and hygiene
Housekeeping and cleaning systems are in place to ensure appropriate standards of hygiene are maintained and the risk of product contamination is minimised. All areas of the facility were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition per section 5.4 Cleaning, Sanitation and Waste. Cleaning observed including dusting the tops of pallets in storage and general warehouse cleaning. Documented cleaning procedures are in place and maintained for the building, plant and all equipment. Cleaning procedures for the processing equipment section 5.7 Cleaning, Sanitation and Waste Management found to include: •responsibility for cleaning •item/area to be cleaned •frequency of cleaning •method of cleaning, including dismantling equipment for cleaning purposes where required •cleaning chemicals and concentrations •cleaning materials to be used •cleaning records (including records for completion and sign-off) and responsibility for verification. The frequency and methods are based on risk of the areas being cleaned. Cleaning procedures reviewed included: SOP for Cleaning Outsides and Tops of Tanks Doc 10.6-08 Rev 1 SOP for Cleaning Walls and Ceilings Doc 10.6-09 Rev 0 Limits of acceptable and unacceptable cleaning performance have been defined for food contact surfaces and processing equipment as visual inspection only. Cleaning records included a review of Master Cleaning records from Warehouse and Liquid room for January 2023. Procedures define the corrective actions to be taken when monitored results are outside the acceptable limits. No validation is required of the cleaning procedures at this location.

Cleaning staff are trained on each SOP (this includes an evaluation and sign off by the trainer) according to the JSA-REC-001 Station / Job Training.

The cleanliness of equipment is checked by the team leader and supervisor prior to releasing back to production. These checks included ensuring the equipment met standards. This was not witnessed during the audit however associated records were reviewed for the month of January 2023.

Cleaning equipment was:

•hygienically designed and fit for purpose

•suitably identified for intended use (e.g. colour-coded or labelled)

•cleaned and stored in a hygienic manner to prevent contamination.

4.11.7 Cleaning in place (CIP)

There is no CIP system at this location. The facility utilizes a hot water flush system to clean tanks; however, this does not meet the requirements of CIP as defined in the BRCGS Standard.

4.11.8 Environmental monitoring

An environmental monitoring program is not maintained based on risk. A risk assessment dated 2023-02-24 Rev 4 is performed based on the aW of finished product (.32), classification of finished product and its pathogen growth potential, customer recommendations, heat treatment options, and FDA guidance.

4.12 Waste and waste disposal

Waste disposal is managed in accordance with legal requirements and to prevent accumulation, risk of contamination and the attraction of pests.

Waste containers observed during this audit (internal and external) were being managed to minimize risk and handled to ensure waste removal from open product areas does not compromise product safety. Dedicated routes and isolated waste areas are used to control any issues.

4.13 Management of surplus food and products for animal feed

Processes are in place to ensure the safety and legality of by-products of the primary processing activity of the site. Surplus items are disposed of per customer requirements. Samples are provided for in-house products to employees and no donation of customer items is made.

By-products and downgraded/surplus products are not intended for animal feed at this location and are sent to waste.

4.14 Pest management

The site has an effective preventive pest management programme in place to minimise the risk of infestation that also complies with applicable legislation. Measures have been taken to control any pest activity identified through regular inspections to prevent it present a risk to products, raw materials or packaging. The procedure 5.4 Integrated Pest Management lists the requirements for pest control.

A contracted service provider with a current business license, performs all pest monitoring services at this location. A current scope of service indicated that services are performed for rodent issues (internal and external), pheromone monitors and fly lights at this location. Service is performed on a weekly basis.

The site utilizes a contractor for all services.

Training materials on file for the PCO performing services at this location.

PCO license expires 2023-12-31 and an insurance expiration 2024-01-01.

An approved list of chemicals to be applied at this location and no pesticides are stored at this location.

EPA registered baits are used at this location. Example reviewed were

Selontra Rodent Bait EPA# 7969-382

24/7 contact information is available for the pest control provider.

Service reports maintained at this location were reviewed and the following areas were noted:

An up-to-date map dated 2023-01-02 of the full site is in place

Pest activity is noted on service reports and trend files are available.

Details sufficient to show proper treatment is available. Records from January 2022 through current service in February 2023 were reviewed during the audit. Specific records inspected included

2023-02-20

2021-07-06

Service reports were maintained as an electronic copy and were available for review.

All insect killing and monitoring devices were operational and sited appropriately at this location.

Bird escalation procedures were in place upon the event of an issue. All areas were noted to be sealed to prevent the inclusion of birds.

Records of pest management inspections and recommendations are maintained. These records list the dates of notification and corrective actions to address the issue.

An in-depth survey was performed 2023-01-08 at this location and included review of the existing pest management measures taken and an in-depth inspection of the facility for pest activity. Certifications were on file indicating the person conducting the inspection is an expert in pest control.

Trend data is maintained by the contracted service provider and analyzed on a quarterly basis. These trend reports are also reviewed during the annual review of the pest management system. Trend reports reviewed for insect activity in 3rd quarter 2021.

Pest sighting log is utilized by employees.

4.15 Storage facilities

The facilities used for the storage of raw materials, packaging, in-process products and finished products were found to be suitable for purpose.

The site had documented procedures for storage and stock rotation contained in Storage and Handling Food Products Program contained in Section 6.4.

Procedures to maintain product safety and quality during storage included:

-segregation of products where necessary to avoid cross-contamination (physical, microbiological or allergens) or taint uptake

-storing materials off the floor and away from walls (18” perimeter maintained)

-specific handling or stacking requirements to prevent product damage

The site facilitates correct stock rotation of raw materials, intermediate products and finished products in storage and ensures that materials are used in the correct order in relation to their manufacturing date and within the prescribed shelf life using FIFO procedures per Section 6.4 under First-in-First-Out (FIFO) Inventory Management.

4.16 Dispatch and transport

Procedures are in place to ensure that the management of dispatch and of the vehicles and containers used for transporting products from the site do not present a risk to the safety, security or quality of the products. These included and are detailed section 5.15 for liquid tankers. This included:

the use of covered bays for vehicle loading or unloading

securing loads on pallets to prevent movement during transit

inspection of loads prior to dispatch.

Section 5.15 lists procedures for all vehicles or containers used for the transport of raw materials and the dispatch of products are inspected for:

•in a clean condition

•free from strong odours which may cause taint to products

•in a suitable condition to prevent damage to products during transit

Records for the dispatch of product for the item trace exercise were reviewed for compliance.

In addition maintenance systems and documented cleaning procedures are in place for loading/unloading.

Procedures were also in place for:

•mixed load restrictions

•requirements for the security of products during transit, particularly when vehicles are parked and unattended

•clear instructions in the case of vehicle breakdown or accident

Contract reviewed for trucking company used by the facility. All elements of sanitary transportation and procedures covered in section 4.16.1 through 4.16.5 of the BRCGS Standard are addressed.

During the audit, loading procedures for trucks were observed. Paperwork from 2023-02-28 was reviewed with shipping to ensure all procedures listed in this section were followed including truck inspection, seals, wash tickets, and security procedures.

Details of non-applicable clauses with justification	
Clause/Section Ref	Justification
4.3.6	No temporary structures were observed.
4.4.5	No suspended ceilings or roof voids were present.
4.4.6	No elevated walkways, access steps or mezzanine floors are adjacent or pass over production lines.

4.4.7	No windows and roof glazing designed to be opened for ventilation were observed.
4.4.11	No plastic strip curtains are present.
4.7.6	There were no engineering workshops.
4.8.8	No catering facilities (including vending machines) are provided.
4.10.3.1 – 4.10.3.5	No metal detection and X-ray equipment is used.
4.10.4.1	No magnets are used.
4.10.5.1	No optical sorting is used.
4.10.6.1 – 4.10.6.2	No glass jars, cans and other rigid containers are used.
4.10.7.1	No other foreign-body detection and removal equipment is used.
4.11.7.1 – 4.11.7.4	No CIP systems as defined by this Standard are used.
4.11.8.1 – 4.11.8.3	No environmental monitoring program is performed based on risk.
4.12.4	No unsafe products or substandard trademarked materials are transferred to a third party for destruction or disposal.
4.13.1 – 4.13.2	No customer-branded products are made.
4.13.3	No materials intended for animal feed are produced.
4.14.3	A contractor is used for all services.
4.15.3	No temperature control is required.
4.15.4	No controlled atmosphere storage is required.
4.15.5	No storage outside is necessary.
4.16.3	No temperature control is required.

5. Product control

5.1 Product design/development

The procedure section 1.2 details how new products or processes and any changes to product, packaging or manufacturing processes are managed to ensure that safe and legal products are produced. It also includes guidelines on any restrictions to the scope of new product developments to control the introduction of hazards that are unacceptable to the site or customers (e.g. the introduction of allergens, glass packaging or microbiological risks).

All new products and changes to product formulation, packaging or methods of processing are formally approved by the HACCP team leader or authorised HACCP committee member; Capital expenditure Authorization form dated 2022-09-07 was reviewed for Liquid Sugar Blend Tank #7 to replace with a stainless tank. This required approval from Project Manager, Director of Warehouse and Logistics, Corporate Engineering, VP of operations, CFO, and President. Additional approvals were noted for quality, safety, and environmental to ensure material is food safe.

If trials are required to validate that product formulation and manufacturing processes to produce a safe product of the required quality, these are also documented according to the procedure in section 5.7

No shelf-life trails are performed at this location. Shelf-life is determined through industry practice and a 2015 shelf life study published by the National Sugar Marketing for the 30 day shelf life listed for liquid sucrose.

5.2 Product labelling

The process for product labelling is covered in Product Labelling GBW-SOP-2067 Dated 2021-12-29 that details how legal requirements are met as well as information to enable the safe handling, display, storage and preparation of the product within the food supply chain or by the customer.

Labelling information is reviewed by the QA Director and HACCP team whenever changes occur to: the product recipe, raw materials, the supplier of raw materials, the country of origin of raw materials, applicable legislation.

Examples reviewed included labels created per section 4.1 Product Lot Numbers which includes the following:

PFYYJJJ

P = Partner Letter Designator

F = Facility Location

YY = Last two digits of year

JJJ = Julian Date

Example provided AX23002

During the audit, the facility was only loading tankers and the loading of liquid totes was not observed. Records of prior runs (approximately 1 per month) were reviewed and contained documentation of code dates used per the above format.

5.3 Management of allergens

The site has a system for the management of allergenic materials that minimises the risk of allergen contamination of products and meets legal requirements for labelling in the country of sale.

The site conducted a risk assessment of raw materials to establish the presence and likelihood of contamination by allergens.

No allergens are present at this site . The site exports products to North America only

A documented hazard analysis indicated the risk/severity of each item along with control measure. This is contained along with the HACCP risk assessment reviewed in section 2 of this Standard.

There is a list of all allergens containing items is maintained inside the hazard analysis for each material handled at this site that covers raw materials, processing aids, intermediate and finished products and the allergens present.

The site conducted a process allergen risk assessment on with the HACCP plan reviewed during this audit that included:

•consideration of the physical state of the allergenic material (i.e. powder, liquid, particulate)

•identification of potential points of cross-contamination (cross-contact) through the process flow

•assessment of the risk of allergen cross-contamination (cross-contact) at each process step

•identification of suitable controls to reduce or eliminate the risk of cross-contamination (cross-contact).

Procedures in section 5.16 are in place for the allergenic materials to prevent cross-contamination (cross-contact) of products not containing the allergen. These may include (as applicable to the site):

Segregated areas (physical or time segregation)

Protective clothing requirements

Dedicated tools, utensils, and equipment

Production scheduling

Air movement

Waste handling and spillage controls

GMP procedures for employees

Use of rework

A gluten-free claims is made for the sugar produced at this site. Validation of this claim is performed via annual gluten-gliadin testing to outside labs. Report dated 2023-01-27 from Eurofins is on file for sugar testing.

5.4 Product authenticity, claims and chain of custody

A process for assessing information related to adulteration or substitution is maintained at this site. Personnel engaged in vulnerability assessments are properly trained to understand potential food fraud risks which includes knowledge of raw materials used by the site and the principles of vulnerability assessment. The person performing the assessment, J.A. has been employed by the facility since 2011 and is PCQI trained on 2016-01-21, HACCP training dated 2013-04-18, Food Safety and HACCP 2015-05-14, and FSPCA Intentional Adulteration Conducting Vulnerability Assessments using Key Activity Sites dated 2019-12-26.

This information is based on information received from trade associations (mailing lists and maintained and covered under job descriptions) and discussed in Section 9.2 Food Fraud

Government sources (FDA for U.S and CFIA for Canadian sources

Private resource centres (Food Chain ID) for ingredient status.

A documented vulnerability assessment is performed for all raw materials at this site. Vulnerability Assessments and risk analysis reviewed dated 2023-02-22. This is incorporated into a list of all ingredients (sugar only at this site). This assessment takes into account:

Historical evidence

Economic factors in the country of origin

Access

Testing ability

Nature of the raw material

This plan is reviewed at least annually, last on 2023-02-22, and upon any changing economic circumstances and market intelligence which may alter the potential risks.

The following claims are made:

Orthodox Union certificate performed on 2022-12-06 and valid through 2023-12-31 OUV4-75EBCFA

Process flows are in place to ensure all claims are met.

All claims are fully validated and substantiated. Appropriate controls are established per identified risk zone to ensure the integrity of the product claims.

5.5 Product packaging

Product packaging is appropriate for the intended use and was being stored under conditions to prevent contamination and minimize deterioration as specified in Product Packaging GBW-PPP-1017 dated 2022-01-23.

Certificates of conformity to indicate food use suitability is maintained for all packaging material. Reviewed during the inspection was:

Reviewed vendor of packaging material:

1.Liquid totes from SpaceKraft with valid SQF Certificate and LOG.

The Product Packaging program deals with obsolete packaging including recycling or certificates of destruction if needed. No examples were sent for destruction outside within the last year as most items are destroyed in-house through bailing.

5.6 Product inspection, on-site product testing and laboratory analysis

Inspection and analyses that are critical to confirm product safety, legality, integrity and quality are performed by trained employees in-house or at an approved laboratory that uses appropriate procedures, facilities and standards.

There are scheduled testing programs found in various documents which included Product Sampling, 7.5-02: Liquid Products (frequency)

The testing programs include:

-chemical test frequency and specified limits

-physical testing; frequency and specified limits

The frequencies of testing are based on risk. All batches of finished product are analysed for physical and chemical parameters including ash, color, pH, turbidity, sediment and brix specified in S200. Any results out of spec. would require the lot placed on hold and product issue further analysed using Non-Conforming Product procedures.

Test and inspection results are recorded and reviewed regularly by the Warehouse Assistant Manager to identify trends for internal and/or external laboratories. Appropriate actions are implemented to address any unsatisfactory results or trends. All testing is reviewed by QA including the uncertainty of measurement associated with any laboratory test results is also considered.

Shelf-life is determined through a shelf-life study reviewed in section 5.1 of this Standard.

Testing laboratories on-site are located designed and operated to eliminate potential risks to product safety.

5.7 Product release

All items must meet specifications prior to release per Section 7.3 Product Hold and Release. All items are on positive quality hold until appropriate monitoring and analyses occur per HACCP monitoring and recipe. Items can only be approved for shipment by the Assistant Warehouse Manager.

5.8 Pet food and animal feed

No pet food and animal feed are made at this location.

5.9 Animal primary conversion

No animal primary conversion occurs at this site

Details of non-applicable clauses with justification	
Clause/Section Ref	Justification
5.2.3	Label information is not the responsibility of the customer
5.2.4	No cooking instructions are provided.

5.3.5	No rework containing allergens is used.
5.3.6	No warnings are needed as no allergens are used.
5.3.8	No allergens are used.
5.4.4	No items are identified as being at a particular risk of adulteration.
5.4.5	No claims of this type are made
5.6.4	No pathogen monitoring is performed.
5.8.1 – 5.8.4	No pet food or animal feed is produced.
5.9.1 – 5.9.4	No animal primary conversion is performed.

6. Process control

6.1 Control of operations

The site has prerequisite programs to ensure the production of consistently safe and legal product with the desired quality characteristics, in full compliance with the HACCP food safety plan. This is contained in:

Interviews indicate employees are familiar with corrective action procedures and the general operations.

Only trained and experienced workers can perform equipment adjustments or can perform QC tasks.

Documents available included process specifications and work instructions/procedures for the key processes that included

recipes – including identification of any allergens

mixing instructions (speed, time)

equipment process settings

cooking and cooling times/temperatures

labelling instructions

coding and shelf-life marking

storage requirements (if applicable)

Any additional controls such as CCP identified in the HACCP plan.

Process specifications reviewed agreed with the finished product specification(s). These are reviewed prior to any changes which may affect the food safety, legality and quality of the product.

Work instructions (including wash time/temperature of trailer cleaning Document 10.9.1-04 Rev 0) are available to ensure any temperature, time, pressure, and other chemical properties are properly implemented.

Where process parameters or product quality is controlled by in-line monitoring devices, these are linked to a suitable failure alert system that is tested by the site to ensure any deviation is noted. The circle chart recorder for tank wash record dated 2023-03-01 on file for system deviation at approximately 1:02 pm.

No validation is required.

There had been 0 cases of equipment failure or deviation from the process specification in the last 12 months. In the case of equipment failure, material is subject to the non-conforming product procedure.

6.2 Labelling and pack control

There appeared to be adequate management control of product labelling activities to ensure that products are correctly labelled and coded.

Labels are not required for tanker loads; product identification is via COA and BOL and confirmed by the

operator. Review shipping documentation records generated 2022-12-26, 2022-12-27, and date of inspection dated 2023-02-28 and found them complaint.

6.3 Quantity, weight, volume and number control

The plant operates to a quantity control system which conforms to customer requirements. Weight checks are recorded on operator forms and verified during the product trace. Dough Ball weights are recorded at the mixing location throughout the production run to meet specifications. Finished product weights are taken Section 6.6 Package Weights and Scale Licensing.

A calibration is performed by an outside vendor the scales used on the truck scales. Records of these calibrations were provided for review last on 2022-04-27

Product not governed by legislative requirements appeared to conform with any customer requirements for weight control. The site has maintained checks of these weights for both bulk tankers and liquid totes.

6.4 Calibration and control of measuring and monitoring devices

The site has processes in place to make sure that measuring equipment is sufficiently accurate and reliable to provide confidence in measurement results.

There was a procedure Equipment calibration Section 5.5 that identified the following measuring equipment used to monitor critical control points and product safety, legality and quality that needed to be calibrated:

Thermometers

Scales

The procedure included:

•a documented list of equipment and its location

•an identification code and calibration due date

•prevention from adjustment by unauthorized staff

•protection from damage, deterioration or misuse.

The procedure also referenced the need for reference measuring equipment also be calibrated and traceable to a recognized national or international standard and records maintained. The uncertainty of calibration was considered when equipment is used to assess critical limits. External calibration of metal detector by outside vendor. Calibration records on file for the following test piece serial numbers:

Circle Recording chart for Tank wash (calibration record dated 2022-12-14) indicating a maximum of 1.03 degree variation.

The results of the records for the equipment identified in this audit were all found to be in good order.

The procedure in the Calibration Program also detailed actions to be taken when the prescribed measuring devices are found not to be operating within specified limits and action taken to ensure at-risk product is not offered for sale.

Details of non-applicable clauses with justification	
Clause/Section Ref	Justification
6.1.4	No settings critical to the safety and legality of the product are identified.

6.1.7	No products or materials outside the scope of the audit are made.
6.2.4	No online verification equipment is used.

7. Personnel

7.1 Training: raw material handling, preparation, processing, packing and storage areas

The company has systems in place to ensure that all personnel who perform work that affects product safety, legality and quality are competent to carry out that activity, through training, work experience or qualification through a documented Section 5.2 Employee Food Safety and Quality Training.

All relevant personnel receive training on the company's internal policies at orientation and again on an annual basis.

Staff have received training during their induction or orientation and annually, covering basic sickness reporting, with health and safety, personal hygiene rules, allergens, quality requirements, basic HACCP, cleaning, machine operation, quality inspections, and sampling, as appropriate.

Orientation training records were reviewed during the visit for operators on the production floor. Records reviewed in this audit were all found to be in good order.

The records for the following personnel were reviewed:

Allergen training for all personnel (including engineers, agency-supplied staff, temporary staff and contractors) was performed on 2023-01-24.

Labelling and Packing processes which are designed to ensure the correct labelling and packing of products was performed last on 2023-01-24. This was performed with all relevant personnel.

Warehouseman #1 E.R. responsible for checking the CCP of filters at this location was chosen to review training records. Additional training occurred on 2023-01-24. Interviews with this employee also confirmed understanding of the procedures. Training records for these individuals were all found to be in good order. Witnessed forms dated 2021-03-08 for GMP and Food Safety Training.

The training program reviewed annually includes provisions for identifying refresher training needs and implementation of training courses accordingly. Employees are cross-trained on multiple jobs as this is a small facility.

The training program covered:

•identifying the necessary competencies for specific roles

•providing training or other action to ensure staff have the necessary competencies

•reviewing the effectiveness of training

•delivery of training in the appropriate language of trainees.

All training is delivered in English as needed and is understood by trainees.

Records of training reviewed for E.R. Warehouseman #1 were reviewed and found to contain

•the name of the trainee and confirmation of attendance

•the date of the training

•the title or course contents, as appropriate

•the training provider

•for internal courses, a reference to the material, work instruction or procedure that is used in the training.

The process for reviewing competency of staff included: initial training with a test, refresher training, direct observation, coaching, mentoring or on-the-job experience.

Training is performed annually and GMP items are included in shift meetings on a weekly basis.

7.2 Personal hygiene: raw material handling, preparation, processing, packing and storage areas

GMP Procedures in section 5.1 Good Manufacturing Practices and Prerequisite Programs and section 5.3 Personnel Practices details instructions on

•watches and similar wearable devices are not to be worn

•jewellery is not to be worn, with the exception of a plain wedding ring, wedding wristband or medical alert jewellery

•rings and studs in exposed parts of the body, such as ears, noses and eyebrows, are not be worn

•fingernails will be kept short, clean and unvarnished. Any nail art and false fingernails are not permitted

•Excessive perfume and aftershave is not to be worn.

Requirements are checked by Assistant Warehouse Manager daily.

Hand washing stations are provided at the entrance to the production area and hand washing is required when entering all production areas.

Metal detectable plasters are used by the company.

Plasters are checked on an as supplied basis as they are from an outside vendor and stocked by the location. Bandages were stored in the QA lab only.

The GMP policy includes written instructions to control the use and storage of personal medicines.

7.3 Medical screening

Personnel GMP's GMP Procedures contains procedures for the notification of any disease or infection.

Visitors and contractors review a medical /health questionnaire, which is checked by an appropriate manager, or confirm that they are not suffering from any symptoms, which may put product safety at risk before entering the raw material preparation, processing, packing, and storage areas.

Defined actions are provided to any staff (including temporary employees), contractors and visitors for actions to be taken where they may be suffering from or been in contact with an infectious disease.

7.4 Protective clothing: employees or visitors to production areas

GMP rules are documented and followed by all associates (including temp personnel, contractors, and visitors) regarding the wearing of protective clothing in specified work areas.

GMP rules details the wearing of protective clothing in specified work areas (e.g. production areas) and also the policies relating to the wearing of protective clothing away from the production environment (e.g. removal before entering rest rooms and use of canteen and smoking areas).

Protective clothing includes:

•is of suitable design to prevent contamination of the product

•fully contains all scalp hair to prevent product contamination

•includes snoods for beards and moustaches, where required, to prevent product contamination. No violation was observed during this audit.

The laundering of protective clothing is carried out by an outside firm (Aramark) with a current outside lab accreditation on cleaning methods. Reviewed COA for Detergent, Souring Agent, and Bleach used.

If protective clothing is required to be washed by the employee, it is only for protective clothing not used for product safety purposes and is only worn in enclosed or low-risk areas of the facility only.

Changes of protective clothing appeared to be conducted at an appropriate frequency to reduce risk.

Gloves were being used in the facility in production and mixing areas; they were blue Nitrile; no issues of concern were noted during this audit.

Details of non-applicable clauses with justification

Clause/Section Ref	Justification
7.2.4	Metal detection is not used.
7.4.6	All items are suitable for laundering or are disposable.

8. Production risk zones – high risk, high care and ambient high care production risk zones
8.1 Layout product flow and segregation in high-risk, high-care and ambient high-care zones
Not applicable
8.2 Building fabric in high-risk and high-care zones
Not applicable
8.3 Equipment and maintenance in high-risk and high-care zones
Not applicable
8.4 Staff facilities for high-risk and high-care zones
Not applicable
8.5 Housekeeping and hygiene in the high-risk high-care zones
Not applicable
8.6 Waste/Waste disposal in high risk, high care zones
Not applicable
8.7 Protective clothing in the high-risk high-care zones
Not applicable

Details of non-applicable clauses with justification

Clause/Section Ref	Justification

9. Requirements for traded products
9.1 The food safety plan - HACCP
Not applicable
9.2 Approval and performance monitoring of manufacturers/packers of traded food products
Not applicable
9.3 Specifications
Not applicable
9.4 Product inspection and laboratory testing
Not applicable
9.5 Product legality
Not applicable
9.6 Traceability
Not applicable

Module 11: Meat Supply Chain Assurance
11.1 Traceability
11.2 Approval of meat supply chain

11.3 Raw material receipt and inspection
11.4 Management of cross-contamination between species
11.5 Product testing
11.6 Training

Module 13: Meeting FSMA Requirements for Food – July 2022
Preventive Controls for Human Food: 21 CFR Part 117 (Clauses 13.1.1 – 13.1.33)
Preventive Controls for Animal Food: 21 CFR Part 507 (Clause 13.2.1)
Food Defence: 21 Part 121 (Clauses 13.3.1 – 13.3.11)
Sanitary Transportation: 21 CFR Part 1 Subpart 0 (Clauses 13.4.1 – 13.4.9)
Produce Safety: 21 Part 112 (Clauses 13.5.1 – 13.5.18)

14.1 Additional Specifier Requirements
14.1 Traceability
14.2 Environmental Monitoring
14.3 Product inspection and laboratory testing
14.4 Protective clothing: Employees or visitors to production areas