

Food Safety Licence Requirements for VFA Small Sales Permit Holders

- Any business that handles seafood for human consumption must hold a valid PrimeSafe seafood safety licence (Seafood Safety Act 2003).
- The permits issued by Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) are only available to commercial fishers and operators for a two-year trial period that commenced in July 2019.
- There are two PrimeSafe food safety licence options. Only one licence is required, Either:
 - ❖ Wildcatch licence (no retail sale) allows fishers to harvest and supply to a land-based facility which can sell and process the fish or seafood for sale; or
 - ❖ Retailer licence, which allows fishers to catch fish and sell it from their vessel.
- A seafood business with multiple VFA licences and/or multiple vessels requires a single Wildcatch licence; however, each vessel that is retailing seafood will require a separate retailer licence.
- If other fin fish species or other seafood is harvested than those mentioned under the Small Sales Permit, then you must contact VFA and PrimeSafe.
- Wildcatch licensees may conduct minimal processing on board their vessel to maintain or improve the wholesomeness of the seafood e.g. cooking prawns and shucking sea urchins. These are ready-to-eat (RTE) seafood products and will not be cooked prior to consumption. The food safety of these products needs to be managed to ensure no contamination occurs with raw products from the processing environment. Any processing or cooking means a Retailer licence is required. Contact PrimeSafe to discuss the activities permitted.
- All seafood that is no longer live must be stored and sold at 5°C or less.
- RTE products that are packaged in retail-ready packaging and have a shelf life of greater than 5 days need to be tested for *Listeria monocytogenes* (Food Standards Code).
- Crustacea and bivalve species such as mussels, scallops, oysters etc. need to also meet the testing requirements of the Food Standards Code.
- PrimeSafe provides free food safety programs on request.

How to get a PrimeSafe Food Safety licence for Wildcatch or Seafood Retail

As a Wildcatch harvester to supply to a land-based business

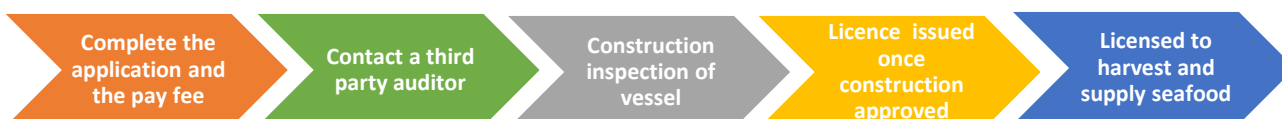


PrimeSafe conducts the Wildcatch audit

Fees - one off application fee of \$145 and an annual licence fee of \$290

Free Food Safety Program booklet can be provided by PrimeSafe

As a Seafood Retailer on a vessel



Third party auditor from a Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) conducts the audit annually

Fee – one of application fee of \$335 and an annual fee of \$670

Free Food Safety Program can be provided by PrimeSafe on request

- **Lodge an application with PrimeSafe** for a Wildcatch or a Seafood Retailer licence by completing the form and paying the applicable fee. Contact the PrimeSafe office on 03 9685 7333 if you need help;
- **For Seafood Retailer licence contract a third party auditor** from a CAB that is accredited by PrimeSafe to conduct the audit. The CAB will charge you for their audit service and report the results to PrimeSafe. You can choose a CAB from the list on the PrimeSafe website;
- **A Construction inspection** of the vessel is conducted by PrimeSafe after receipt of the application;
- **A Food Safety Program is required** which is a documented risk analysis and monitoring of all of the food handling operations that are undertaken and the potential hazards that may be reasonably expected to occur during these operations. PrimeSafe can give you a free food safety program on request;
- **Licence issue** occurs after the construction and food safety program have been approved by either PrimeSafe for a Wildcatch licence or a third part auditor for a retailer licence; and
- **Scheduled audit** occurs after 7 days after a new licence is issued and thereafter annually for retailers and periodically for Wildcatch licensees.
 - ❖ **For more information on testing requirements of the Food Standards Code Australia New Zealand** Please visit the Food Standards Code website <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2017C00323>
 - ❖ **Additional information regarding licensing and auditing** can be obtained from the PrimeSafe website or by contacting Info@primesafe.vic.gov.au