What is a Food Safety Plan?

If you are a domestic or foreign facility covered under the preventive controls rule, you must have and implement a written food safety plan that identifies food safety hazards that require a preventive control and implement preventive controls to significantly minimize or prevent the hazard.

The written food safety plan must include:

- A hazard analysis to identify any known or reasonably foreseeable biological, chemical, and physical hazards, and determine if any of those hazards require a preventive control.

If the hazard analysis identifies a hazard that requires a preventive control, you are required to develop and implement a control to significantly minimize or prevent the hazard.

The preventive controls must be written in the food safety plan and include, as appropriate, procedures, monitoring, corrective actions, verification, records, and in some cases, validation.

The rule outlines preventive controls and associated requirements that could include: process controls, food allergen controls, sanitation controls, supply chain program and other controls.

Lastly, when the hazard analysis identifies a hazard that requires a preventive control, you must also develop a written recall plan that includes the procedures on how to perform a recall and responsibilities for specific activities related to the recall.

There are resources available to help facilities develop a food safety plan.

One of them is the Food Safety Plan Builder. This is a software program that can help you develop a customized food safety plan for your facility.

The program can be downloaded free of charge at:
https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm539791.htm

For more information, please follow us at extension.psu.edu/fsma.