



CGA F-3 — 2024

2ND EDITION

**GUIDELINE FOR
QUALIFYING
SUPPLIERS USED
BY FOOD AND
BEVERAGE GAS
DISTRIBUTORS AND
MANUFACTURERS**



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Work Item 22-008
Food Gases & Equipment Committee

NOTE—Technical changes from the previous edition are underlined.

NOTE—Appendices A, B, and C (Informative) are for information only.

SECOND EDITION: 2024

FIRST EDITION: 2017

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1 Introduction

This publication provides guidance for food gas manufacturers or distributors for developing procedures for qualifying suppliers of food gases, food gas equipment, and other services related to the manufacturing and distribution of food gases.

2 Scope

This publication is for food gas manufacturers and distributors developing company-specific standard operating procedures (SOPs) for qualifying or requalifying suppliers who provide, manufacture, distribute, and store food gases, food gas equipment, and services. Food gases are supplied, stored, and distributed for food applications and are used as ingredients, additives, and direct food contact processing aids.

This publication may be used when qualifying new suppliers or when requalifying existing suppliers of food gases including, but not limited to, bulk and packaged gas manufacturers of nitrogen, oxygen, argon, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, helium, hydrogen, and carbon monoxide.

This would include bulk to bulk supplier swaps, bulk supplier to customer, and package gas supplier to customer.

Food gases stored or distributed by facilities other than the manufacturer may also include food or beverage gas mixtures (e.g., beer, wine, modified atmosphere packaging applications).

3 Definitions

For the purpose of this publication, the following definitions apply.

3.1 Publication terminology

3.1.1 Shall

Indicates that the procedure is mandatory. It is used when the criterion for conformance to specific recommendations allows no deviation.

3.1.2 Should

Indicates that a procedure is recommended.

3.1.3 May

Indicates that the procedure is optional.

3.1.4 Will

Is used only to indicate the future, not a degree of requirement.

3.1.5 Can

Indicates a possibility or probability.

3.2 Technical definitions

3.2.1 Certificate of analysis (COA)

Document that lists the specific analytical results of a product.

3.2.2 Certificate of conformance (COC)

Document that provides a written guarantee that a product meets or exceeds the specified parameters.

3.2.3 Food gas equipment

Equipment used for the manufacturing, distribution, and storage of food gases.