

IFTPS Definition

Process Authority

An individual, or group, expert in the development, implementation and evaluation of thermal and/or aseptic processes. The areas of competency listed below provide a functional description of areas of practice, but are by no means inclusive or exclusive:

- knowledge of microbial risks, product and packaging characteristics, critical factors, commercial equipment, and manufacturing procedures, and their effects on the delivery of a thermal process and maintenance of product sterility;
- knowledge of applicable regulations;
- knowledge of the underlying principles, process calculations, analysis tools, and evaluation techniques related to thermal processing;
- knowledge and understanding of the appropriate design and methods of conducting studies relating to thermal processing of food, such as: heat penetration, temperature and heat transfer distribution studies, thermal-death-time experiments, process validation and verification studies, and applying other scientific methods related to aseptic and/or thermal processing;
- ability to analyze data generated by scientific studies, and evaluate the effectiveness of a thermal processing and packaging system to ensure safe and commercially sterile products;
- experience and ability to identify and evaluate process deviations and spoilage incidents;
- ability to document process establishment methods and results, and communicate thermal process requirements and recommendations.