

Close Encounters with Dangerous Creatures: A Personal Account of Pathogens Encountered in South African Food Manufacturing Facilities and Lessons Learnt

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Abstract

Occurrences of pathogens in food processing environments are increasing as are food safety incidences and recalls. Customers, regulators and auditing schemes are demanding more robust microbiological environmental monitoring systems to reduce risks.

The author is a food safety trainer, auditor and consultant who has spent most of his career at the coalface of food safety in food factories and assists companies in troubleshooting microbiological incidents and problems.

This paper shares case studies and personal accounts of where exactly, what type of organisms were found, under what conditions, in what type of industries. Company names are not shared to protect customers, but lessons learnt are.

This should provide useful information for food processors needing to understand which organisms they are dealing with in order to solve potential microbiological problems or to strengthen their environmental monitoring programs.

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Rolf Uys is the owner of Entecom Western Cape and Entecom Tshwane. Rolf has a MSc. Food Science and 25 years of international food safety auditing and training experience.