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Food safety in Pakistan

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The factors affecting the safety of food predominantly physical, chemical and biological are posing a real threat to health in Pakistan. After the 18th amendment in the constitution of Pakistan, the powers have transferred to provincial governments and recently in Pakistan all the respective provincial governments have established food authorities. This establishment of food authorities led to immediate results. The working mechanism of these authorities is to aware, train, audit and if still found hazardous then penalize. The general public has shown great interest in the role of these authorities and very much appreciative towards their role in contributing towards the food safety for consumption. In the past two years food processors and manufacturers are adapting modern procedures and techniques and shifting towards compliance and international standards. Notable standards currently being adopted in Pakistan are Food Safety Management Systems 2200:500, Quality Management Systems 9001:2015, BRC and Food Safety System Certification 2000. Still there is a long way to go and there is a lot of gap to cover in order to compete with US and European Union. A proactive approach certainly needs to be adopted.

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