

**Name:**

Barbara Haydam

**Country:**

South Africa

**Company:**

Tessara (Pty) Ltd

**Job Title:**

Product Safety Manager

**Tell us a bit about you...**

I am currently working as the Product Safety Manager at Tessara (Pty) Ltd, a company that produces sulphur dioxide generating pads for the preservation of fresh produce. The company is based in Cape Town, South Africa, and its products are sold worldwide. My main responsibility is to ensure BRCGS compliance, and I work closely with all other departments in the organisation. I have a Masters Degree in Chemistry.

**Why did you join the BRCGS Professional Programme?**

BRCGS Professional is an internationally recognised programme, and it offers so much more than just a certification. Being part of the professional scheme means that you have access to other people who share the same values and have uniform standards. There is also the opportunity to share ideas and network with other professionals.

**What value do you feel the BRCGS Professional certification brings to you?**

Achieving BRCGS Professional status has been one of my personal goals. It is confirmation that I am meeting the high standards set, and it has given me the skills and understanding I need to achieve excellence.

**How has the training helped improve operations at your site/company?**

The BRCGS training courses have been very motivating, and the guidelines have made it so much easier to instil a culture of continuous improvement. The knowledge I have gained has been invaluable, and I feel that I have developed personally and professionally as a result.

**What did you most enjoy about the training?**

The training was very practical, and the interactive tasks made it fun. Our trainer gave such pertinent examples and made it easy to apply the principles being taught. It was interesting to interact with people from other industries and to gain insights into their challenges.

**What are you most looking forward to within the Professional community?**

Networking events with other BRCGS Professionals is what I am most looking forward to.

**How do you plan to keep your skills up to date?**

Attending conferences is so important. The Food Safety Europe Conference earlier this year for example was so relevant, and the insights I gained from it were invaluable.

**What are your career ambitions/aims?**

Motivating my colleagues to become BRCGS Professionals is one of my aims. Workshops are being held with other departments to share best practices and to encourage them to attend BRCGS courses. We are working together to achieve a culture of product safety, quality and innovation.