Decision algorithm – choosing a glaze for functional ware

Consider:

**Preliminary Considerations**

- Research
  - Published texts (academic, generalist)
  - Internet
  - Observation of existing work
  - Mentor knowledge
  - Own trialling

- Client brief - desired utility
  - Type of food
  - Specific purpose
  - Surrounding collateral (flatware, linen)
  - Colour and surface
  - Surface decoration
  - Branding marks requirements
  - Surrounding décor
  - Client aesthetic
  - Maker artistic expression
  - Income potential

- Personal use or speculative sales - Desired utility
  - Personal aesthetic
  - Caesthetic
  - Generalist purpose
  - Income imperative

**Making**

- Clay body
  - Colour compatibility with glaze
  - Chemically/structurally compatible
  - Refractory process - Glaze fit

- Glaze materials
  - Consistent quality
  - Accessibility
  - Cost
  - Oxides? Stains?
  - Substitutability

- Glazing environment
  - Appropriate?
  - Facilitating
  - Equipment in good order

- Method of making
  - Thrown
  - Hand built
  - Molded
  - Glaze dipped
  - Glaze sprayed
  - Glaze brushed

- Firing
  - Firing regime
  - Oxidation
  - Reduction
  - Kiln furniture protection
  - Kiln population
  - Kiln characteristics

- Fired result
  - Surface texture
  - Vitreous?
  - Glaze strength
  - Food staining

- Environment
  - Atmosphere – firing fumes
  - Waste disposal, water or solid waste
  - Materials acquisition footprint

**Other Considerations**

- Maker Health & Safety
  - Toxic glaze elements
  - Aspiration
  - Skin contact
  - Safety equipment

- User Health & Safety
  - Chemical leaching
  - Foodstuff safety/reaction
  - Surface degrading
  - Crazed surfaces - hygiene
  - Breakage behaviour/ sharps danger

- Duty of care
  - Fit for purpose
  - Longevity
  - Quality of materials

- Ethical issues
  - Attribution of glaze development
  - Client toxicity protection

- Desired finished product outcomes
  - Glaze maturation
  - Fit for purpose
  - Glaze toughness
  - Heat shock resistance
  - Utilitarian/flexibility of use
  - Colour response
  - Surface response
  - Satisfys aesthetic