



Food Safety Modernization

Goal

Effective and equitable regulations and policy, via the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* (SFCR), that ensure the safety of the Canadian food supply without negatively impacting the fresh produce sector.

Action Needed

- Ongoing collaboration between CFIA and industry to ensure comments submitted as part of the *Canada Gazette, Part 1* engagement address the needs of government, industry and the Canadian public.
- Ensure that the implementation of the new regulations are timely while not disrupting the day-to-day business of industry and taking into account the particulars of the fresh fruit and vegetable sector.
- Continue the development of mutual food safety system recognition arrangements with Canada's trading partners.
- Ensure there are no exemptions from food safety, traceability and licensing requirements for any food business covered under the Act because of size or activity.

Background

- Canadians enjoy an extensive variety of fresh produce year-round. Whether domestic or imported, conventionally grown or organic, the industry works diligently to provide safe, nutritious fresh fruits and vegetables to consumers.
- The *Safe Food for Canadians Act* (SFCA) was passed in November 2012 and represents a critical modernization of the food safety system in Canada.
- Since the passage of the SFCA, the CFIA has been working to develop the necessary regulations to implement the Act, which has included significant consultation with stakeholders, including food safety experts, consumer groups and industry.
- The proposed SFCR published for consultation in *Canada Gazette, Part I*, show significant progress has been made over the past three years to develop regulations which ensure a modern, efficient and effective food safety system in Canada.
- The produce industry believes that all food should be safe and that the food chain is only as strong as its weakest link.
- Financial assistance and staggered implementation can and should be available to assist businesses to meet the new regulatory requirements.
- All businesses along the food supply chain that are involved in interprovincial food trade, in importing food and in exporting food should come under the SFCR food safety, traceability and licensing requirements, regardless of size or activity.

Further Resources

More information on CPMA's work on food safety modernization can be found on the CPMA website at <http://www.cpma.ca/advocate/food-safety/canadian-and-u-s-regulatory-modernization>. More information on CFIA's Regulatory Modernization can be found on the CFIA website at www.inspection.gc.ca. For further information, please contact Jeff Hall at jhall@cpma.ca or 647-409-3570.