



Instructions on How to Comment on the Updated Proposed FSMA Rules

The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) is the most sweeping reform of food safety laws in over 70 years. Signed January 4, 2011 by President Obama, FSMA aims to create a modern, science-based food safety system that focuses on preventing the contamination that causes foodborne illnesses.

On September 19, 2014, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) issued updated proposals for four of the FSMA rules originally proposed in 2013:

- **Produce Safety:** More flexible criteria for determining the safety of agricultural water for certain uses and a tiered approach to water testing.
- **Produce Safety:** A commitment to conduct extensive research on the safe use of raw manure in growing areas and complete a risk assessment. Pending those actions, FDA is deferring its decision on an appropriate time interval between the application of raw manure and the harvesting of a crop, and removing the nine-month interval originally proposed. FDA also proposes eliminating the 45-day minimum application interval for composted manure that meets proposed microbial standards and application requirements.
- **Preventive Controls for Human and Animal Foods:** Requirements that human and animal food facilities, when appropriate, test products and the food facility's environment, as well as implement certain supplier controls when necessary.
- **Foreign Supplier Verification Program:** A more comprehensive analysis of potential risks associated with foods and foreign suppliers, and more flexibility for importers in determining appropriate supplier verification measures based on their evaluation of those risks.

In the Federal Register of September 19, 2014 (79 FR 58433, 79 FR 58523, 79 FR 58475 and 79 FR 58573) FDA announced the establishment of four dockets so that the public can review the updated proposed rules and submit comments to the Agency. **The comment period will remain open until Dec. 15, 2014.**

There are two ways to comment:

Comment electronically at:

- Produce Safety:
<http://www.regulations.gov/#!submitComment;D=FDA-2011-N-0921-0973>
- Preventive Controls for Human Food:
<http://www.regulations.gov/#!submitComment;D=FDA-2011-N-0920-1553>

- Preventive Controls for Animal Food:
<http://www.regulations.gov/#!submitComment;D=FDA-2011-N-0922-0269>
- Foreign Supplier Verification Program:
<http://www.regulations.gov/#!submitComment;D=FDA-2011-N-0143-0247>

Written comments may also be mailed to:

Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852