

## US FDA PROPOSES FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS FOR PREVENTIVE CONTROL AND PRODUCE SAFETY

On 04 January 2013 the United States Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) published the proposed food safety standards Preventive Controls for Human Food and Produce Safety<sup>1</sup>. Preventive Controls for Human Foods<sup>2</sup>.

This rule applies to registered facilities selling food in or into the United States. Such facilities include manufacturers, processors, warehouses, storage tanks and grain elevators. These facilities are required to establish a written plan that:

- Evaluates hazards that are reasonably likely to occur in food.
- Specifies the steps that will be put in place to minimize or prevent those hazards.
- Specifies how these controls will be monitored.
- Maintains routine records of the monitoring.
- Specifies what actions will be taken to correct problems that arise.

Additionally the US FDA has revised the Current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMPs) in order to modernize it, add requirements for domestic and foreign facilities that are required to register and update definitions to clarify the "farms" registration exemption.

The US FDA is proposing that large facilities must comply with this rule 1 year after the final rule is published and small and very small business will be given additional time to comply.

### PRODUCE SAFETY<sup>3</sup>

This rule applies to the production and harvesting of produce on farms. The rule does

not apply to produce that is rarely consumed raw, produce for personnel or on-farm consumption or produce that is not a raw agricultural product. Additionally produce that receives commercial processing that reduces microorganisms of public health significance could be exempted. This rule includes standards addressing areas that can cause contaminants in agricultural products, such as:

- Irrigation and other agricultural water.
- Farm worker hygiene.
- Manure and other additions to the soil.
- Intrusion of animals in the growing fields.
- Sanitation conditions affecting buildings, equipment and tools.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm334156.htm?source=govdeliverv>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.ofr.gov/\(X\(1\)S\(v3yf3je4uhgijgft2sscuim\)\)/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-00125\\_PL.pdf](http://www.ofr.gov/(X(1)S(v3yf3je4uhgijgft2sscuim))/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-00125_PL.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.ofr.gov/\(X\(1\)S\(v3yf3je4uhgijgft2sscuim\)\)/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-00123\\_PL.pdf](http://www.ofr.gov/(X(1)S(v3yf3je4uhgijgft2sscuim))/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-00123_PL.pdf)

There will be additional provisions for the growing, harvesting and packing of sprouts.

The US FDA is proposing that larger farms be in compliance with this rule 26 months after the final rule has been published and small and very small farms will be given additional time to comply. All farms will have additional time to comply with certain water quality standards.

For these two proposed rules the US FDA is open to receive comments until 16 May 2013. The US FDA states that in the future they will publish a Preventive Controls for Animal Foods.

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