

# SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

FOOD

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## US FDA BIENNIAL FOOD FACILITY REGISTRATION EXTENDED TO JANUARY 31, 2013

On 12 December 2012 the United States Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) announced that they were extending the [compliance date](#) for re-registering all food facilities from 31 December 2012 to 31 January 2013. The US FDA is extending the compliance date because the ability to re-register was not available until 22 October 2012 and the US FDA intends to exercise their enforcement discretion.

Under the Food Safety and Modernization Act ([FSMA](#)) every registered facility is required to re-register every 2 years in even numbered years from 1 October to 31 December; of which 2012 will be the first year. All facilities that previously registered prior to 1 October, 2012 must renew their registration. Failure to renew the registration of the facility and update the information as required is a prohibited act, under 21 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1.241. For foreign food facilities this will result in refusal to allow entry of food products into the United States of America and for domestic facilities the products cannot be sold legally into interstate commerce.

The US FDA is required to accept [registration and re-registration renewal](#) by fax, mail and electronically and recommends that companies register and renew their registration via electronic means on the FDA food facility registration website. Additionally the US FDA issued their [fifth addition](#) of the "Guidance for Industry: Questions and Answers Regarding Food Facility Registration" in order to help explain the requirements for facility registration.

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### FOR ENQUIRIES:

Global Competence Support Centre: [gpsc@sgs.com](mailto:gpsc@sgs.com)  
US-James Cook Tel: +97-575-5252 or [James.Cook@sgs.com](mailto:James.Cook@sgs.com)

Asia – Hong Kong. Tel: +852 2334 4481 Fax: +852 2144 7001 [mktg.hk@sgs.com](mailto:mktg.hk@sgs.com)  
Australasia – Perth. Tel: +61 (0) 3 9790 3418 Fax: +61 (0) 3 9701 0988 [au.cts@sgs.com](mailto:au.cts@sgs.com)  
Europe – London – UK. Tel: +44(0) 203 008 7860 Fax: +44 (0) 203 00 7870 [gb.cts.sales@sgs.com](mailto:gb.cts.sales@sgs.com)  
Africa & Middle East – Turkey. Tel: +90 212 368 40 00 Fax: +90 212 296 47 82 [sgs.turkey@sgs.com](mailto:sgs.turkey@sgs.com)  
Americas – USA. Tel: +1 973 575 5252 Fax: +1 973 575 7175 [uscts.inquiries@sgs.com](mailto:uscts.inquiries@sgs.com)

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