

MANAGING COMPLIANCE AND RISK

**QUESTIONS
AND ANSWERS
ABOUT THE CFIA
INSPECTION
MODERNIZATION
PROGRAM**

Questions and answers about the CFIA inspection modernization program

Q What is the Safe Food for Canadians Act?

A The Safe Food for Canadians Act strengthens the role of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to regulate and license food importers, exporters, manufacturers or processors of food products destined for interprovincial trade. It combines parts of four existing food commodity laws including the Fish Inspection Act, Canada Agricultural Products Act, the Meat Inspection Act and the food provisions of the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act.

Q What is the CFIA inspection modernization program?

A The CFIA inspection modernization program is a component of the Safe Food for Canadians Act that will further strengthen food safety. The CFIA is developing a more comprehensive inspection approach that integrates innovation and best practices in an evolving global food environment, as well as more transparent access to information about food. The goal is a single and consistent inspection approach that can be applied across all imported and domestic food commodities destined for inter-provincial or international trade.

The CFIA developed a Draft Improved Inspection Model, and after consulting with industry delivered a first draft in 2012 and a revised version in the spring of 2013. The final version of the food inspection model is anticipated in the summer of 2013.

Q What components are included in the CFIA inspection modernization Improved Inspection Model?

A The proposed improved inspection model is based on risk and the following five components:

1. **Licensing/registration** – regulated parties will be licensed and would need to develop and use preventative control plans scalable to the size and complexity of their operation.
2. **CFIA oversight** – the level of CFIA oversight will be based on the level of risk for both domestic- and imported-food sectors. Food commodities and processes of equal risk will be treated consistently. There will be more inspection and enforcement for non-compliant and high-priority operations.
3. **Inspection** – CFIA will use a systems approach to inspection, based on the regulated parties' plans and processes, to complement current inspection methods. All food will be inspected using a single, consistent approach. The CFIA will issue Corrective Action Requests for critical and serious food safety non-compliances.
4. **Compliance and enforcement** – the CFIA will have one common compliance and enforcement strategy for food. Should non-compliance be found, actions taken would be fair, predictable and appropriate.
5. **System and performance** – the model will include mechanisms to evaluate the CFIA's food inspection program for consistency and overall effectiveness to Canadians and international trading partners.

Q Who will be required to hold a license under the new proposed Imported Food Sector Product Regulations?

A Currently, importers of meat, fish, dairy and eggs are regulated. The new regulations will cover all other food commodities, including (but not limited to) coffee, baked goods, spices, vegetable fats, infant formula, meal replacements and snack foods, and all regulated parties who work with food products will be required to be licensed. The regulation has also been expanded to cover food products which move interprovincially.

All parties that import food into Canada or export food from Canada or that manufacture or process food for export or for trade between provinces will be required to obtain an Imported Food Sector License. The license applicant must be located in Canada, and the license will apply to legal entities, not establishments. There will be no fee per shipment, and no limit on the number of shipments. Licenses will be valid for two years at a fee of \$256.00 and can be obtained through the CFIA web portal (once available).

Q Are there other license holder obligations for a food importer under the CFIA inspection modernization?

A Under this regulatory proposal, importers of Imported Food Sector (IFS) products will be required to have a license and are responsible for the following obligations:

1. Developing, documenting, implementing, verifying, validating and maintaining a written preventative food safety plan scalable to size and complexity of their operation.
2. Shifting from a voluntary measure to a mandatory requirement to maintain records. All records demonstrating compliance with the proposed regulations must be accessible at an address in Canada. Records should be retained for three years, or one year after expiry of the imported product – whichever is longer.
3. Shifting from a voluntary measure to a mandatory requirement for a food recall plan.
4. Providing information to the CFIA within 24 hours if it is determined that a food hazard exists.

Contact Livingston

Have questions or need help with your shipments? Contact your account executive, write to us at: simplify@livingstonintl.com or give us a call at **1-800-837-1063**

