

Safe Food for Canadians Act &
Proposed Changes under the New Regulations

TRACEABILITY PRESENT AND FUTURE

Traceability

Present

Many regulated parties in the food sector have voluntary traceability systems today, others do not have the necessary practices, including record keeping, to facilitate timely food safety investigations, recalls or withdrawals. The resulting information gaps within the food supply chain may lead to efficient and inaccurate responses to a food safety incident. Identification of origin and movement of a food commodity is not always identifiable. International standards of CODEX not applied for all food sectors.

Currently, there are some traceability regulatory requirements for the fish and meat sectors. The CFIA provides the Minister with the authority to order a food recall.

Future

Under the Proposed Regulations, the international standard for traceability established by CODEX to persons importing, exporting and interprovincially trading food, as well as to other persons holding a license issued under the SFCA, and to growers and harvesters of fresh fruits or vegetables that export or trade interprovincially. Electronic or paper records would be required to be prepared and maintained in order to track food forward to the immediate customer and backward to the immediate supplier (i.e. one step forward, one step back along the supply chain). Retailers would not be required to trace forward their sales to consumers. More effective and efficient food safety recalls and investigations.

Proposed

Most food businesses required to:

- apply the international standard established by CODEX
 - importing, exporting, prepares food commodities, sold across provinces
 - to harvesters, growers of fresh fruits and vegetables
- paper or electronic tracking in French or English
- provide information in 24 hours or less to the Minister upon request
- Specified records maintain in English or French for 3 years