

Food and Drug Administration
Fact Sheet – California
(2 pages)

FDA Presence: 287 FDA employees in California

Resident Posts: Fresno, Sacramento, San Jose, and Stockton.

report to: San Francisco District, Alameda, who

reports to: Pacific Region, Oakland

Resident Posts: San Diego, Santa Barbara, San Pedro, LAX, Ontario and Canoga

Park report to: Los Angeles District, Irvine, who reports to: Pacific Region, Oakland

Pacific Region Laboratory Southwest, Irvine, who reports to: Pacific Region, Oakland

Southwest Import District Resident Posts Otay Mesa, Calexico, San Diego Seaport/Airport, and Tecate report to Southwest Import District, Dallas, Texas who report to the Southwest Region, Dallas, Texas

Industry Presence in State

There are 17,654 FDA-regulated establishments in the State of California

(Some firms are in more than one category)

Food establishments (includes cosmetics) - 41 percent

Medical device and Radiological establishments - 40 percent

Human drug establishments - 12 percent

Animal drug and feed establishments - 4 percent

Biologic establishments (includes blood banks) - 3 percent

Industry Highlights

- California has the greatest number of medical device and biotechnology firms of any area in the United States. They are concentrated in the San Francisco Bay Area, Orange County and San Diego areas.
- California is a major producer of tree nuts and the only state that produces almonds.
- California receives an estimated 25% - 30% of all FDA regulated commodities imported into the United States, and contains the largest harbor complex in the country. One thousand, one hundred (1,100) ocean shipping containers, containing foodstuffs arrive each day in the Port of Los Angeles / Long Beach, increasing at approximately 20% annually. Additionally, with the international cargo from Los Angeles International Airport, courier hubs at regional airports, and the International mail processing facility for all of Southern California; a gateway for mail order imports of pharmaceuticals from outside the U.S. The district serves as the “Gateway to the Orient” for imports and exports and with the import operations along the U.S. Mexico border, a significant “Gateway to Mexico.” A total of 70% of all incoming cargo is believed to stay within the state boundaries.

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- Ports of entry along the California/Mexico border as well as the San Diego airport and seaport accounted for 1,489,123 line entries in fiscal year 2007.
- Ports of entry at San Francisco, Oakland and Honolulu included 15,955 line entries in fiscal year 2007

Contracts & Partnerships

State contracts

California Department of Public Health (DPH-FDB)

- Conduct inspections of food manufactures
- Conduct inspections of mammography facilities and x-ray testing

California Department of Food & Agriculture (DFA)

- Conduct follow up investigations of reported tissue residues of food animals detected at the time of slaughter.
- Conduct inspections of feed mills and BSE.

State Partnerships

California Department of Food & Agriculture (DFA)

- Coordinate efforts to prevent unsafe imported dairy products from entering commerce.
- Coordinate inspections of medicated feed mills and residue investigations.
- Coordinate regulatory activities involving pesticide residues on raw agricultural commodities.

California Department of Health Services (DPH)

- Coordinate retail food protection efforts to promote HACCP principles for food safety
- Conduct inspections of all Acidified & Low Acid Canned Food processors.
- Conduct inspections of seafood processing facilities.
- Continue partnership with the laboratory in Los Angeles to co-locating employees and sharing equipment.
- Establish partnership to co-locate employees in Sacramento.
- Conduct inspections of new x-ray assemblies or re-assemblies.
- Share inspectional and other information to ensure unified food safety programs.

DHS & DFA

- Coordinate cooperative agreement to support the California Egg Quality Assurance Plan.

Other Partnerships in California

- Coordinate with American Council for Food Safety & Quality to maintain sanitation and compliance with regulations for dried fruit and tree nut products.
- Information sharing with the University of California, Irvine, through an electronic communication system that transmits current health information regarding toxic substances throughout the California County Health Departments.