



CFSAN: Ensures that the food supply is safe, secure, sanitary, wholesome, and properly labeled, and that cosmetics are safe, sanitary, secure and properly labeled

The Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) oversees the safety and security of about 80 percent of the U.S. food supply—almost all food products except for meat and poultry, which are regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)—as well as the safety of cosmetics.

As part of this mission, in addition to its food safety work, CFSAN in 2005 carried out important measures to help consumers improve their diet, protect the nation against bioterrorism, and increase CFSAN's collection of data on cosmetics.

CONSUMER INFORMATION FOR BETTER HEALTH

In 2005, CFSAN substantially advanced the development and dissemination of science-based nutrition information to help consumers make healthy dietary choices, and stimulate the production of healthier food products. For example, CFSAN

- established a special working group to carry out numerous recommendations for addressing the nation's obesity problem
- requested public comments on whether the FDA should amend certain regulations to give more prominence to calories on food labels
- proposed to amend some of its food labeling regulations on the use of the nutrient content claim "lean" to meet certain criteria for total fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol content
- published a rule amendment modifying the maximum sodium levels allowed in foods labeled as "healthy"
- participated, along with representatives of academia, industry, and government, in all three plenary sessions of the "Keystone Forum on Away-From-Home Foods: Opportunities for Preventing Weight Gain and Obesity."

In addition, the FDA launched a bilingual education program focused on the prevention of foodborne illness in the 6 million American women who become pregnant each year, and as such are particularly vulnerable to food contaminants. As part of this program, CFSAN created an English- and Spanish-language educator's toolkit and an award-winning video about pregnancy and foodborne illness, and provided about 60,000 of these aids to various women's groups and other organizations.

FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS

Since Sept. 11, 2001, CFSAN has conducted assessments of the vulnerability of FDA-regulated food and feed to intentional contamination, and analyzed the likelihood of such an attack and its potential public health impact. To minimize this hazard, CFSAN has also

- carried out additional vulnerability assessments to support the development of countermeasures, identify research needs, and provide more guidance to the private sector on how to protect food production processes.
- participated in and contributed to food security awareness training by USDA and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for individuals who play an important role in defending the U.S. food supply from a potential terrorist attack.
- continued to implement the Bioterrorism Act of 2002, which is focused on protecting the security of human food and feed for animals. In 2005, the FDA published the final rule requiring registration of all domestic and foreign facilities providing food and feed for the U.S. market. Approximately 116,000 domestic and 155,000 foreign facilities complied with this requirement.

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- issued English-, Spanish-, and French-language editions of a guide on the rules requiring food companies to establish and maintain records that, if necessary, would facilitate rapid tracing of suspect food and feed shipments. These requirements were explained to stakeholders in numerous meetings from coast to coast.

VOLUNTARY COSMETIC REGISTRATION PROGRAM

The FDA implemented an electronic filing system for the Voluntary Cosmetic Registration Program (VCRP), which was established by the agency at the request of the cosmetic industry. The VCRP can be accessed on CFSAN's Cosmetics Web page. The reporting system is CFSAN's primary means for compiling information on cosmetic establishments and formulations of cosmetics, products that—unlike drugs—are not subject to premarket approval, establishment registration, or ingredient reporting.