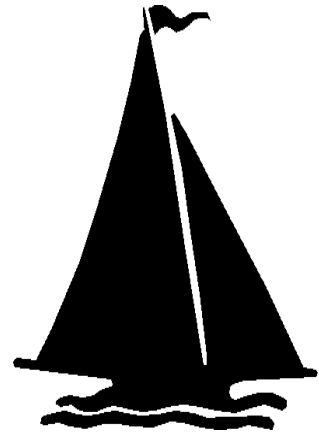


# S. A. I. L.

## STATE ACTION INFORMATION LETTER

Published by the Division of Federal State Relations  
Office of Regulatory Affairs  
Food and Drug Administration



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Fall 2000

Design: Ada Y. Nelson

### *Report from the Director*

*"State Food Safety Task forces...A Compilation of Progress Reports"* chronicles the activities of thirteen states and Guam in the area of food safety within their borders. Some of the task forces report on activities that are very complex and far reaching, while others are making initial efforts to organize.

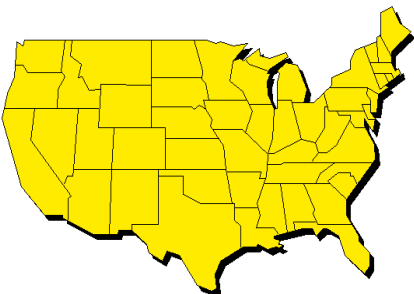
Eighteen of the thirty-eight existing task forces received grants this year from the FDA to fund and support their activities. Hopefully, by seeing what accomplishments some task forces have made, this will encourage and provide incentive to others to do the same.

To access the document, check out our web site at  
[http://www.fda.gov/ora/fed\\_state/default.htm](http://www.fda.gov/ora/fed_state/default.htm).

This site also contains a new "Calendar of State and National Meetings" with dates and locations of meetings sponsored by the states in FY 2001. A contact person is listed for most meetings. If you have meetings you would like posted, send your information to Ada Nelson at [Anelson@ora.fda.gov](mailto:Anelson@ora.fda.gov).

Richard H. Barnes

### *Reports from the States*



**NEBRASKA** businesses were able to use the Internet to renew their food licenses from the Department of Agriculture and pay by credit card. Online renewal was made available in early July. License holders were provided an identification number on their renewal notices as a password to enter the system. Once inside the system, business information could be corrected on screen and multiple licenses could be renewed for a single owner with one credit card payment.

[Nebrask@Online](#) Fall 2000 developed the online renewal system in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture. The Nebraska Retail Grocers Association and the Nebraska Restaurant Association notified food establishments of the new system by fax, as well as press releases issued by the Department.

Very few establishments renewed online this year. Several factors may have contributed to this, including the short notice give to operators. The Department believes use of the online renewal service will increase in the coming years. For more information, contact George H. Hanssen, Food Division Administrator, NDA, Telephone (402) 471-2536, or FAX (402) 472-3252 or [georgehh@agr.state.ne.us](mailto:georgehh@agr.state.ne.us).

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY...**from their 9/2000 website – <http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/pharmacyboard>.

Disposal of GHB and Related Products: Products containing gamma hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), gamma butyrolactone (GBL), and 1,4 butanediol (BD) are widely marketed to the public in health food stores, on the Internet, at gyms and in magazine advertisements. Distributors claim these drugs are legal and may be used as sleep aids, to build muscles, to reduce stress and to improve physical performance. FDA considers these products to be unapproved new drugs. All have been linked to many cases of such adverse health effects as seizures, vomiting and bradycardia. The DEA has linked GHB alone to sixty-five deaths nationwide. Brand names for these products include Revitalize Plus, Enliven, Serenity, Revivart, Blue Nitro, Remforce, SomatoPro, Thunder Nectar and Weight Belt Cleaner, among others. The MD State Board of Pharmacy asks pharmacists to contact the Division of Drug Control at (410) 764-2890 if they see these products on the market and to arrange for removal and distribution.

The Board has a new Executive Director! In February 2000, LaVerne Naesea was appointed Executive Director of the Maryland State Board of Pharmacy. This followed the resignation of Norene Pease who has become a legislative liaison for the University of Maryland Baltimore. For more information, call (410) 764-4755.

**LOUISIANA** State Epidemiologist, Dr. Louise McFarland, retired in September after 40 years of service. Dr. McFarland has served since 1989 as state epidemiologist for the Department of Health and Hospitals. She has been recognized nationally and internationally for her work with HIV/AIDS, seafood-borne illnesses and for her attention to infectious disease control in daycare settings. She is a founding member of the NOAIDS Taskforce and has published many articles about HIV/AIDS. Dr. McFarland will be missed! For more information, contact Bob Johannessen at (225) 342-1532.

The **TEXAS** Department of Health's Bureau of Radiation Control has made a number of changes in the way that dental radiation machines are regulated. As a result, all rules applicable to dental registrants are in one rule section, providing greater efficiency and a more user-friendly format; a new format for the final dental rule into two columns. One column contains the official rule language as adopted by the TBH and published in the Texas Administrative Code. The other column contains a summary of the adopted rule in simple language. This will make it easier to understand and interpret the rule. Pictures are also used to illustrate and help the reader find or cue in on a particular topic. Finally, because of the low risk from dental x-ray machines and the lack of inspection resources,

on-site inspections by TDH staff will occur every eight years rather than every five, with a remote or “self” inspection occurring four years after the last on-site inspection. A report by the registrant and an equipment performance evaluation will be required for DTH review.

For more information, contact Ruth McBurney, at FAX (512) 834-6716.

### ***AFDO News***

“Food Recalls: An Update and Review of Proposed Strategies for Improving the Recall System,” is the title of a Nov. 16, 2000, workshop sponsored by the Association of Food & Drug Officials (AFDO) in cooperation with FDA, USDA, the Food Marketing Institute, the National Food Processors Association and the Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials. Workshop participants will review recommendations for improving regulatory uniformity in recall situations and industry trade association representatives will offer advice on conducting and managing recalls. The one-day workshop will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Rockville, MD. The registration fee will be \$325 for industry and \$225 for government (AFDO members receive a discounted rate). For more information, contact AFDO at (717) 757-2888 or go to [www.afdo.org](http://www.afdo.org).

### ***AFDO NATIONAL MEETINGS***

105<sup>th</sup> AFDO ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE, June 16-20, 2001, Sheraton Colony Square Hotel, Atlanta, GA

AFDO TRAINING 2000 – 2001

FOOD RECALLS: Update and Review of Proposed Strategies  
November 16, 2000 Doubletree Hotel, Rockville, MD

INDUSTRIAL STERILIZATION: Designed for the drug and medical device industry  
January 30 – February 1, 2001, San Antonio, TX

CONTROL & PREVENTION OF LISTERIA MONOCYTOGENES:  
An Update on National Efforts, February 2001

For registration information contact Jane Christy at (717) 757-2888 or [jchristy@afdo.org](mailto:jchristy@afdo.org)

### ***FDA News***

On August 8, 2000, FDA submitted to the Office of the Inspector General, its response to the OIG report, “FDA Oversight of State Food Firm Inspections: A Call for Greater Accountability,” OEI-01-8-00400. The response is the Agency’s plan for implementing

the recommendations delineated in the OIG's report. FDA agrees with most of the recommendations, in fact, many of the issues were already being addressed.

Recommendations included:

- FDA should work with states to achieve basic equivalency in food safety standards and laws, and in inspection programs and practices.
- FDA should devote high priority to improving its on-site audit mechanism for evaluating the effectiveness of state inspections.
- FDA should require that states routinely provide the Agency with standardized information on the inspections they conduct.
- FDA should draw on multiple external sources of information in assessing state inspection performance.
- FDA should provide substantive and timely feedback to states on their inspection performance
- FDA should enhance its internal capacities to conduct effective oversight.
- FDA should increase public disclosure of its oversight of state food firm inspections.

To see FDA's response, check out the DFSR website. Questions? Contact Paul Raynes at (301) 827-2910 or at [praynes@ora.fda.gov](mailto:praynes@ora.fda.gov).

On September 6, 2000, FDA published in the Federal Register, the availability of the "Report of the FDA Retail Food Program Database of Foodborne Illness Risk Factors" and announced that public meeting will be held via interactive satellite teleconference to discuss the report. The purpose of the meeting is to present the methodology for developing a baseline on the occurrence of CDC-identified foodborne illness risk factors in retail institutional food establishments, restaurants and retail food stores. In addition, the data from the baseline inspections conducted by FDA Regional Food Specialists 9 in 1998 and 1999 will be presented.

The video conference will be held on October 27, 2000, from 1 – 4 p.m. ET. Satellite coordinates for the broadcast will be posted on the FDA Internet at [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov) beginning October 13. The report itself is also available on the web site. For more information, contact Denise M. Buckmon or LaKesha P. Abbey at (202) 205-8140 or FAX (202) 205-5560.

A new FDA report detailing 1999 accomplishments under the FDA Modernization Act (FDAMA) of 1997 is now available. The report, entitled "Report on FDA Plan for Statutory Compliance" satisfies provisions outlined in section 406(b) of FDAMA, which charged FDA to develop a plan for meeting its statutory requirements, and to report on

planned versus actual performance. Copies of the report may be obtained by contacting Bill Hagan, at (301) 827-5212 or at [Whagan@oc.fda.gov](mailto:Whagan@oc.fda.gov).

***FDA FOOD SAFETY GRANTS ANNOUNCED:*** National Food Safety Month saw the award of more than \$350,000 in grants for innovative food safety projects to thirteen state and local regulatory agencies. The program is intended to complement, develop or improve state and local food safety programs that may also be used or transferred to other state or local jurisdictions. For more information, contact Richard Barnes at (301) 827-6906 or at [rbarnes@ora.fda.gov](mailto:rbarnes@ora.fda.gov).