

## **FDA FSMA Progress Report: January – April 2011**

The FDA intends to provide regular updates to inform the public and Congress on its progress in implementing the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). This summary does not reference all actions taken by FDA.

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### **April 2011**

#### **Public Meeting on Preventive Controls**

FDA held on April 20 its second public meeting to hear stakeholders' views on key FSMA provisions. This one focused on preventive controls, a basic foundation of the FSMA food safety reform. Almost 500 persons participated in the meeting in person or via webcast. Specifically, FDA was seeking information on preventive controls used by facilities to identify and address hazards associated with specific types of food and specific processes.

FDA Public Meeting on Preventive Controls

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/FSMA/ucm250377.htm>

#### **Consumer-Friendly Web Search for Recalls**

As required under FSMA, FDA launched April 4 a more consumer-friendly recall search engine on the FDA website. To provide greater ease of use for consumers, the search results provide data from news releases and other recall announcements in the form of a table. That table organizes information from news releases on recalls since 2009 by date, product brand name, product description, reason for the recall and the recalling firm. The table also provides a link to the news release on each recall for more detailed information. The news releases were chosen as the source of information for the table because they provide the most up-to-date and user-friendly information about any recall.

Food Recall Search Engine

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm249437.htm>

<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm251024.htm>

### **Web Videos on Preventive Controls, Imports, Inspections/Compliance**

Three FDA experts – Donald Kraemer of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, David Elder of the Office of Regulatory Affairs, and Barbara Cassens of the San Francisco District Office – explained the new food safety law in short videos posted on the FDA FSMA webpage. The FDA experts addressed a number of the most frequently asked questions on preventive controls, imports and inspections/compliance.

FDA Experts Answer Questions on FSMA

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/FSMA/ucm249243.htm#ask>

### **FDA Posts 50 Frequently Asked Questions on new Food Safety Law**

Based on the extensive outreach to stakeholders, FDA developed a core list of 50 “frequently asked questions” about the key FSMA provisions. These questions will be updated on a regular basis as more decisions are made about the implementation of the new law. Stakeholders should routinely check the FDA FSMA website for these and other updates.

Frequently Asked Questions about FSMA

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/FSMA/ucm247559.htm>

## **HHS Sends Congress First Annual Report**

As required under FSMA, HHS Secretary Sebelius submitted to Congress on April 6 the first annual “Report on Food Facilities, Food Imports, and FDA Foreign Offices.” The report briefly describes the scope of FDA’s responsibility and its activities in protecting the U.S. food supply under its jurisdiction. It also discusses how federal, state and local agencies cooperate with FDA in that effort. Baseline data are provided on the cost and number of domestic and foreign food facility inspections; the numbers of field samples analyzed to support FDA’s compliance actions; and FDA’s foreign posts and their staff who extend the international impact of FDA.

Report to Congress

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/FSMA/ucm250569.htm>

## **FDA Issues Guidance to Seafood Industry on Food Safety Hazards**

As required under FSMA, FDA issued its updated guide to the seafood industry on hazards associated with fish and fishery products and appropriate controls for those hazards. FDA allows operators to use an alternative approach to control these hazards if such approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statute and regulations. This is the fourth edition of the guidance, the FDA FSMA webpage also features a video introducing the guidance.

Seafood Hazard and Control Guidance

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/GuidanceDocuments/Seafood/FishandFisheriesProductsHazardsandControlsGuide/default.htm>

## **Public Meeting on Safety of Imported Foods**

FDA held on March 29 its first public meeting to hear stakeholders' views on key provisions of FSMA. This one focused on the new responsibilities importers have under FSMA to assure the safety of the food they import. More than 500 persons participated in the meeting in person or via webcast. Specifically, the meeting gave stakeholders an opportunity to express their views on each of the four FSMA import safety provisions: Accredited Third-Party Certification; Import Certifications of Food; Voluntary Qualified Importer Program; and Foreign Supplier Verification Program.

FDA Public Meeting on Safety of Imported Foods

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/FSMA/ucm249257.htm>

## **February 2011**

### **Deputy Commissioner's Speech on Safety of Imported Foods**

Deputy Commissioner for Foods Michael R. Taylor spoke to an international audience of food safety experts at the Global Food Safety Conference in London, England, about the import provisions of FSMA. Taylor said: "The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act only heightens the imperative that we in the United States work in partnership with the global food safety community to meet the public's high expectations for the safety of food, no matter its origin."

Speech on Safety of Imported Foods

<http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/OC/OfficeofFoods/ucm243591.htm>

## **January 2011**

### **Food and Drug Law Institute (FDLI) Hears about FDA Food Safety Modernization Act**

Deputy Commissioner for Foods Michael R. Taylor spoke to the FDLI Food Safety Conference, giving an overview of the recently signed food safety reform bill and calling for a continuation of the broad based, bi-partisan support that worked for its passage as critical for its successful implementation. Taylor said: "It is worth remembering how we got here. We got here with hard work, by confronting thorny issues, and most importantly of all, by working together."

Speech on FSMA Passage and Implementation

<http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/OC/OfficeofFoods/ucm241192.htm>

### **Commissioner Hamburg Blog on FoodSafety.gov**

FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg, M.D., posted a blog the day after President Obama signed the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act on what the new law would mean for American consumers. In her blog, the commissioner highlighted key FSMA provisions and noted the importance of resources for successful implementation of the law.

Commissioner on FDA Food Safety Modernization Act

<http://www.foodsafety.gov/blog/fsma.ht>