

Info Alert

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Food and Drug Administration Proposes New Food Safety Rules

Earlier today, in an attempt to enforce the [Food Safety Modernization Act](#), passed by Congress in 2010, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [introduced](#) two proposed rules that seek to proactively combat food contamination issues. The proposed rules will affect all aspects of the food production lifecycle from the food processors to the farmers and producers.

The first proposed [rule](#) requires food processors to reduce the risk of food contamination by preparing a plan that outlines risk-based preventive controls, monitoring procedures, corrective actions and recordkeeping policies for the processing facilities. The specific controls could range from setting higher cooking temperatures for certain foods to requiring stringent separation of raw and cooked foods.

The second proposed [rule](#) is aimed at the harvesting and production of produce in the United States to combat bacterial contamination. Under the proposed rule, farmers would have to address a number of production issues ranging from diversifying water irrigation tactics for different foods to ensuring the cleanliness of workers that handle the produce.

Neither of the proposed rules contain criminal penalties for failure to comply.

While certain associations of the food industry are [supportive](#) of the rules, the ultimate cost to consumers is still unknown. The FDA, however, estimates industry production costs of the rules to be \$30,000 a year for farmers and up to \$475 million a year for the food manufacturing industry. The FDA plans to finance the regulations, at least in part, from savings to its budget and with re-inspection fees.

Both rules will be open for public comment for the next 120 days.

FDA currently has three other draft rules pertaining to food contamination that are still under review at the Office of Management and Budget. Consumer advocates expect those rules to be released in the near future.

[Additional Information](#) from the FDA website on the Food Safety Modernization Act Implementation