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PestWest **EDGE**ducational Brief

By Dr. Stuart Mitchell



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Scope of The Food Safety & **Modernization Act (FSMA)**

Applicable to domestic and foreign food companies, The Food Safety & Modernization Act (FSMA) effects operations that manufacture, process, pack, or hold human food fated for the U.S. Within scope (unless exempt) are facilities required to register under FDA's current food facility registration regulation.



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FSMA consists of four main sections.

Improving Capacity to Prevent Food Safety Problems

- Focuses upon prevention rather than response.
- Accountability is shifted onto food processing companies.
- Hazards are evaluated and require a written plan of action (preventing food contamination).

Improve Capacity to Detect and Respond to Food Safety Problems

- Food production facilities require FDA registration.
- No adulteration, misbranding, or incorrect labeling is assured through evaluation of hazards (requiring a written plan of action).
- Hazard analysis, preventive controls, monitoring, verification, corrective actions, and record keeping must be within the written plan.

Improving the Safety of Imported Food

- FDA oversight over imports is expanded.
- Without prior FDA inspection, authority is provided to refuse imports.
- Certification to US standards is required.
- A voluntary program for expedited import procedures is established.

Miscellaneous Provisions

- FDA food safety functions are funded.
- FDA staffing levels are increased.
- "Whistle-blowers" are protected.

As a result of FSMA, novel safety and operational procedures provide one and all within the value chain with opportunity to streamline processes, maximize efficiencies, and increase productivity. Processes reinvestment through updating should reduce food contamination risk events, product recalls, loss of reputation, and strict liability as a food manufacturer.

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