



## **How to tell the Food and Drug Administration the best way to develop safety standards for the growing, harvesting and packing of fresh fruits and vegetables**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will propose later this year new safety standards for the growing, harvesting, and packing of fresh fruits and vegetables. When a federal agency proposes a new regulation it seeks comments from the public about the best way to write the rule and implement it. For the fresh produce rule, the FDA has already opened the “docket” where these comments can be sent.

You can submit your comments either online or by mail.

Mailed comments should be sent to:

The Division of Dockets  
Management (HFA-305),  
Food and Drug Administration,  
5630 Fishers Lane, room.1061,  
Rockville, MD 20852.

Electronic comments can be submitted [here](#).

Below is some guidance on filling out the electronic form.

You will need to click on the “Submit Comment” button (which is written in blue on the top right side of the Web page).

When the new page opens, provide your contact information (name and address) in the boxes on the left. There is a box on the right where you can write your comments about questions such as those listed below (There is a limit of 2000 characters).

You can also submit comments by writing them in a separate document you can then attach to this form. To attach a document you have written, click on the orange “Browse” button.

Be sure to include the docket number at the top of the pages you submit (The docket number is FDA-2010-N-0085).

Below is an abbreviated list of produce safety rule questions on which FDA is seeking comments. (A complete list can be found by viewing the [Federal Register Notice](#) on line.)

- What role should FDA's GAP guidelines play? (Good agricultural practice guidelines entitled "[Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables](#)")
- How should risk factors be identified and prioritized?
- What environmental assessments of hazards and possible pathways of contamination need to be completed?
- How should food safety practices for fresh fruits and vegetables and sustainable and/or organic production methods be coordinated?
- How should food safety practices for fresh fruits and vegetables and environmental and/or conservation goals or practices be coordinated?
- How should food safety practices for fresh fruits and vegetables and Federal, State, local and tribal government statutes and regulations be coordinated?
- What role should microbial testing play in produce safety?
- What records and documentation would be useful to both industry and regulators in ensuring the safety of fresh produce?
- What strategies should be used to enhance compliance?
- What are possible approaches to tailoring preventive controls to the scale of an operation so that the controls achieve an appropriate level of food safety protection and are feasible for a wide range of large and small operations?
- Any other issues or concerns you may have?

For Further information on the docket contact:

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