NEWS | LATEST

FDA issues temporary policy for food supply chain

U.S. Food and Drug Administration have taken some steps to help prevent disruptions in the food supply-chain by issuing a temporary policy for FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) supplier verification onsite audit requirements during the coronavirus

By **Kalyani Sharma** | March 18, 2020



fda-issues-temporary-policy-for-food-supply-chain

> WordPress post #10551

The FDA intends to provide timely notice before withdrawing this policy

U.S. Food and Drug Administration have taken some steps to help prevent disruptions in the food supply-chain by issuing a temporary policy for FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) supplier verification onsite audit requirements during the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency.

Stephen M. Hahn, FDA Commissioner said, "While our grocery stores are facing unprecedented demand, we are working with industry to minimize disruptions in the supply-chain due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions. The policy released today will help to minimize disruptions so that the food industry can meet the demand while also continuing to conduct supplier verification activities that are designed to ensure food safety and following government travel restrictions and advisories."

Three of the regulations created to implement FSMA - the Preventive Controls for Human Food (PC Human Food) rule, Preventive Controls for Animal Food (PC Animal Food) rule, and Foreign Supplier Verification Programs (FSVP) rule – require receiving facilities and importers to conduct supplier verification activities based on the hazard analysis conducted as part of their written Food Safety Plan or FSVP. When receiving facilities and importers develop their Food Safety Plans or FSVP, they sometimes determine onsite audits to be the most appropriate supplier verification activity.

However, the travel restrictions and advisories associated with the novel coronavirus may make some audits temporarily impractical to conduct. Therefore, the policy has announced states that the agency will temporarily not enforce FSMA supplier verification onsite audit requirements if other appropriate supplier verification methods are used instead. Other supplier verification methods, such as sampling and testing or a review of food safety records, would be designed to provide sufficient assurance that hazards have been significantly minimized or prevented during the period of onsite audit delay.

The FDA anticipates that receiving facilities and FSVP importers will resume onsite audits within a reasonable period of time after it becomes practicable to do so, and update their food safety plans and FSVPs accordingly.

The FDA intends to provide timely notice before withdrawing this policy.

Separately, the FDA, in collaboration with industry and federal and state partners, is closely monitoring the food supply chain for any shortages.

There are no nationwide shortages of food, although in some cases the inventory of certain foods at grocery store might be temporarily low before stores can restock.

Read online: https://nuffoodsspectrum.in/news/29/15677/fda-issues-temporary-policy-for-food-supply-chain.html
© 2026 NUFFOODS Spectrum. All rights reserved.