

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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0040

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Report Name: CFIA Offers Leniency on Safe Food for Canadians
Regulations Requirements

Country: Canada

Post: Ottawa

Report Category: Potatoes and Potato Products, Tree Nuts

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Report Highlights:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) notified industry that there will be a period of leniency for new Safe Foods for Canadians Regulations (SFCR) for manufactured foods. CFIA will continue to enforce food safety requirements and businesses are encouraged to be fully compliant with the SFCR requirements by the into force date. However, in order to support food availability and to prevent business disruption, manufactured food producers can continue to operate without an SFCR licence past the July 15, 2020 coming into force date.

Safe Foods for Canadians Regulations (SFCR) for manufactured foods will come into force on July 15, 2020. This includes requirements on licensing, preventive controls, and traceability. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) [notified industry](#) on April 7, 2020 that there will be a period of leniency following the coming into force date. Importers of manufactured food will also be able to continue importing without delays or disruptions even if they have not been able to obtain their SFCR license by July 15, 2020. CFIA will notify industry in advance when normal compliance activities resume.

CFIA encourages businesses to be compliant with SFCR requirements by the July 15, 2020 deadline and to still apply for their SFCR license. However, importers of manufactured foods who are unable to obtain an SFCR license by the deadline will generally not be penalized for lacking this license, importing activities will continue to be permitted, and delays and disruptions due to licensing are not anticipated. This approach is being taken to mitigate supply and business disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While enforcement of requirements such as licensing will not be prioritized, CFIA will continue to enforce food safety requirements. In the event of a food safety issue, importers will still be responsible to CFIA in ensuring that they are compliant with Canada's food safety requirements. As such, importers may request suppliers to provide additional documentation to support their preventive control plans, preventive controls, and traceability protocols.

Background

The [Safe Foods for Canadians Regulations](#) (SFCR) came into force on January 15, 2019, however, requirements by food commodity have been phased in over a two-year [implementation period](#). The into force date for manufactured foods that were not captured by the previous implementation dates (see Table 1) is July 15, 2020. On this date, businesses must have their [SFCR license](#), a [preventive control plan](#) (PCP), [preventive controls](#), and [traceability](#) requirements in place; there is an additional one-year period for smaller businesses to comply, July 16, 2021, and exemptions related to PCP and preventive controls. CFIA has provided a [toolkit](#) for food businesses to consult regarding SFCR requirements.

For additional information see the SFCR [Timeline: All other foods \(manufactured foods\)](#) which also includes information on calculating your gross annual food sales, calculating your number of employees, and other related information.

Attachments:

No Attachments.