

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** Canada Consults on Food Compositional Standards  
Modernization

**Country:** Canada

**Post:** Ottawa

**Report Category:** Policy and Program Announcements, FAIRS Subject Report

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**Report Highlights:**

The federal government opened consultations on regulatory changes to the Food and Drug Regulations to allow the incorporation by reference of food compositional standards. Stakeholders have until September 22, 2023, to submit their comments. As a follow-up initiative, yet to be announced, federal regulators will review and modernize compositional standards, based on stakeholder input submitted during the current consultation process.

On June 23, 2023, Health Canada (HC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) [opened consultations](#) on a strategy for modernizing Canada's food compositional standards. This is a two-stage process (with the current consultation representing the first stage), ultimately meant to update and modernize various compositional standards.

During this first stage, the goal is to make the necessary regulatory changes to the Food and Drug Regulations, to allow the incorporation by reference (IBR) of the compositional standards. IBR is a drafting technique that introduces the content of an internal or external document (such as, a policy, directive, list, or standard) into a regulation without having to reproduce the document's text in the regulation. If a document is incorporated by reference into regulations, the incorporated wording has the same effect as if it appeared in the regulations. For example, all the food compositional standards under the [Safe Food for Canadians Regulations](#) already reside in the IBR document titled [Canadian Standards of Identity](#). With this update, Health Canada and CFIA are proposing to move the non-health and safety aspects of the food compositional standards in the Food and Drug Regulations into an IBR document.

Interested stakeholders are encouraged to read the consultation document called [A Strategy for Modernizing Food Compositional Standards](#), and to provide comments by **September 22, 2023**, using one of the following options:

- Completing the [online questionnaire](#)
- Sending feedback through e-mail at:  
[cfia.StandardsGradesModernization-Normesclassment.acia@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:cfia.StandardsGradesModernization-Normesclassment.acia@inspection.gc.ca)

By responding to this consultation process, stakeholders also have the chance to signal federal regulators which compositional standards they consider in need of updates and modernization. HC and the CFIA will take these suggestions into account when moving to the second stage of the process, which will be actual changes to food standards.

In preparation for this second stage in the process, the strategy document offers several guiding principles CFIA would follow in developing the new framework for compositional standards, as well as a set of screening criteria to guide the decision-making process.

Once the current consultation ends (September 22), CFIA is expected to publish regulatory changes (permitting incorporation by reference) in Canada Gazette Part 1 by the end of the year, for a final round of public engagement. The second stage of the modernization process (changes to food standards) will follow in early 2024.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.