

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Canada

**Post:** Ottawa

## Safe Food for Canadians License Application Available

### **Report Categories:**

Trade Policy Monitoring

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### **Report Highlights:**

Canada's Safe Food for Canadians Regulations will enter into force on January 15, 2019. Many of the new provisions will be applicable on day one, including the licensing requirement. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced that businesses can now apply for Safe Food for Canadians (SFC) licenses.

**Keywords:** Canada, CA18061, SFCR, Food Safety, Regulation, License

## General Information:

The [Safe Food for Canadians Regulations](#) (SFCR) will enter into force on January 15, 2019. Please consult [GAIN Report CA18061: 75 Days to Comprehensive Regulatory Overhaul](#) for a more in-depth look at what this means for U.S. companies currently doing business in Canada.

## New Safe Food for Canadians Licenses

Under the [Safe Food for Canadians Regulations](#) (SFCR) many food businesses, including food importers, will require a license from CFIA. CFIA has announced that food businesses that will require a license when the SFCR enters into force can now apply for a Safe Food for Canadians (SFC) license through the [My CFIA website](#). In order to apply for an [SFC license](#), businesses will need to attest that they have the required [preventive controls](#) in place.

If an U.S. company is exporting food products to a Canadian importer, the U.S. company should make sure that the Canadian importer is aware of all the [general food requirements](#) under SFCR, including requirements applicable to [imported foods](#) and [licensing](#).

If an U.S. company is exporting food products to Canada, and at the same time, the U.S. company is the importer of record in Canada, then this company is considered a [non-resident importer](#). In this case, the U.S. company will have to comply with the [various requirements under SFCR](#), including [licensing](#).

The CFIA notes that if a business currently has a registration or license with the CFIA that is expiring before January 15, 2019, the business should renew the registration or license, as needed through the current process. That registration or license will remain valid under the SFCR until it expires, even if the date of expiry occurs after January 15, 2019, provided there is a statement on it indicating that it is also a license under the *Safe Food for Canadians Act*. Once expired, the company will be required to apply for an SFC license under SFCR.

Companies are encouraged to find out [what to consider before applying for an SFC license](#) and to make sure they understand which [food category](#) to select on their license.

To find out if a business will require an SFC license or need to meet other SFCR requirements on January 15, 2019, please visit the CFIA [Timelines](#) webpage to access the interactive tools and sector-specific timelines for various food commodities.

## Videos Tutorials

The CFIA has provided new [videos](#) to help business owners understand how to [apply for a license](#) and whether they need to create [a single profile or multiple profiles](#) for their business in My CFIA.

### **Licensing Fee**

The SFC license will cost \$250 CAD. An amended [Fees Notice](#) was published in Canada Gazette, Part I, on December 15, 2018. The amendments will come into force on January 15, 2019 in line with the SFCR. The CFIA has created a [chart](#) comparing previous and new fees to help businesses understand the changes by commodity.

Companies should submit SFC license applications using the [My CFIA portal](#). Businesses who wish to pay by credit card will need to sign back into My CFIA on January 15, 2019 to pay for their license. The license will be issued digitally on or after January 15 (once payment is received and necessary verifications have been completed).

### **Upcoming Webinars**

CFIA will be recording an English webinar session and posting it to the [SFCR section](#) of CFIA's website in early January 2019. For more information, visit the [SFCR webinars for industry](#) page and the [SFCR videos](#) page, including [CFIA's YouTube channel](#).