

New Regulations Good or Bad?

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Outline

- What are the drivers for regulation
- How critical are they
- Goal of new regulations
- Important approaches

Drivers for Regulation

- Increasing global food supply
 - Approximately 15% of food is now imported
 - Imported from over 150 countries
 - Imported through over 300 ports
 - Over 200,000 foreign facilities registered with FDA for imports (not including farms or restaurants)
 - Over 150,000 domestic facilities registered with FDA

Drivers for Regulation

- Distribution systems – broad and fast
- Wide variation in practices
- Greater recognition of outbreaks
 - New products
 - Protracted recalls
- Greater media attention
- Loss of consumer confidence

Real World Issues

- Lack of required preventive controls
 - Peanut butter outbreaks
- Lack of understanding of risks
 - Pistachio contamination with Salmonella
- Inability to track products back quickly
 - Tomatoes/Hot peppers – Salmonella
- Inability to track products forward quickly
 - Salmonella in peanut butter paste
- Deliberate contamination
 - Melamine in wheat gluten
 - Melamine in dairy products
- Lack of consistent standards

Real World Issues

- FDA does not know who is manufacturing what.
 - PCA –peanut butter
- Companies may withhold critical testing data
- Little deterrence
 - Criminal and civil penalties
- Blocks to sharing data
 - Federal – State

Congress: House – HR 2749

- Annual registration with a fee
- Hazard analysis, preventive controls
 - Conduct a hazard analysis
 - Identify, implement and validate preventive controls
 - Monitor controls
 - Conduct verification activities
- Food safety plan
 - Description of hazards identified, controls, monitoring
 - Record keeping, recall procedure,
 - Procedure for safe supply chain
- Performance Standards
- Safety standards for produce
 - Grower, harvester, packer, processor, sorter, transporter
- Increased inspections

Congress: House – HR 2749

- Access to records during routine inspections
- Certification and accreditation for imports
- Mandatory recall
- Expansion of reportable food registry
 - Include farms producing food going intrastate
 - Include restaurants and retail
- Greater criminal and civil penalties
- Makes seizure easier
- Expand country of origin labeling
- Traceability of food

Goal of New Regulations

- Prevent problems in the first place
 - Consider the whole supply chain – global approach
 - Focus on areas of greatest risk
- Targeted risk based inspections and testing
 - Infrastructure to determine where the risks are
 - More inspections – but inspection is not the whole answer
- Faster response and improved recovery
 - Identify problems sooner
 - Shut illness down faster

Goal of New Regulations

- Set clear standards
- Raise the standard to a level of industry best practice
- Use risk based approaches
 - Everyone should have a basic required standard
 - Extra levels of control for higher risk foods
- Educational programs needed for certain food businesses
- Measure improvement

Optimal Approaches

- Build an integrated food safety system
 - Locals, States, Federal and Foreign Government
- Engage with industry on solutions
 - Share data
 - Increase understanding of the risks
- Require adequate funding and accountability

Thank You

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