



Questions and Answers

Multi-Year Regulatory Modernization Plan for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Why is the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) reviewing its regulatory frameworks?

Since the CFIA's inception, its regulatory efforts have been largely ad hoc or focused on individual or issue-specific regulatory amendments. By doing a structured and comprehensive review, the CFIA can put into place a modernized regulatory framework that will

- improve consistency and reduce complexity in regulation
- align regulations with strategic objectives
- reduce unnecessary burden on stakeholders
- keep pace with changes in science and technology
- support innovation
- continue to protect Canada's resource base

How does this initiative align with the recent agreement signed by President Obama and Prime Minister Harper designed to boost security, trade and travel?

The CFIA's regulatory modernization plan is an additional initiative to those included in the recent Canada-U.S. agreement on Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness and the Joint Action Plan of the Regulatory Cooperation Council.

How will the CFIA conduct this review?

The CFIA will use a phased approach to review its regulatory frameworks. Starting in December 2011, the Agency will engage with stakeholders through various forums, including online consultations.

What does the CFIA hope to achieve through this review?

In this review, the CFIA wants to

- develop regulations that provide the appropriate level of government oversight
- develop outcome-based and transparent regulations
- develop common risk management principles, regardless of the commodity that is being regulated
- build a flexible regulatory framework that helps modern businesses (e.g. e-commerce)
- facilitate innovation and support competition

What will the CFIA do with the results of the consultation?

The CFIA will consider all comments related to the regulatory review process. It will post a final report summarizing the input received during the consultation on the CFIA website. Once finalized, the CFIA will notify stakeholders by email.

Who can I speak to if I have any questions related to the review or the online consultation?

If you have questions about this initiative, you can speak with your regional or Area office. (Link to:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/directory/offbure.shtml>)

You can also contact us by email.

(CFIAPROGRAMS_ACIAPROGRAMMES@inspedion.gc.ca)