

<b>Working Group</b>	Agriculture & Food #2	
<b>Action Plan Initiative</b>	Common Approaches to Food Safety	
<b>Deliverable outcome</b>	<p>Assessment of the "comparability" of Canadian and U.S. food safety systems within the mandates of Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This initiative would leverage the strong, collaborative bilateral regulatory relationships that already exist between CFIA/Health Canada and the FDA with a view to jointly enhancing the safety of the food supply in North America, and eliminate the need for routine food safety surveillance inspections by FDA in Canada and by Canadian authorities in the U.S.</p> <p>Further strengthening of the existing bilateral regulatory alignment mechanisms to enhance cooperation and information exchange between Canada and the US during the development of regulations and guidances with respect to the implementation of FSMA and new Canadian food safety initiatives in order to proactively identify and mitigate health and safety issues in an effort to collectively strengthen food safety in both countries.</p>	
<b>Task team members</b>	<p>Canada - CFIA: Mary Ann Green - <a href="mailto:MaryAnn.Green@inspection.gc.ca">MaryAnn.Green@inspection.gc.ca</a>; Health Canada: Dr. Samuel Godefroy - <a href="mailto:samuel.godefroy@hc-sc.gc.ca">samuel.godefroy@hc-sc.gc.ca</a></p> <p>US - FDA: Julie Callahan - <a href="mailto:julie.callahan@fda.hhs.gov">julie.callahan@fda.hhs.gov</a> (comparability); Charles Gaylord - <a href="mailto:Charles.Gaylord@fda.hhs.gov">Charles.Gaylord@fda.hhs.gov</a> and Jeffrey Read - <a href="mailto:Jeffrey.Read@fda.hhs.gov">Jeffrey.Read@fda.hhs.gov</a> (information sharing)</p>	
<b>Action items</b>	Action Item 1: Advance mutual system comparability based on FDA's Comparability Review process	Action Item 2: Develop information sharing agreement to enhance the Canada-US food safety relationship as a precursor to deeper regulatory alignment
	<b>Interim Deliverables</b>	
<b>3-6 Months</b>	FDA has advised it intends to publish a notice in the Federal Register identifying Canada as the next country to undergo a comparability assessment.	<p><i>[The issue of a mechanism needed to ensure ongoing regulatory alignment will also be examined under this initiative]</i></p> <p>Linkages/reporting established under the existing CFIA-HC-US FDA Joint Committee on Food Safety (JCFS), which agreed to this direction in April 2011;  Working group assembled composed of officials from USFDA, CFIA and HC;  Discussion paper on information sharing developed and circulated for comment, with the objective of enhancing collaboration on key food safety priorities, thus enhancing regulatory alignment;  Steering committee established under JCFS to draft information sharing framework and manage ongoing technical collaboration based on discussion paper.</p>

Work in Progress - draft for discussion

<b>6-12 Months</b>	Once initiated, the comparability review should be completed within 6-12 months.	<p>Presentation of the information sharing framework, with proposed options and recommendation(s) to senior officials (including the JCFS) to seek their agreement;</p> <p>Confirmation of key food safety priorities requiring enhanced collaboration by JCFS;</p> <p>Technical working groups meet and report back to steering committee;</p> <p>Steering committee reports back before next JCFS meeting;</p> <p>Technical working groups added and disbanded as needed per JCFS guidance.</p>
<b>12-18 Months</b>	Canada (HC/CFIA) and USFDA will undertake to develop a permanent collaborative mechanism to leverage existing collaborative work and provide greater regulatory alignment.	Regular reports by Steering Committee back to JCFS on progress and, where necessary, decisions on proposed initiatives.
<b>Beyond 18 Months</b>		<p>Maintain and enhance information sharing in the confirmed key food safety priorities, under the oversight of the Steering Committee, and reporting back to JCFS;</p> <p>Update and refine areas of US-Canada technical collaboration per direction from the JCFS.</p>