

<b>Working Group</b>	Agriculture & Food #2	
<b>Action Plan Initiative</b>	Mutual Reliance of Food Testing Results	
<b>Deliverable outcome</b>	Development of jointly acceptable processes and tools (e.g., food safety laboratory accreditation criteria) with a view to ensuring testing conducted in one country would be acceptable to regulators in both countries, and to facilitate cross-utilization of laboratory results by industry and regulators while maintaining confidence that the test results provide reliable evidence that regulatory requirements have been met for food products within the mandates of CFIA, HC and the FDA.	
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<b>Action items</b>	Action Item 1: Develop and implement Guiding Principles for mutual acceptance of laboratory accreditation	Action Item 2: Establish a permanent mechanism to maintain mutual acceptance of laboratory accreditation
	<b>Interim Deliverables</b>	
<b>3-6 Months</b>	Develop an inventory of current processes and tools used in each country with regard to acceptable accreditation criteria (such as proficiency testing and other requirements to demonstrate laboratory competency)	n/a
<b>6-12 Months</b>	Complete a gap analysis to identify differences among accreditation criteria used by regulators which present barriers to acceptance of each other's test results. The gap analysis will inform the Guiding Principles (deliverables: acceptable criteria, guidance principles, quality management).	Develop criteria, guiding principles and options for maintaining mutual acceptance of laboratory accreditation: creating and maintaining a process for mutually recognizing each other's systems as being equivalent for mutual reliance of food testing results. Consideration would be given to eventually expanding to include laboratory competency, technical competency, methodology, method validation, demonstration of QA/QC, Proficiency testing, etc
<b>12-18 Months</b>	Implement the Guiding Principles and develop agreements of acceptance criteria that will enable both countries to recognize each other's food safety laboratory test results	Develop agreements
<b>Beyond 18 Months</b>	Acceptance of each other's laboratory accreditation for reliance on food test results	Implement a governance model for reviewing and updating the agreed upon system(s), including the need to address new technologies or changes emerging from food safety needs. Further discussions required on any unresolved items such as regulatory tools which might impact the agreed upon criteria for accreditation equivalence.

Work in Progress - draft for discussion