



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Canadian Food Inspection Agency



Our vision:

To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

Our mission:

Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

***Canada's Food Safety System
Farm Foundation Forum
April 7, 2009***

Canada

Food safety is a shared responsibility

Industry – including importers

- Responsible for the safety of the food they sell
- Compliance with safety standards and regulations

Federal Government

- Sets food safety standards which apply to all foods sold in Canada, including imports
- Responsibility for imports falls solely under federal jurisdiction
- Audit, inspection and surveillance to verify industry meeting safety standards
- Collaboration with trading partners to address food safety issues at origin

Provincial Governments

- Degree of provincial oversight varies from province to province
- Cooperation with federal government to advance food safety standards and avoid duplication

Consumers

- Safe handling, storage, and preparation of food
- Use available information to make choices

This shared responsibility...

Health Canada

- Sets standards and policies for the safety of food
- Research, surveillance, risk assessment
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of the CFIA

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- Delivery of Health Canada food safety standards
- Trade and commerce provisions, including certification
- Animal and plant health standards and delivery
- Agricultural inputs (feeds, seed, fertilizers, vet biologics)
- Audit, inspection, sampling and testing, enforcement
- Food recall and emergency response



...relies on the contribution of government partners

Public Health Agency of Canada

- Public health policy and surveillance of food-borne illness and chronic disease

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

- Trade, sectoral initiatives including research, funding for voluntary industry food safety programs

Canadian Border Services Agency

- Assessment and clearance of shipments entering Canada

Provinces, territories, municipalities

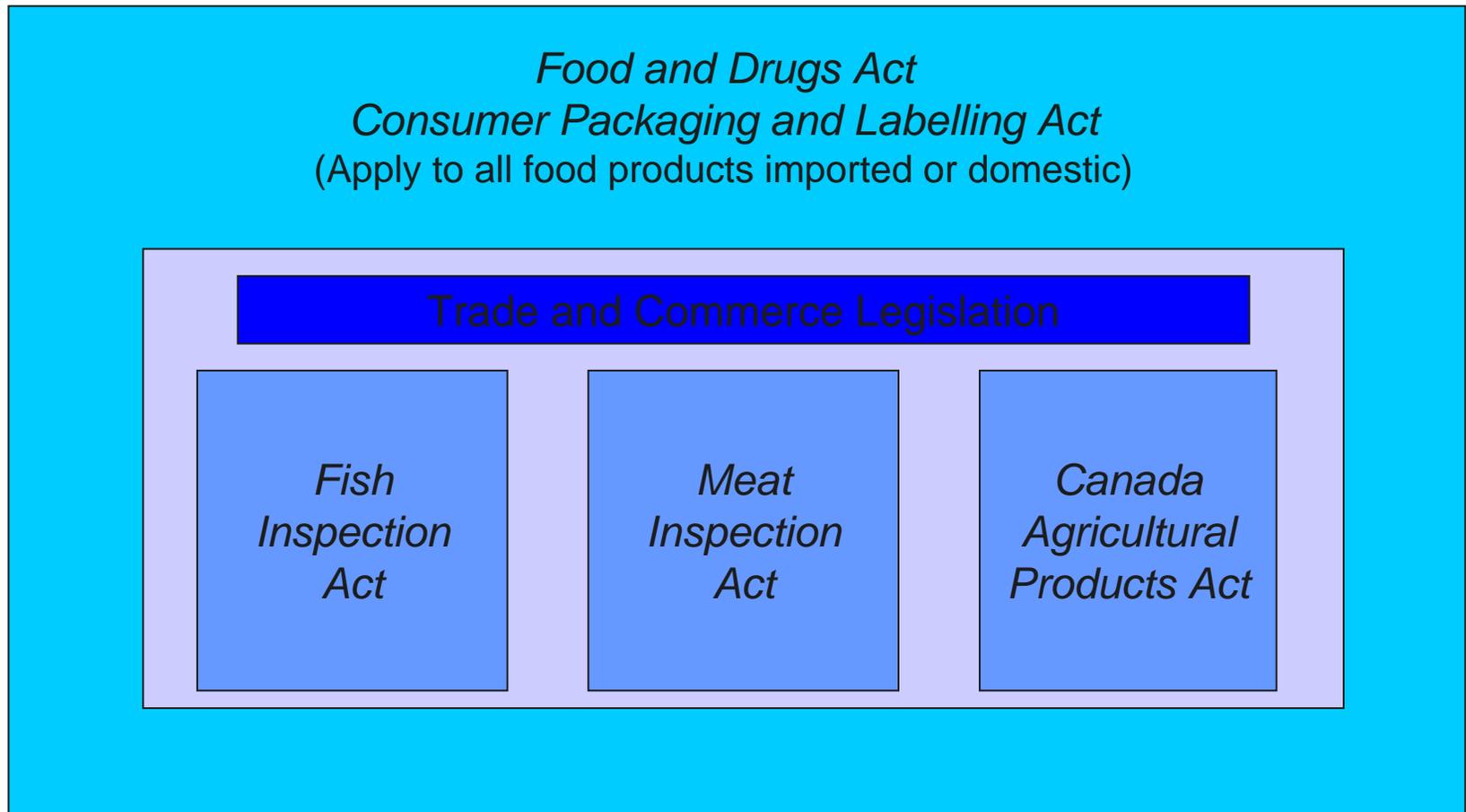
- Food safety and inspection programs within their jurisdictions



Canadian Food Inspection Agency

- Created in 1997 to consolidate federal inspection activities into one single agency
 - Clarify roles and responsibilities
 - Reduce overlap and duplication
 - Improve effectiveness and efficiency
 - Enhance federal/provincial harmonization and cooperation
 - Support program modernization
- Mandated to safeguard Canada's food supply and the plants and animals upon which safe and high-quality food depends
- Comprehensive programs enable management of issues along the food production continuum

Canadian legislative requirements for food are comprehensive...



...and support action along the continuum

- **On-farm food safety**
 - Government has worked with commodity sectors to develop and review food safety plans
- **Management of supply chains upstream**
 - Greater emphasis on assurance that ingredients will not compromise product compliance
- **HACCP at the processing level**
 - Strong encouragement for the adoption of HACCP in food processing (mandatory for meat and fish)
- **Monitoring of domestic foods and imports and gathering baseline data**
 - Development of baseline information on hazards facilitates effective mapping of risks and appropriate targeting of resources
- **Facilitating consumer decision-making**
 - Empower consumers to play their role in protecting their health through the food choices they make and the way in which they store, handle and prepare foods

... based on risk



The creation of the CFIA contributed positively to an effective food safety system...

- Canada is recognized as having world-class food inspection and quarantine systems
- Core competencies in risk management and communication developed rapidly
- We have integrated inspection services for food, animals and plants
 - Single window for industry and consumers
 - The continuum approach permitted us to quickly respond to production-based issues such as BSE
 - Food recall system has supported effective and timely investigations and recall
- Industry support and consumer confidence remain high
 - This integrated approach studied by several countries



...however, internationally, food safety systems continue to face challenges

- Globalization of the food supply chain, new production practices and technologies, and changing consumer demands have created new risks and challenges for traditional food inspection and oversight mechanisms
 - recent high profile food safety incidents and recalls that crossed national boundaries
- Canada is planning for the future by modernizing its food safety assurance mechanisms through prevention, targeted compliance and rapid response, so that:
 - Canadians continue to enjoy a safe food supply
 - Canada's food safety system remains in step with those of its trading partners



Canada has announced a Food and Consumer Safety Action Plan which:

- Builds on the responsibilities of industry, government and consumers
 - recognizing that food safety is a shared responsibility
- Is an integrated, proactive approach that:
 - provides new and better information on food risks in the Canadian marketplace
 - identifies risk management approaches to address those risks along the food chain from production to consumption
 - recognizes the global nature of food trade and supports the engagement of trading partners
- Contributes to active prevention, targeted oversight and rapid response
 - Proposes to modernize the *Food and Drugs Act* to provide new enabling authorities support the Action Plan

As a reminder, Canada has mandatory recall authority for food

- Food Recall: An indicator of the effectiveness of food systems where trend analysis is
 - one element used in the update or development of policies
 - a factor in establishing inspection priorities
- Investigations can be triggered by
 - consumer complaints, industry action, CFIA projects, trade complaints and other external sources
- Effectiveness of food recall system is critical to consumer confidence
 - Government/industry cooperation and effective communication are key
- Mandatory provision is rarely used but has contributed to more effective industry cooperation





Key Links

General CFIA Website

- <http://www.inspection.gc.ca>

Healthy Canadians

- <http://www.healthycanadians.ca>