

FSMA Facts

Sprouts: Subpart M

The proposed rule identifies routes of microbial contamination of produce and sets requirements to prevent or reduce the introduction of pathogens.

Background

Specific requirements are established for sprouts because they present a unique risk because the warm, moist, and nutrient-rich conditions required to produce sprouts are the same conditions that are also ideal for the growth of pathogens.

Requirements

Some of the key requirements for sprouts are:

- Require that if your farm grows seeds or beans for use to grow sprouts, you must take measures reasonably necessary to prevent the introduction of hazards into or onto seeds or beans; that if you have reason to believe that a lot of seeds or beans has been associated with foodborne illness, you must not use it; and that you must visually examine seeds, beans, and packaging used to ship them for signs of potential contamination. (proposed § 112.141).
- Require that growing, harvesting, packing and holding of sprouts be done in a fully-enclosed building; require that any food-contact surfaces that come in contact with sprouts, seeds, or beans must be cleaned and sanitized; and require that you must treat seeds or beans using a scientifically valid method immediately before sprouting to reduce microorganisms of public health significance and that prior treatment by a grower, handler, or distributor of seeds or beans does not eliminate your responsibility to treat seeds or beans immediately before sprouting at your covered farm. (proposed § 112.142)
- Require that you test the growing, harvesting, packing, and holding environment for *Listeria* spp. or *L. monocytogenes* and that you test spent irrigation water from each production batch of sprouts, or the sprouts themselves, for *E. coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella* species and take appropriate follow-up actions. You must establish and implement a written environmental monitoring plan (that also includes a sampling plan that addresses *Listeria* species or *L. monocytogenes*) and a written sampling plan for sampling sprout irrigation water or sprouts. (proposed §§ 112.143, 112.144, 112.145, 112.146)
- Require certain records, including documentation of your treatment of seeds or beans for sprouting, the written environmental monitoring plan and sampling plan, test results, and certain methods used (proposed § 112.150).