

FDA FACT SHEET

VOLUNTARY NATIONAL RETAIL FOOD REGULATORY PROGRAM STANDARDS (VNRFRPS) PROGRAM

Program Description

VNRFRPS Promote Mutual Reliance and Strengthened Partnerships

- Enhance capacity of retail food safety regulatory programs, serving as the foundation for mutual reliance.
- Promote internal program consistency, a highly trained workforce, and partnerships with other programs.
- Provide tools to help programs build a capacity management system to measure and improve performance and accountability.
- Strengthen consumer awareness and confidence in retail food safety programs.

FDA Support for State Programs

- Offers dedicated FDA staff to work with state, local, tribal and territorial program staff.
- Provides information-sharing forums through the FoodSHIELD website.
- Furnishes opportunities to regulatory programs enrolled in the VNRFRPS to apply for funding, when available, to assist in implementation efforts.

Leveraging Resources

- Assess gaps and set priorities for program improvements through VNRFRPS' self-assessment approach.
- Uses VNRFRPS tools to complete a resource assessment to help justify existing resources or to request increased resources.
- Leverages opportunities for states, locals, tribes, and territories to network, learn, and

work with other regulatory programs by facilitating information-sharing and improving communications.

Intended Outcomes

- To advance efforts for a nationally integrated food safety system through the conformance with and advancement of the VNRFRPS.
- The VNRFRPS apply to the operation and management of a retail food regulatory program that is focused on the reduction of risk factors known to contribute to foodborne illness and the promotion of industry action to achieve active managerial control of these risk factors.
- Reduce or eliminate the occurrence of illnesses and deaths from food produced at the retail level
- Encourage regulatory agencies to improve and build upon existing programs.
- Provide a framework designed to accommodate both traditional and emerging approaches to food safety.
- Promote quality regulatory programs through continuous self-improvement.
- Improve communication among regulatory partners.

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The FDA, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, protects the public health by assuring the safety, effectiveness, and security of human and veterinary drugs, vaccines and other biological products for human use, and medical devices. The agency also is responsible for the safety and security of our nation's food supply, cosmetics, dietary supplements, and products that give off electronic radiation, and for regulating tobacco products.