



Title 21 Vacancy Announcement
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN)
Office of Food Safety (OFS)
Division of Dairy, Egg and Meat Products
Food Safety Advisor for Critical Foods
(Interdisciplinary Scientist)

Application Period: June 28, 2023 - July 18, 2023

Area of Consideration: United States Citizenship is required. You must be a U.S. Citizen or U.S. National. Foreign nationals or legal permanent residents are not eligible for consideration.

Position: Food Safety Advisor for Critical Foods
(Interdisciplinary Scientist)

Series: AD-0401 (Biology) or
AD-0403 (Microbiology)

Location(s): Remote

Salary: Starting at \$132,368

Work Schedule: Full Time

Full Performance Band Level: Band D

Cures Band(s): Band D

Travel Requirements: Up to 25% travel

Bargaining Unit: 3591

Relocation Expenses Reimbursement: You may qualify for reimbursement of relocation expenses in accordance with agency policy.

This position is being filled under a stream-lined hiring authority, Title 21, Section 3072 of the 21st Century Cures Act. The candidate selected for this position will serve under a career or career-conditional appointment and be paid under the provisions of this authority.

Additional information on 21st Century Cures Act can be found here:

[**21st Century Cures Act Information**](#)

Introduction

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) is the regulatory, scientific, public health and consumer protection agency responsible for ensuring all human and animal drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, foods, food additives, drugs and medicated feeds for food producing animals, tobacco and radiation emitting devices safe, and effective.

The mission of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) protects and promotes public health by ensuring that the nation's food supply is safe, sanitary, wholesome, and honestly labeled, and that cosmetic products and dietary supplements are safe and properly labeled.

Duties/Responsibilities

The Office of Food Safety primary responsibilities include: Providing oversight of regulations, guidance, policy, programs, position papers, and advisory opinions, and recommends research priorities for issues related to food safety within the scope of the responsibility of the Office; Providing expert advice to inquiries from throughout the Center, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), other Federal Agencies, U.S. and foreign government officials and external stakeholders including Congress, as well as industry, international and other organizations on food safety programs and policies; Supporting interaction and collaboration among Federal and State partners in shellfish, milk safety and retail food protection cooperative programs; Providing expertise in acidified and low acid food technologies, including the registration and evaluation of filed processes; Reviewing industry petitions and regulatory actions to determine if they are supported by relevant science and established policy; Providing expert scientific testimony and provide technical review of laboratory analyses supporting proposed enforcement actions and when needed, provides expert scientific testimony; Conducting food safety research in food processing, food packaging, and food technology and conducts seafood safety research; and Providing coordination, oversight and management of the food safety programs.

The incumbent is responsible for providing policy, scientific and technical advice and assistance related to the safety of milk and milk products, including infant formula. In addition, the incumbent will perform the following duties:

- Develops, implements, and monitors policies and programs, such as compliance programs, initiatives, and other related activities, as affected by the various food safety laws, such as the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service Act involving the complex and priority scientific matters affecting the regulations, policies and programs related to manufacturing/processing environment, target pathogens, and indicators of concern for low moisture foods, including infant formula and other critical foods.
- Applies knowledge of the laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines pertaining to the regulation, enforcement and compliance of critical foods.
- Applies scientific knowledge and understanding of the manufacturing/process environment and low moisture foods to assist in developing regulatory policy and guidance documents related to the infant formula and medical foods, developing agency responses to citizen petitions, and providing technical and policy input to support

compliance and enforcement actions relating to infant formula and medical foods.

- Reviews risk assessments associated with the presence of microbiological, biological, or chemical contaminants in low moisture foods, including infant formula, for developing risk management strategies for the regulatory control of biological, microbial, chemical, or physical contaminants found in critical foods products for human consumption.
- Develops and evaluates compliance strategies and policies, field programs and targeted surveys for microbiological, biological, or chemical contaminants to assess the quality and safety of critical food products.
- Provides responses to inquiries and recommendation from field offices on policies, regulations, positions, and regulatory guidelines related to microbiological, biological, or chemical contaminants found in critical foods, particularly in low moisture foods such as infant formula.
- Replies to correspondence from the regulated community and other interested persons on food safety issues related to microbiological, biological, or chemical contaminants that are industry-wide in scope or have health implications. Prepares and makes presentations at professional meetings and serves on agency, governmental, and national and international committees to promote agency goals and programs on food safety issues related to microbiological, biological, and chemical contaminants found in critical food.
- Receives meeting requests from various stakeholders and external parties, including manufacturers, trade groups, and other government agencies.
- Reviews and responds to general correspondence, as well as to handle phone inquiries from the field, regulated industry and their lawyers and consultants.
- Evaluates information for project priorities, plans and organizes the work, and sets timelines and schedules for the timely completion of assigned projects.
- Establishes contacts within the scientific and professional community to exchange information and to learn newest techniques for program and compliance improvement. Maintains, interprets, and prepares scientific information.
- Uses automated database software to prepare reports and document data. Maintains records, interprets results, and prepares summary reports of investigation including tables and graphs.
- Identifies and assesses emerging, standing, complex, or precedent-setting issues impacting procedures, policies, or resources in the area of low-moisture foods related to contaminants found in critical food products.

Supervisory Responsibilities: This is not a supervisory role.

Conditions of Employment

- U.S. Citizenship requirement or proof of being a U.S. National must be met by closing date.
- Employment is subject to the successful completion of a background investigation, verification of qualifications, completion of onboarding forms, submission of required

documents, and any other job-related requirement before or after appointment.

- Applicants must meet all qualification requirements by the closing date of this announcement.
- Direct Deposit: You will be required to have all federal salary payments electronically deposited into a bank account with a financial institution of your choice.
- FDA participates in e-Verify: All new hires must complete the I-9 form; this information will be processed through e-Verify to determine your employment eligibility. If a discrepancy arises, you must take affirmative steps to resolve the matter.
- Males born after December 31, 1959, must be registered with the Selective Service.
- One-year probationary period may be required.
- Financial Disclosure may be required.
- Ethics Clearance may be required.
- Background Investigation/Security Clearance is required. All employees must pass a security investigation. Failing to pass the background check may be grounds for removal or legal action. If hired, you may be subject to additional investigations at a later time.

Qualifications

To be placed into a Cures position, candidates must meet the following criteria:

1. Scientific, Technical, and Professional Fields
2. Qualified and Outstanding Candidates
 - a. **Qualified** applies to all candidates for Cures appointments. The FDA OTS will use the basic requirements defined in the [OPM Qualification Standards](#) as a baseline for comparing experience levels and other candidate attributes for relevant positions.
 - b. **Outstanding** candidates can be defined by existing outstanding work experience, outstanding performance rating, or both.

In order to qualify for this Title 21 Cures position, the candidate(s) must meet the following **required** qualifications. *Please note: Additional education and experience listed that is not indicated as **required** is preferable and desired. Candidates who do not meet the “desired” criteria will not be excluded from consideration for this position.*

Education Requirement:

Biologist Series, 0401:

Degree: biological sciences, agriculture, natural resource management, chemistry, or related disciplines appropriate to the position. **OR**

Combination of education and experience: Courses equivalent to a major, as shown in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

Microbiologist Series, 0403:

Degree: microbiology; or biology, chemistry, or basic medical science that included at least 20 semester hours in microbiology and other subjects related to the study of microorganisms, and 20 semester hours in the physical and mathematical sciences combining course work in organic chemistry or biochemistry, physics, and college algebra, or their equivalent. **OR**

Combination of education and experience: courses equivalent to a major in microbiology, biology, chemistry, or basic medical science that included courses as shown in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

For more information please see: [OPM Occupational Series Qualification Requirements](#).

Desired Education: Our ideal candidate will possess an Advanced Degree.

Professional Experience: Experience independently reviewing data and information to determine the root cause of contamination or other food safety events, specifically related to low moisture foods, including infant formula.

Desired Professional Experience:

Our ideal candidate will possess:

- Experience in food production, specifically factory/industry experience in low moisture foods.
- Comprehensive understanding of the powdered infant formula manufacturing/processing environment, target pathogens, and indicators of concern in low moisture foods.
- Extensive experience in advanced food production and manufacturing, current principles, and theories, principles, methods associated with milk and milk products, including infant formula.
- Extensive professional scientific and practical knowledge of contaminants associated with milk and milk products, including infant formula.
- Experience in collaborating with national and international industry members, academics, state, and federal public health officials, and other parties interested in milk and milk (including infant formula) products.
- Experience in communicating and fostering partnerships with national and international industry members, academics, state, and federal public health officials, and other parties interested in milk and milk (including infant formula) products.

Additional Requirements of this Position:

- The work involves infrequent exposure to moderate risks, discomforts, and unpleasantness such as:

- contagious diseases
- infectious materials, or toxic or irritating chemicals
- carcinogenic materials
- noxious fumes
- flammable liquids
- radiation, and/or
- potentially pathogenic bacteria.
- Special safety precautions such as protective clothing and equipment may be necessary.
- The majority of work is performed in an adequately lighted and climate-controlled office. Infrequent onsite investigations and inspections may involve exposure to moderate risks or discomforts such as high levels of noise, dust, moving parts of machinery, irritant fumes, etc. Protective clothing and gear, and observance of safety precautions are required.

Education Transcripts

SUBMITTING YOUR TRANSCRIPTS: Positions which are scientific or technical in nature often have very specific educational requirements. A transcript is required to verify educational achievement. Pay careful attention to the Qualifications and Education sections to identify vacancies where a transcript is required. Even if you hold a similar position or are a current FDA employee, you are not exempt from transcript requirements.

FOREIGN EDUCATION: If you are using education completed in foreign colleges or universities to meet the qualification requirements, you must show that the education credentials have been evaluated by a private organization that specializes in interpretation of foreign education programs and such education has been deemed equivalent to that gained in an accredited U.S. education program; or full credit has been given for the courses at a U.S. accredited college or university. For more information about this requirement, please visit the [U.S. Department of Education website for Foreign Education Evaluation](#).

Security Clearance Requirements

Background Investigation/Security Clearance Requirements: All employees must pass a security investigation. Failing to pass the background check may be grounds for removal or legal action. If hired, you may be subject to additional investigations at a later time. Please refer to the Ethics Clearance Requirements section.

Ethics Clearance Requirements

This position may require financial disclosure reporting and will be subject to FDA's prohibited financial interest regulation. If you are hired, you may be required to divest of certain financial interests. You are advised to seek additional information on this requirement from the hiring official before accepting any job offers. For more information, please visit the FDA Ethics web page: <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/jobs-and-training-fda/ethics>.

Equal Employment Opportunity

The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor.

[Equal Employment Opportunity \(EEO\) for federal employees & job applicants](#)

Reasonable Accommodation

Federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application process should follow the instructions in the job opportunity announcement. For any part of the remaining hiring process, applicants should contact the hiring agency directly.

Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. A reasonable accommodation is any change to a job, the work environment, or the way things are usually done that enables an individual with a disability to apply for a job, perform job duties or receive equal access to job benefits. Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodations when: An applicant with a disability needs an accommodation to have an equal opportunity to apply for a job. An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to perform the essential job duties or to gain access to the workplace. An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to receive equal access to benefits, such as details, training, and office-sponsored events. You can request a reasonable accommodation at any time during the application or hiring process or while on the job.

Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. Learn more about [disability employment and reasonable accommodations](#) or [how to contact an agency](#).

E-Verify

The Food and Drug Administration participates in the USCIS Electronic Employment Eligibility Verification Program (E-Verify). E-Verify helps employers determine employment eligibility of new hires and the validity of their Social Security numbers.

How to Apply

Applications will be accepted from all qualified internal and external applicants. Please send letter of interest addressing your experience in the major duties and responsibilities of the position, SF-50 for current federal employees only, transcript (with foreign credentials evaluation, if applicable) to CFSANExecutiveRecruitment@fda.hhs.gov by July 18, 2023. For questions, please contact CFSANExecutiveRecruitment@fda.hhs.gov.

Please reference Job Reference ID: **“Food Safety Advisor for Critical Foods (Interdisciplinary Scientist), OFS”**

Announcement Contact

For questions regarding this Cures position, please contact CFSANExecutiveRecruitment@fda.hhs.gov.

The Department of Health and Human Services is an equal opportunity employer with a smoke free environment.

FDA is an equal opportunity employer.

