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§ 2101. Findings

Congress finds that—

(1) the safety and integrity of the United States food supply are vital to public health, to public confidence in the food supply, and to the success of the food sector of the Nation's economy;

(2) illnesses and deaths of individuals and companion animals caused by contaminated food—

(A) have contributed to a loss of public confidence in food safety; and

(B) have caused significant economic losses to manufacturers and producers not responsible for contaminated food items;

(3) the task of preserving the safety of the food supply of the United States faces tremendous pressures with regard to—

(A) emerging pathogens and other contaminants and the ability to detect all forms of contamination;

(B) an increasing volume of imported food from a wide variety of countries; and

(C) a shortage of adequate resources for monitoring and inspection;

(4) according to the Economic Research Service of the Department of Agriculture, the United States is increasing the amount of food that it imports such that—

(A) from 2003 to 2007, the value of food imports has increased from \$45,600,000,000 to \$64,000,000,000; and

(B) imported food accounts for 13 percent of the average American diet including 31 percent of fruits, juices, and nuts, 9.5 percent of red meat, and 78.6 percent of fish and shellfish; and

(5) the number of full-time equivalent Food and Drug Administration employees conducting inspections has decreased from 2003 to 2007.

(Pub. L. 110-85, title X, §1001, Sept. 27, 2007, 121 Stat. 962.)

§ 2102. Ensuring the safety of pet food

(a) Processing and ingredient standards

Not later than 2 years after September 27, 2007, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this chapter as the "Secretary"), in consultation with the Association of American Feed Control Officials and other relevant stakeholder groups, including veterinary medical associations, animal health organizations, and pet food manufacturers, shall by regulation establish—

(1) processing standards for pet food; and

(2) updated standards for the labeling of pet food that include nutritional and ingredient information.

(b) Early warning surveillance systems and notification during pet food recalls

Not later than 1 year after September 27, 2007, the Secretary shall establish an early warning and surveillance system to identify adulteration of the pet food supply and outbreaks of illness associated with pet food. In establishing such system, the Secretary shall—

(1) consider using surveillance and monitoring mechanisms similar to, or in coordination with, those used to monitor human or animal health, such as the Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet) and PulseNet of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food Emergency Response Network of the Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Agriculture, and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network of the Department of Agriculture;

(2) consult with relevant professional associations and private sector veterinary hospitals;

(3) work with the National Companion Animal Surveillance Program, the Health Alert Network, or other notification networks as appropriate to inform veterinarians and relevant stakeholders during any recall of pet food; and

(4) use such information and conduct such other activities as the Secretary deems appropriate.

(Pub. L. 110-85, title X, §1002, Sept. 27, 2007, 121 Stat. 963; Pub. L. 115-234, title III, §306(b), Aug. 14, 2018, 132 Stat. 2441.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (a), was in the original "this title", meaning title X of Pub. L. 110-85, Sept. 27, 2007, 121 Stat. 962, which enacted this chapter and section 350f of this title, amended sections 321 and 331 of this title, and enacted provisions set out as notes under sections 350f and 2110 of this title. For complete classification of title X to the Code, see Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115-234 redesignated pars. (2) and (3) as (1) and (2), respectively, and struck out former par. (1) which read as follows: "ingredient standards and definitions with respect to pet food;"

§ 2103. Ensuring efficient and effective communications during a recall

The Secretary shall, during an ongoing recall of human or pet food regulated by the Secretary—

(1) work with companies, relevant professional associations, and other organizations to collect and aggregate information pertaining to the recall;

(2) use existing networks of communication, including electronic forms of information dissemination, to enhance the quality and speed of communication with the public; and

(3) post information regarding recalled human and pet foods on the Internet Web site of the Food and Drug Administration in a single location, which shall include a searchable database of recalled human foods and a searchable database of recalled pet foods, that is easily accessed and understood by the public.

(Pub. L. 110–85, title X, §1003, Sept. 27, 2007, 121 Stat. 963.)

§ 2104. State and Federal cooperation

(a) In general

The Secretary shall work with the States in undertaking activities and programs that assist in improving the safety of food, including fresh and processed produce, so that State food safety programs and activities conducted by the Secretary function in a coordinated and cost-effective manner. With the assistance provided under subsection (b), the Secretary shall encourage States to—

(1) establish, continue, or strengthen State food safety programs, especially with respect to the regulation of retail commercial food establishments; and

(2) establish procedures and requirements for ensuring that processed produce under the jurisdiction of State food safety programs is not unsafe for human consumption.

(b) Assistance

The Secretary may provide to a State, for planning, developing, and implementing such a food safety program—

(1) advisory assistance;

(2) technical assistance, training, and laboratory assistance (including necessary materials and equipment); and

(3) financial and other assistance.

(c) Service agreements

The Secretary may, under an agreement entered into with a Federal, State, or local agency, use, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, the personnel, services, and facilities of the agency to carry out the responsibilities of the agency under this section. An agreement entered into with a State agency under this subsection may provide for training of State employees.

(Pub. L. 110–85, title X, §1004, Sept. 27, 2007, 121 Stat. 964.)

§ 2105. Enhanced aquaculture and seafood inspection

(a) Findings

Congress finds the following:

(1) In 2007, there has been an overwhelming increase in the volume of aquaculture and seafood that has been found to contain substances that are not approved for use in food in the United States.

(2) As of May 2007, inspection programs are not able to satisfactorily accomplish the goals of ensuring the food safety of the United States.

(3) To protect the health and safety of consumers in the United States, the ability of the Secretary to perform inspection functions must be enhanced.

(b) Heightened inspections

The Secretary is authorized to enhance, as necessary, the inspection regime of the Food and Drug Administration for aquaculture and seafood, consistent with obligations of the United States under international agreements and United States law.

(c) Report to Congress

Not later than 180 days after September 27, 2007, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) describes the specifics of the aquaculture and seafood inspection program;

(2) describes the feasibility of developing a traceability system for all catfish and seafood products, both domestic and imported, for the purpose of identifying the processing plant of origin of such products; and

(3) provides for an assessment of the risks associated with particular contaminants and banned substances.

(d) Partnerships with States

Upon the request by any State, the Secretary may enter into partnership agreements, as soon as practicable after the request is made, to implement inspection programs to Federal standards regarding the importation of aquaculture and seafood.

(Pub. L. 110–85, title X, §1006, Sept. 27, 2007, 121 Stat. 969.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

REGULATION OF EXPORT OF SHRIMP TO THE UNITED STATES

Pub. L. 116–260, div. A, title VII, §787, Dec. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 1230, provided that:

“(a) The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs (Commissioner), shall develop and, if it determines feasible, implement a number of options for regulating the export of shrimp to the United States from other countries, including the three largest exporting countries by volume to the United States over the last three calendar years, such as sampling of products prior to export to the United States, increasing foreign inspections of export facilities, increased seafood importer inspections, foreign surveillance inspections at overseas manufacturing sites, enhanced import screening, higher rates of examination and sampling, use of third-party audits, and formal seafood arrangements with foreign competent authorities.

“(b) The Commissioner shall especially give priority consideration to the following with the funds appropriated—

“(1) that appropriate controls are applied to shrimp feed and production ponds, processing plants, and facilities throughout the chain of distribution to determine compliance with seafood safety requirements;

“(2) dedicate its inspectional effort to determine compliance with seafood arrangements, once established, from any dedicated funds;

“(3) provide an annual report to the Committee before the end of fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023 with the reporting requirement goal being to provide the Committee information related to FDA’s oversight of the safety of shrimp products imported into the United States.”

§ 2106. Consultation regarding genetically engineered seafood products

The Commissioner of Food and Drugs shall consult with the Assistant Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to produce a report on any environmental risks associated with genetically engineered seafood products, including the impact on wild fish stocks.

(Pub. L. 110–85, title X, §1007, Sept. 27, 2007, 121 Stat. 969.)