



Fact sheet: Growers and harvesters of fresh fruit and vegetables

Safe Food for Canadians Regulations

Under the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* (SFCR) new licensing, traceability, and preventive control requirements may apply to growers and harvesters of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Growers and harvesters are strongly encouraged to consult our sector-specific [timeline](#) to determine if and when they will need to meet each requirement.

Key requirements

1. Licensing

The regulations require that some food businesses have a licence if they prepare food to be sent across provincial or territorial boundaries, import or export.

It is important to note that fresh fruit and vegetable (FFV) businesses whose sole activities are growing or harvesting are not required to obtain a Safe Food for Canadians (SFC) licence.

However, activities such as packaging, labelling and/or exporting fresh fruit and vegetables may require an SFC licence. You should review our guidance entitled [Food business activities that require a licence under the SFCR](#) and use the [Licensing interactive tool](#) to determine if any of the additional activities you conduct would require an SFC licence.

The first step to obtaining a licence is to sign up for [My CFIA](#). The CFIA has a video to help business owners [apply for a licence](#) and tips to ensure a [smooth SFC licence application](#). The licence costs \$250 and is valid for two years.

If an FFV business has a valid registration under Part X of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations that expires **after January 15, 2019**, it will remain valid under the SFCR, if it contains a statement indicating that it is considered a licence under the *Safe Food for Canadians Act*.

2. Preventive control requirements

The [preventive control](#) requirements will apply to persons who grow or harvest fresh fruits or vegetables for interprovincial trade or export. Growers and harvesters of fresh fruits or vegetables whose gross annual food sales are more than \$100, 000 will be required to have a written [preventive control plan](#) (PCP).



The PCP requirements, if applicable, and the preventive control requirements will come into force only on **January 15, 2020**. However, if you export products and require an export certificate from CFIA, FFV businesses will need to comply with these preventive control requirements before the export certificate can be issued.

Many FFV businesses in Canada have implemented voluntary food safety programs, such as CanadaGAP, which was recently recognized by CFIA's Food Safety Recognition Program. Using CanadaGAP will position FFV businesses well by showing compliance with the preventive control and PCP requirements of the SFCR. However, you should review your CanadaGAP approved plan to make sure that all the PCP requirements, including those related to labelling and grades, are being met.

3. Traceability

The traceability requirements in the SFCR are based on the international standard established by Codex Alimentarius.

Persons who grow or harvest fresh fruits or vegetables for interprovincial trade or export will be required to prepare and keep traceability records and make sure that a label is applied, attached, or accompanies the fresh fruits or vegetables they provide to their customers.

Refer to the document entitled [Regulatory requirements: Traceability](#) and the [Traceability interactive tool](#) for an explanation of the traceability requirements.

In general, the coming into force date of the traceability requirements for persons who grow or harvest fresh fruits or vegetables is **January 15, 2020**.

Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC)

Produce licences issued under the *Licensing and Arbitration Regulations* will not be carried over under the SFCR. Instead, a membership with the Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC) will be required. The purpose of a DRC membership is to promote fair and ethical trading practices by minimizing trade irritants and facilitating effective trade dispute resolution.

Some members of the produce sector will be required to obtain both a membership with the Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC) as well as an SFC licence.

Refer to the document entitled [Regulatory requirements: Fresh fruits or vegetables](#) for information on the requirement for DRC membership.



Learn more at www.inspection.gc.ca/SafeFood.

You may also be interested in:

- [SFCR webinars for Industry \(pre-recorded\)](#)
- Video: [Get Ready for the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations](#)
- [Glossary of key terms](#)
- Understanding the SFCR: [A handbook for food businesses](#)
- [A guide for preparing a preventive control plan – For domestic food businesses](#)
- [Questions and answers: Safe Food for Canadians Regulations](#)
- [Licensing Interactive tool: Find out if and when you will need a licence](#)
- [Traceability interactive tool: Find out what your traceability requirements would be](#)
- [Preventive control plan interactive tool: Find out if and when you will need a Preventive Control Plan](#)
- [A guide for preparing a preventive control plan for importers](#)
- [A guide for preparing a preventive control plan for domestic food businesses](#)
- [The Guidance Finder](#)