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## Canada

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## Canada Publishes Final Food Safety Regulations

### **Report Categories:**

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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### **Report Highlights:**

On June 13, 2018, Canada published the final Safe Food for Canadians Regulations, completing a regulatory development process that began in 2012 with the adoption of the Safe Food for Canadians Act. Canada's new food safety regulations come into force on January 15, 2019.

## General Information:

The final [Safe Food for Canadians Regulations](#) (SFCR) were published on June 13, 2018, in Canada Gazette – Part II, marking the end of a food safety modernization process that began in 2012 with the adoption of the [Safe Food for Canadians Act](#). Both the Act and the Regulations come into force on January 15, 2019.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is the federal government authority in charge of implementing the new Regulations. The CFIA maintains a set of [comprehensive resources](#) on their website in order to assist businesses become familiar and compliant with the new requirements, some of which include licensing, traceability and preventive controls. The resources website also includes a section dedicated to [importing food](#) into Canada.

The CFIA recommends businesses to sign up with [My CFIA](#), a dedicated web-tool that will manage most services and interactions between the Agency and companies, including requests for licenses, permits, registrations and certificates.

The SFCR allow foreign companies to export directly to Canada, provided they have a fixed place of business in a country that:

- has an inspection system that has been recognized by Canada, if the imported food is a meat product or live or raw shellfish, or
- has a food safety system that has been determined to provide at least the same level of protection in relation to that food as that provided by Canada, if the imported food is not a meat product or live or raw shellfish

and provided that the food is sent directly to Canada from such a country. The United States meets the requirements listed above. The foreign exporting company must comply with all other relevant SFCR requirements.

Certain SFCR provisions do not apply to imported food additives, to imported beverages that contain more than 0.5 percent absolute ethyl alcohol by volume, and to imported unprocessed foods meant to be further prepared in Canada listed in Schedule 1 of the Regulations, provided that certain conditions are met (section 11 (2)).

Finally, the SFCR allow for a delayed coming into force by up to 30 months for certain categories of businesses or certain food sectors – for detailed information please consult this [timelines](#) webpage. As a general rule, requirements applicable to foods that haven't been previously regulated (foods other than, for instance, meat and poultry, dairy, eggs, fish and seafood, fresh and processed fruits and vegetables) come into force on July 15, 2020.