

A Summary of On-Farm Food Safety Programs or Guidelines For Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Worldwide

The information contained in these tables was gathered, through Internet searches, personal contacts within the produce industry and from attending conferences and seminars, over several months. The programs or guidelines are those intended to be used on the farm, by produce growers, regardless if they were meant for the grower himself, an association, for government regulation, for certification or for a third party auditor. The programs or guidelines found were organized by place of origin; Canada, USA and Internationally. Secondly, the programs were divided according to the group that developed or administered them; government, university or college, industry association, industry, retail body or individual companies. There may be many other programs or guidelines, especially those offered by individual companies that are not mentioned.

The On-Farm Food Safety Programs or guidelines that have been initiated in Canada are shown in [Table 1](#), the USA are in [Table 2](#) and International programs are shown in [Table 3](#).

Table 1: The On-Farm Food Safety Programs or Guidelines in Canada

Federal Government Initiatives					
Program/Guidelines	Developed/Administered By	Start Date	Current Status	Funded By	Reference
<i>Canadian On-Farm Food Safety Program (COFFSP)</i>	Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) and Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) (Technical Support)	May 1997	Achieve Recognition for National Commodity Associations Programs	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund	http://www.cfa-fca.ca/pages/index.php?main_id=7 http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/polstrat/reco/recoe.shtml
<i>Code of Practice for Minimally Processed Ready-to-Eat Vegetables</i>	CFIA	Feb. 1999	Voluntary implementation. No Audit. Available on website.	CFIA	http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/fresh/read-eat_e.shtml
<i>Code of Practice for the Hygienic Production of Sprouted Seeds</i>	CFIA	Sept. 2001	Voluntary implementation. No Audit Available on website.	CFIA	http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/fresh/sprointe.shtml
Provincial Government Initiatives					
Program/Guidelines	Developed By	Start Date	Current Status	Funded By	Reference
<i>Keeping Berries Safe: A Grower's Guide to Preventing Food-Borne Illness from Berry Crops</i>		Feb. 2000	Voluntary implementation. No Audit. Available on website	OMAFRA	http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/crops/facts/berry_obgabrochure.html
<i>On Farm Food Safety</i>	Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)	Aug. 2002	Voluntary implementation	OMAFRA	http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/offis/

National Commodity Associations Initiatives

Program/Guidelines	Developed By	Start Date	Current Status	Funded By	Reference
<i>On-Farm Food Safety Guidelines for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (OFFSP)</i>	Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC)	1997	Phase 3 of COFFSP: Implementation	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	http://www.hortcouncil.ca/offsp.htm

Industry Associations/Board Initiatives

Program/Guidelines	Developed By	Start Date	Current Status	Funded By	Reference
<i>Food Safety</i>	BC Vegetable Marketing Commission	-	Voluntary Implementation. No Audit. Available on Website	BC Vegetable Marketing Commission	http://www.bcveg.com/index.htm
Partners in Quality – PIQ Ontario: <i>On-Farm Food Safety Guidelines For Fruit and Grape Growers</i>	Ontario Tender Fruit Producers' and Ontario Fresh Grape Growers' Marketing Boards	Feb. 2001	Voluntary Implementation No Audit	OMAFRA Healthy Futures Fund	Ontario Tender Fruit Producers' and Ontario Fresh Grape Growers' Marketing Boards. 2001. Partners in Quality – PIQ Ontario: On-Farm Food Safety Guidelines For Fruit and Grape Growers.
<i>Processing Vegetable On Farm Food Safety Handbook</i>	The Ontario Processing Vegetable Grower's Marketing Board	May 2001	Voluntary Implementation No Audit	The Ontario Processing Vegetable Grower's Marketing Board	Ontario Processing Vegetable Grower's Marketing Board. 2001. Processing Vegetable On Farm Food Safety Handbook
<i>Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers On-Farm Food Safety Program</i>	Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers	July 1999	All members participating, ongoing farm visits, microbiological testing and program support by employed food safety coordinators, for verification	OMAFRA Healthy Futures Fund	http://www.ontariogreenhouse.com/onfarm.cfm

Company Initiatives					
Program/Guidelines	Developed By	Start Date	Current Status	Funded By	Reference
<i>Integrated Food Safety & Quality Systems</i>	Guelph Food Technology Centre (GFTC) - GFTC is currently working with the Canadian Mushroom Growers Association to implement HACCP programs on producer's farms. http://www.cmga.ca/protected/mushroom.htm	Spring 2001	Use Haccp principles to train and audit growers. Also, provide training in SQF (Safe Quality Food) 1000/2000 CodesCM. Logo available.	Paid by individual group that requests services	http://www.gftc.ca/

Table 2: The On-Farm Food Safety Programs or Guidelines in the USA

Federal Government Initiatives					
Program/Guidelines	Developed/Administered By	Start Date	Current Status	Funded By	Reference
<i>Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables</i>	Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Centre for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN)	Oct. 1998	Voluntary Implementation. No Audit Available on Website	FDA	http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/prodguid.html
<i>Fresh Produce Audit Verification Program</i>	USDA, Federal-State Inspection Service (FSIS)	Oct. 2001	12 Month Pilot across the USA, Voluntary Implementation, On-Farm Scored Audits by FSIS based on "Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables". No logo used.	Individual Requesting Services	http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/
<i>Microbiological Safety Evaluations and Recommendations on Sprouted Seeds</i>	USDA: National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Food (NACMCF)	May 1999	Voluntary Implementation, No Audit. Available on Website	USDA	http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~mow/sprouts2.html

National Trade Associations Initiatives

Program/Guidelines	Developed/Administered By	Start Date	Current Status	Funded By	Reference
<i>Food Safety Auditing Guidelines: Core Elements of Good Agricultural Practices for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables</i>	United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association (UFFVA)	Sept. 2001	Voluntary Implementation No Audit Available on website	UFFVA	http://www.uffva.org/

University/College Initiatives

Programs/Guidelines	Developed/Administered By	Start Date	Current Status	Funded By	Reference
<i>Reducing Food Safety Risks in Apples: A Self-Assessment Workbook for Producers of Apples, Juice and Cider</i>	Washington State University, Cooperative Extension Home * A* Syst-Farm * A * Syst	May 2001	Voluntary Implementation. No Audit. Available on website	USDA-CSREES Food Safety Grant	http://organic.tfrec.wsu.edu/FoodSafetyWeb/Home.htm
<i>Food Safety Begins on the Farm: A Grower's Guide, Good Agricultural Practices for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables</i>	Cornell University	2001	Voluntary Implementation by Cornell GAPs Team: members in 16 different states train growers and packers	USDA-CSREES and US FDA	http://www.gaps.cornell.edu/
<i>Extensive Regional Food Safety Program</i>	North Carolina State University (NCSU)		Voluntary implementation of fresh produce safety guidelines, risk management, recall information etc. in a cooperative effort by 11 States	Initially funded by USDA-CSREES	http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/agcomm/magazine/spring03/clean.htm
<i>The UVM Apple Program</i>	University of Vermont Extension	April 2000	Voluntary Implementation No Audit Available on Website	USDA	http://orchard.uvm.edu/uvmapple/foodsafety/index.html
<i>Food Safety in Vegetable Production</i>	University of California, Davis Cooperative Extension	Feb. 2002	Voluntary Implementation	UC Davis	http://vric.ucdavis.edu/selectnewtopic.foodsafety.htm

<i>(Several Documents)</i>			No Audit Available on Website		
<i>Good Management Practices for Safe Production of Fresh Market Apples and Apple Cider</i>	Penn State: College of Agricultural Sciences	July 2001	Voluntary Implementation No Audit Available on Website	Penn State	http://foodsafety.cas.psu.edu/mush/Apples.htm

Industry Associations/Board Initiatives

Programs/Guidelines	Developed/Administered By	Start Date	Current Status	Funded By	Reference
<i>Quality Assurance Program</i>	California Strawberry Commission	1996	California Growers, shippers and processors voluntarily implement program	California Strawberry Commission	http://www.calstrawberry.com/industry/QAandFS.asp
<i>Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Check List</i>	International Sprout Growers Association (ISGA)	-	Voluntary Implementation. No Audit. Available on website	IFPA	http://www.isga-sprouts.org/haccp.htm

Industry Company Initiatives

Programs/Guidelines	Developed/Administered By	Start Date	Current Status	Funded By	Reference
<i>Good Agricultural Practices in the Field</i>	Dole Fresh Vegetables Inc.	-	Dole's growers only supply them and are required to follow guidelines. Monitored in the field. Facilities are ISO 9000, 14000 and AIB certified http://aibinternational.com/	Dole Fresh Vegetables Inc.	http://www.dole.com/CompanyInfo/Company_Index.jsp

Individual Company Initiatives

Programs/Guidelines	Developed/Administered By	Start Date	Current Status	Funded By	Reference
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<i>ProSafe Certified program</i>	Davis Fresh Technologies (Based in the USA)	-	Three Step Process. Auditors offer certification Internationally. No microbiological testing. ProSafe Certified Logo	Individual Group Requesting Services	http://www.davisfreshtech.com/prosafe/index.html
<i>Food Safety Management and HACCP Programs</i>	Scientific Certification Systems	-	Bilingual Staff Develops and Implements Food Safety Programs Internationally. Third Party Audits. HACCP-based Certification	Individual Group Requesting Services	http://www.scs1.com/
<i>Food Safety Services</i>	Primuslabs.com* * Subway contracted Primus Labs, as the third party auditor of all their suppliers of lettuce, tomatoes and green peppers in North America. Subway mandated that all suppliers be in compliance by Feb. 2001 http://www.primuslabs.com/ap/fc_022001.html * Safeway, Albertson's and Publix Supermarkets Inc. have also requested third party audits of produce suppliers through Primus Labs http://www.primuslabs.com/pb/index.html	-	Teach, evaluate and verify. Affiliated Auditors (i.e. AAC Consulting http://www.aacgroup.com) and Primus Auditors Worldwide offer certification through manual development, residue testing, microbiological testing and documentation. Primuslab.com logo	Individual Group Requesting Services	http://www.primuslabs.com/index.html
<i>Good Agricultural Practices (GAPS)</i>	AAC Consulting Group, www.aacgroup.com	-	Provide third party auditing services (Primuslabs Affiliated), Food Safety and HACCP services.No logo used	-	www.aacgroup.com

Retailer Initiatives					
Programs/Guidelines	Developed/Administered By	Start Date	Current Status	Funded By	Reference
<i>H-E-B Fresh Produce Code of Best Practices</i>	H-E-B	1999	Audits conducted by H-E-B Quality Assurance Partners. Approval is by facility and/or process not by suppliers (not on the farm). Microbiological Testing of Water	H-E-B	H-E-B Fresh Produce Code of Practice. 2000.

			Mandatory		
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Table 3: The On-Farm Food Safety Programs or Guidelines Worldwide

Initiatives					
Program/Guidelines	Developed/Administered By	Start Date	Current Status	Funded By	Reference
<i>Freshcare - The On-Farm Food Safety Program</i>	Freshcare Ltd	July 2000	Compliance with Code of Practice for Certification. Third party audited. Use of Freshcare Logo.	Individual Requesting Services	http://www.freshcare.com.au
<i>Code of Practice For Food Safety in the Fresh Produce Supply Chain in Ireland</i>	Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)	Sept. 2001	Voluntary Implementation. No Audit	FSAI	Code of Practice For Food Safety in the Fresh Produce Supply Chain in Ireland. 2001. Food Safety Authority of Ireland
<i>Fresh Safe Food: Food Safety Guidelines for the Australian Fresh-Cut Produce Industry</i>	Cooperative Research Centre for International Food Manufacture & Packaging Science (CRS for IFMPS) and The Fresh-Cut Industry	Dec. 1998	National Food Safety Guidelines. Training for Industry. Fresh Safe Food™ Certification Logo	-	
<i>Guidelines for On-Farm Food Safety for Fresh Produce</i>	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia (AFFA) Working Group on Safety and Quality Systems Equivalence	-	Voluntary Implementation. No Audit. Available on Website.	AFFA	http://www.affa.gov.au/content/publications.cfm?Category=Food
<i>Hygiene Code for Fruit and Vegetable Growers</i>	Netherlands, Product Board for Horticulture	-	Voluntary Implementation. No Audit.	-	-
<i>EUREPGAP Fruits and Vegetables</i>	Euro-Retailer Produce Working Group (EUREP)	Oct. 1997	Use guidelines to certify International Certification Bodies (i.e. Primuslabs).	Individual Requesting Services	http://www.eurep.org/fruit/index_html

			Use of EurepGap Logo. Growers contact certification body.		
<i>Assured Produce Scheme (APS).</i>	Checkmate International plc (CMi)	June 1997	Certification of individuals Internationally	Individual Requesting Services	http://www.cmi-plc.com/
<i>AIB Consolidated Standards for Fresh Produce and Fruit Packinghouses</i>	AIB International (AIBI)	-	Certification by AIB auditors. AIBI Gold Standard Logo	Individual Requesting Services	http://www.aibinternational.com/consolidatedstandards/Packinghouses/
<i>Global Food Safety Initiative Guidance Document</i>	CIES – The Food Business Forum	May 2000	Certification – CIES Logo not on product, only on business communications System not ready until Spring 2002	Individual Requesting Services	http://www.ciesnet.com/
<i>SQF Program*</i> <i>*Société Générale de Surveillance S.A. (SGS) http://www.sgs.com/activities/certification.htm and as previously mentioned the GFTC, are examples of groups qualified to use the SQF program and logo</i>	WA Department of Agriculture and SQF Institute (Based In Lausanne, Switzerland)	1995 (SQF2000) 1999 (SQF1000)	Accredited companies can certify individuals. Both programs use logos	Individual Requesting Services	