



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Canadian Food Inspection Agency



Our vision:

To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

Our mission:

Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

Collaborative Food Safety Forum

November 16, 2011

Canada

Objective

To discuss the role of foreign governments with respect to:

- certification and
- accreditation

Context:

- Certification

- Procedure to provide assurance that food or food control systems conform to requirements.

- Accreditation

- Procedure to formally recognise the competency of an organisation providing a particular service.

Certification

- Fundamentally, certification depends on the existence of an effective food safety system
 - Legislative authority
 - Personnel and resources (e.g., Lab services, inspectors)
 - Oversight and verification (e.g., inspection programs, audits)
- Governments with effective food safety systems can provide assurance that their systems, and products thereof, meet requirements.
 - Providing food safety for consumers domestically and internationally

Certification

- Government to Government
- Recognition of the food safety controls that exist in an exporting country
 - Bilateral arrangements such as equivalence, or recognition of all or part of a system.
 - Through lot by lot certification, or lists of recognised establishments.
 - Enhances efficiency of targeting controls of imported food
 - Can be permanent – or temporary where a critical situation exists.

Accreditation

Accreditation

- Accreditation is the recognition of organisations and agencies based on a set and predictable standard.
- A strong standardization program can complement, or be incorporated in a regulatory program.
 - In Canada, the Standards Council of Canada accredits and recognizes the competence and reliability of laboratory organizations' facilities
 - Accreditation of food laboratories is managed in partnership with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Accreditation

- Allows Industry and government to assess and recognise laboratory testing
 - Use of consistent methodology,
 - Use of results for regulatory decision making
- Applies with in Canada
 - Based on scope of legislative authorities
 - Partnership with regulatory organisation.



Certification and accreditation

- Are tools that can be used by governments in managing food safety systems
 - Can be used in domestic and export oversight
 - Can be used to recognise foreign food safety systems and to provide efficiencies in the imported food products oversight.



Questions ????

