

## **Importers and the Foreign Supplier Verification Rule:**

Importers are now required by law to perform certain risk-based activities to verify that food imported into the United States has been produced in a manner that meets applicable U.S. safety standards. The Foreign Supplier Verification Program Requires that importers perform certain risk-based activities to verify that food imported into the United States has been produced in a manner that meets applicable U.S. safety standards

### **Foreign Supplier Verification Programs (FSVP) for Importers of Food for Humans and Animals**

Importers must have a program in place to verify that their foreign suppliers are producing avocados in a manner that provides the same level of public health protection found in the United States under the preventive controls and produce safety regulations.

Importers are responsible for actions that include:

- Determining known or reasonably foreseeable hazards
- Evaluating the risk posed by the avocados, based on the hazard analysis, and the foreign supplier's performance
- Using that evaluation of the risk and the supplier's performance to approve suppliers and determine appropriate supplier verification activities
- Conducting supplier verification activities
- Conducting corrective actions including a recall plan (recalls are no longer voluntary – the FSMA now provides the FDA with mandatory recall authority)



For more information on Foreign Supplier Verification Programs see below:

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm361902.htm>

FSVP Training Opportunities:

<http://www.unitedfresh.org/fsvp-training/>

<https://www.ifsh.iit.edu/fspca/courses/foreign-supplier-verification-program-fsvp>