

Growers and the Produce Safety Rule

The Produce Safety rule establishes, for the first time, mandatory, science-based, minimum standards for the safe growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of fruits and vegetables grown for human consumption.

Produce (even avocados) are vulnerable to contamination with microorganisms of public health significance such as bacteria and viruses that can cause disease, as well as physical and chemical contaminants.

Contamination of produce can occur on-farm during growing (either in an open environment or in a fully- or partially-enclosed building), harvesting, packing, and holding; or elsewhere along the farm-to-table continuum.

Produce Safety Rule

Avocado growers must establish science-based minimum standards for the safe production and harvesting of fresh avocados based on a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) which is at least equal to or exceeding the provisions of the Produce Safety final rule and corresponding Food Safety Modernization Act.

All personnel that handle or supervise the handling of avocados in the grove must have training that includes:

At Least seven hours of dedicated instruction that can be delivered in one day that includes:

- Introduction to Produce Safety
- Worker Health, Hygiene and Training
- Soil Amendments
- Wildlife, Domesticated Animals and Land Use
- Agricultural Water: Production Water
- Agricultural Water: Postharvest Water – Postharvest Handling and Sanitation
- How to Develop a Farm Food Safety Plan



This includes "at least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by FDA."

View Key Provisions of the Produce Safety Rule below:

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm334114.htm>

Produce Safety Alliance:

The Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) is collaboration between Cornell University, FDA, and USDA to prepare fresh produce growers to meet the regulatory requirements included in the United States Food and Drug Administration's Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule.

For more information on the produce safety alliance grower training courses recognized as adequate by FDA and other resources, please visit their website below.

<https://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/>