

FSMA Technical Assistance Network

At-a-Glance

The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Technical Assistance Network (TAN) is now operational and providing technical assistance to industry, regulators, academia, consumers and others regarding FSMA implementation. The TAN will address questions related to the FSMA rules, FSMA programs, and implementation strategies after the rules are final. We encourage stakeholders to first visit FDA's FSMA webpage at www.fda.gov/fsma, which contains detailed information on all aspects of FSMA, including implementation. The webpage includes Frequently Asked Questions about FSMA by topic area. FDA is implementing the TAN in two phases:

- Phase 1 addresses inquiries related to the publication of FSMA rules and is operational.
- Phase 2 will provide technical assistance to FDA and State staff performing inspections and supporting compliance activities; it will be implemented by 2017 when preventive controls inspections are targeted to begin.

Below are the key features of the TAN:

- Inquiries may be submitted through a web form. The web form can be accessed at www.fda.gov/fsma. Go to **Contact Us** and then **How to Contact FDA on FSMA**.
- Inquiries may also be submitted by mail if the Internet is not available at the following address:

Food and Drug Administration
5100 Paint Branch Pkwy
Wiley Building, HFS-009
Attn: FSMA Outreach
College Park, MD 20740

Note: the FSMA related mailboxes (e.g. FSMA@fda.hhs.gov and FSMAfags@fda.hhs.gov) are no longer active.

- Inquiries are answered by FDA Information Specialists or Subject Matter Experts, based on the complexity of the question. Complicated questions may require more time for a response. FDA will respond to inquiries received as soon as possible. However, response times may vary, due to complexity of question and the volume of inquiries we receive.
- Once a question is submitted, the inquirer will receive notification of receipt and a case number to be referenced in future correspondence.
- Questions will be tracked and trended using a Knowledge Management System (KMS) to assist FDA in prioritizing, in part, FSMA policy, guidance, and training. Additionally, repeat questions will be addressed in Frequently Asked Question or guidance documents posted on FDA's website.
- Routine communication and data-sharing protocols with external TANs, e.g. Alliances (such as the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance), are vital for coordination and success.