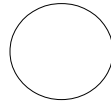


Trans-Pacific Partnership **ENSURING SAFETY FOR FOOD IMPORTS**

The United States has the strongest laws and regulations and the highest food safety standards of any country that is party to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). The TPP ensures full authority for the United States to continue the application of these and new food safety laws to ensure food safety and to protect human and animal health. In fact, the TPP will help the United States improve the food safety systems in other TPP countries which export food to the United States.



Keeping America's Food Safe

As the level of food imports into the United States has increased dramatically over the past decade, there has been increasing scrutiny of U.S. rules which monitor and ensure food safety. In 2011, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) was enacted to update U.S. food safety laws and to provide the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with enhanced powers to ensure that foods imported into the United States meet the same safety standards applied to foods that are domestically produced. FSMA requires that both domestic producers and importers of foreign food products use comprehensive preventive controls in all food facilities and comprehensive produce safety rules in the production and harvesting of fruits and vegetables. The TPP ensures that the United States will continue to be able to regulate the safety of both domestic and imported food, including through the new and stronger food safety mandate under the FSMA.

Going Beyond Existing World Trade Standards

While the TPP does not change any U.S. food safety laws, it will be an important tool to improve the food safety systems in the other TPP countries beyond the rules already found in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures. The TPP will also promote less arbitrary, stronger and more predictable standards to prevent unfair foreign government barriers which U.S. food exports may face.

To accomplish these goals, the TPP SPS chapter includes several substantive improvements to the WTO agreement, including:

- Further defining the “based on science” requirements of the WTO SPS agreement, ensuring that all SPS measures either conform to relevant international standards or are based on documented, objective, scientific evidence;
- Requiring that each risk assessment conducted is appropriate to the circumstances of the risk at issue and is not more trade restrictive than necessary; and

- Increasing regulatory cooperation and harmonization to assist TPP countries in improving their overall levels of food safety.

The TPP also impacts food safety regulations through provisions on transparency, rules of origin and trade facilitation. These provisions improve the process by which regulations are developed and by which food products are actually imported. More transparent procedures support reform and modernization efforts for food safety regimes in TPP countries. The TPP encourages objective and predictable food safety regimes that do not unfairly discriminate against U.S. food products. As other TPP countries improve their food safety regulations, there will be additional safeguards beyond the existing strong U.S. rules to further ensure the safety of food which the U.S. imports.