

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Globalization of the Food Supply – Time for a Change in Approach

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Outline

- Challenges for safeguarding foods
 - Imports
 - Domestic
- Recent examples
- A new approach

Changes and Challenges

Imported foods

- Consumer demand for items 24/7, year round
- Increasing global food supply
 - Approximately 15% of food is now imported
 - Imported from over 150 countries
 - Import through over 300 ports
 - Over 200,000 foreign firms registered with FDA for imports
 - Steady increase over the last 10 years



Changes and Challenges

Domestic foods

- Just in time concept
- National distribution systems
 - Outbreaks in multiple states from a single source
- Wide variation in practices
- Lack of clear preventive controls
- Lack of enforcement
- Greater recognition of outbreaks
- Erosion of the public health infrastructure to investigate outbreaks



Real World Challenges

■ Non deliberate contamination

- Hepatitis A in green onions.
- Salmonella Saintpaul in hot peppers
- E. coli in spinach
- Salmonella in peanut butter

■ Deliberate contamination

- Melamine in wheat gluten
- Melamine in dairy products
- Heparin



Salmonella Saintpaul – 2008

- 1450 + cases
- Initial epidemiology indicated tomatoes
- Focus switched to hot peppers
- Product tracing to MX
- Issues:
 - Lack of preventive controls
 - Slow product tracing



Salmonella Typhimurium 2008/9

- Outbreak started in Sept 2008
- Product identified in Jan 2009
- Small producer with wide distribution
- Protracted and extensive recalls
- Issues:
 - Slow identification of food vehicle
 - Lack of preventive controls
 - Inability of FDA to review records
 - Inefficient product tracing



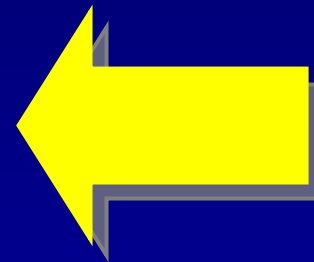
Goal for Imports

- Shift away from port of entry “snap-shot” to total production cycle

Now

Future

- Grower
- Manufacture
- Shipper
- Importer



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- Distributor
 - Retailer

New Approach

■ Globalization of FDA

- Greater foreign presence
 - China
 - Central America
 - India
 - Europe
- Increased number of inspections
- Use third party data



Domestic Food Safety

- Need for better integration of regulators
 - Federal
 - State and Local
- 50 State meeting in August 2008
 - Sharing data – IT interconnectivity
 - Training
 - Risk based approaches
 - Response



States and Locals

- Important role for inspections and laboratory testing
 - Set standards
 - Training
 - Certification and accreditation
 - Develop metrics to ensure adequate performance



New Approaches

- Better prevention
- Verification of preventive controls
- More inspections
- Faster response
- Better recovery



The Future

■ New Legislation ?

- Requirement for preventative controls
- Product tracing
- Records access
- Mandatory recall

■ More inspections

- Smarter inspections eg environmental samples
- Faster detection tools
- Greater enforcement

■ Enhanced partnerships

- States and locals
- Foreign governments
- Consumers
- Industry



QUESTIONS?

