



July 27, 2016

Dear U.S. Pet Food Maker:

Are you ready for [Food Safety Modernization Act \(FSMA\)](#) enforcement and compliance?

FSMA is the most comprehensive change to U.S. food safety regulation, including animal feed and pet food, in more than 70 years. The law's implementing regulations contain new requirements impacting virtually all U.S. pet food makers, with enforcement and compliance activities beginning this September.

As the national trade association for the U.S. pet food industry, the Pet Food Institute (PFI) has been working to ensure that our members and pet food makers across the industry understand and can meet their obligations under FSMA. While PFI members account for 98 percent of all U.S.-made dog and cat food products, it's imperative that *all* U.S. pet food makers recognize what is required of them. **We encourage you to review the information below and take the necessary steps to ensure your facility is prepared.**

The FSMA law and its implementing regulations focus on foodborne illness prevention instead of reactionary recalls by establishing mandatory product safety standards. The animal food rule and other FSMA rules impact pet food makers. **With very few exceptions, all pet food makers must meet the following FSMA requirements in the next 1-3 years, depending on company size:**

- **Pet food makers must implement Current Good Manufacturing Practices that include requirements for employees, facility design, equipment upkeep and maintenance;**
- **Pet food makers must identify and evaluate hazards associated with the foods they make and implement preventive controls that address those hazards;**
- **Pet food makers must develop and implement a food safety plan detailing the steps they are taking to ensure product safety, from sourcing ingredients to carrying out a product recall; and**
- **Pet food makers must also comply with FSMA requirements regarding foreign suppliers and sanitary transportation for both finished pet food/treats and ingredients.**

PFI is committed to helping dogs and cats live long and healthy lives and that means promoting the highest standards of product safety and quality among all pet food makers. **We urge you to know your rights and obligations under FSMA, and to identify and address any regulatory gaps or deficiencies.**

One way to do this is to contact the [Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance \(FSPCA\)](#), which has a FDA-recognized curriculum designed to help small pet food makers understand and meet their FSMA obligations.



PFI played an integral role in the development of the FSPCA curriculum, which is designed to ensure all pet food makers, regardless of size, understand and meet their FSMA requirements. Links to information on FSMA and the FSPCA are provided here and in the additional attached document.

As PFI's President and CEO, my goal with this letter is to raise your awareness about FSMA. If you have any questions about FSMA, or are interested in learning more about PFI, I invite you to visit our website at www.petfoodinstitute.org or contact me at 202-791-9440.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathleen Enright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathleen Enright, PhD
President and CEO