Our vision:
To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

Our mission:
Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada’s people, environment and economy.

Collaborative Food Safety Forum
November 16, 2011
Objective

To discuss the role of foreign governments with respect to:

- certification and
- accreditation
Context:

• **Certification**
  • Procedure to provide assurance that food or food control systems conform to requirements.

• **Accreditation**
  • Procedure to formally recognise the competency of an organisation providing a particular service.
Certification

• Fundamentally, certification depends on the existence of an effective food safety system
  • Legislative authority
  • Personnel and resources (e.g., Lab services, inspectors)
  • Oversight and verification (e.g., inspection programs, audits)

• Governments with effective food safety systems can provide assurance that their systems, and products thereof, meet requirements.
  • Providing food safety for consumers domestically and internationally
Certification

• Government to Government
• Recognition of the food safety controls that exist in an exporting country
  • Bilateral arrangements such as equivalence, or recognition of all or part of a system.
  • Through lot by lot certification, or lists of recognised establishments.
  • Enhances efficiency of targeting controls of imported food
  • Can be permanent – or temporary where a critical situation exists.
Accreditation

Accreditation

• Accreditation is the recognition of organisations and agencies based on a set and predictable standard.

• A strong standardization program can complement, or be incorporated in a regulatory program.
  • In Canada, the Standards Council of Canada accredits and recognizes the competence and reliability of laboratory organizations’ facilities
  • Accreditation of food laboratories is managed in partnership with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.
Accreditation

- Allows Industry and government to assess and recognise laboratory testing
  - Use of consistent methodology,
  - Use of results for regulatory decision making
- Applies with in Canada
  - Based on scope of legislative authorities
  - Partnership with regulatory organisation.
Certification and accreditation

- Are tools that can be used by governments in managing food safety systems
  - Can be used in domestic and export oversight
  - Can be used to recognise foreign food safety systems and to provide efficiencies in the imported food products oversight.
Questions ????