

THE
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FDA Facility Registration Now Open

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After a short delay, **FDA** has now opened the re-registration process for use by food facilities. **DO NOT LET THESE DEADLINES PASS.** The [Food Safety Modernization Act \("FSMA"\)](#) requires all food facilities (those that manufacture, process, pack or hold food for consumption in the U.S.) to re-register with the FDA between now and December 31, 2012.

Prior to FSMA, food facilities were required to register with the FDA only once; this registration requirement was viewed as a step by the FDA to protect the public from a threatened or actual terrorist attack on the U.S. food supply and other food-related public health emergencies. Once registered, there was no obligation to renew that registration. That has now changed under FSMA, which specifically requires that all food facilities – domestic and foreign – re-register with the FDA between now and December 31, 2012, and to renew that registration every two years going-forward.

Failure to register with the FDA will have an immediate impact - selling food in the U.S. marketplace without a valid FDA registration number is prohibited, subjecting the violator to potential fines and penalties. Attempting to import food into the U.S. without a valid FDA registration number will result in that food being denied entry. So, timely re-registering is critical to operations for food facilities. If you have questions or concerns about the registration process, including whether it's applicable to you, don't hesitate to contact us.

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