2.2.b: Increase percentage of high-risk food processing facilities successfully completing risk-based inspections from 92% to 95% by 2016

Reported: February 16, 2016

**Background:** Why is food safety important?

- Based on national figures, one in six Washingtonians will have a foodborne illness this year
  - Infants, the elderly, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems are at greatest risk
  - Estimated annual cost of foodborne illnesses in Washington is estimated to be as much as $1.6 billion

- WSDA’s role is to license food processors – currently 2,060 licensed food processors
  - 856 produce ‘high-risk’ foods (inspected annually)
  - 537 produce ‘medium-risk’ foods (inspected every two years)
  - 667 produce ‘low-risk’ foods (inspected every three years)
**Background:** What is a high-risk food?

Can you identify which food(s) are high risk?

- a) Popsicles
- b) Sliced tomatoes
- c) Bottled water
- d) Honey
- e) Carbonated soft drinks

**Background:** Examples of high-risk foods

- Ready-to-eat (RTE) foods – cheeses, pre-made sandwiches, deli salads, fresh pre-cut fruit cups
- Low acid canned foods (LACF) – canned beans, canned corn
- Acidified foods – chutneys, pickles, pickled beans

*In simple terms this means foods that do not require any further cooking before it is consumed and can become harmful if not stored or handled correctly*
**Current State:**  Where we are today

**Problem / Opportunities:**
- What has caused the decline in passing firms?
- Risk levels are correctly assigned (more HR firms)
- Better data available from new database (FRED)
- Inspectors are better trained (Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards (MFRPS))

**Next Steps:**
- Educate / training of food processing facilities to prepare for Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)  *Educate before you regulate*
- Educate Food Safety Program staff to be compliance with the Manufactured Foods Regulatory Program Standards (MFRPS)
- Learn from outbreaks / investigations (ice cream maker – 2014/2015 resulted in the biggest recall in FDA Seattle District’s history)

*FDA: Food and Drug Administration*
## Detailed Action Plan:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Task Lead</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Expected Outcome</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Safety Regional Managers &amp; field staff establish correct risk</td>
<td>Food Safety Regional Managers (RM)</td>
<td>Food Safety inspectors</td>
<td>Firms are assigned the correct risk category depending on the foods they produce and receive inspections at proper frequencies</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>5/30/2015</td>
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<td>level for food processing firms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Safety Program inspectors receive and document their training</td>
<td>Food Safety Training Coordinator</td>
<td>FDA; Food Safety inspectors and RMs</td>
<td>All staff are appropriately trained to conduct inspections of food processing facilities</td>
<td>Partially Complete</td>
<td>12/31/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work with WSDA software developer to automate the license renewal</td>
<td>Food Safety Program Manager</td>
<td>FRED Project Manager; FRED Workgroup</td>
<td>Automated license renewal and compliance follow-up for those licensees not renewing their license and still conducting business</td>
<td>Partially Complete</td>
<td>9/30/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>process</td>
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<td>Work with contractor to develop and deploy training sessions on</td>
<td>Policy &amp; External Affairs Advisor</td>
<td>Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance</td>
<td>Food processing facilities in Washington will become knowledgeable about Hazard Analysis and Preventative Controls for Human Food</td>
<td>Partially Complete</td>
<td>7/31/2016</td>
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<td>Hazard Analysis and Preventative Controls for Human Food</td>
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## Stakeholder/Partner:

**David McGiverin**  
**Brian Campbell**  
**NW Food Processors Association**