



FDA Food Supplier Verification Program

The Food Safety Modernization Act includes provisions for a program to verify the safety of imported food. The Food Supplier Verification Program (FSVP) requires importers of food for human or animal consumption to perform risk-based activities to verify their suppliers produce the food products in a manner that meets applicable U.S. safety standards. Information regarding the FSVP is available on [FDA's website](#). There are a few exemptions, but generally importers are responsible for actions that include:

- Determining known or reasonably foreseeable hazards with each food
- Evaluating the risk posed by a food, based on the hazard analysis, and the foreign supplier's performance
- Using that evaluation to approve suppliers and determine appropriate supplier verification activities
- Conducting supplier verification activities, i.e. on-site auditing, sampling and testing, and review of the supplier's relevant food safety records
- Conducting corrective actions
- Establishing and following written procedures to ensure they import foods only from approved suppliers

Effective May 30, 2017, all entries for food products must identify the FSVP importer, which is the U.S. owner or consignee who, at the time of entry, owns the food, has purchased the food, or has agreed in writing to purchase the food. If there is no U.S. owner or consignee at the time of entry, the foreign owner must appoint a U.S. agent who will be responsible for ensuring that supplier verification activities are conducted for each food product imported. The FSVP agent should not be confused with the agent for food facility registration.

Importers should provide to their customs brokers written directions that are specific to each food product. These directions should include:

- Name and address of the FSVP importer
- Contact name, phone number, and email address
- DUNS number
- If the importer of record is not a U.S. entity, the written agreement by the FSVP agent should be provided to demonstrate the named party has agreed to be the U.S. agent. This is important so an incorrect party is not identified in the import entry.
- Specify the applicable exemption for food products if not subject to the requirement. This is important for validation of the exemption.

The FDA has partnered with Dun & Bradstreet and provided a website to look up DUNS information. Information about this feature is located at this [FDA site](#).

If you import shipments subject to the FSVP requirement, please contact your Schenker brokerage office to provide the requisite information so it can be reported in accordance with the FDA requirements.