

BACKGROUND

Developing an Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS) Regulatory Training Strategic Plan

Integrated Food Safety System

An **Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS)** provides the vision, guiding principles, and key components of a coordinated approach to food safety. An IFSS describes the continual improvements and collaborative activities of food safety that will be addressed through the implementation of a collection of [initiatives, programs, and projects](#).

An IFSS includes the implementation of seamless partnerships and operations among federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal (SLTT) agencies as well as academic, foreign, industry, and consumer stakeholders (“*strategic partners*”) to achieve the public health mission of a safer human and animal food (HAF) supply. The IFSS encourages interactions and collaborations with strategic partners, as their input and the lessons learned are critical to the advancement of this mission.

IFSS Regulatory Training Strategic Plan

Why is regulatory training an important element of an IFSS, and what is FDA’s role in supporting training?

An IFSS requires a well-trained, integrated workforce that conducts comparable work at all levels. The IFSS’s integrated workforce consists of federal and SLTT personnel involved in all aspects of food safety including inspection, compliance, laboratory analysis, epidemiological investigation, emergency response, as well as leaders and managers.

To support this objective, FDA’s Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA), [Office of Training, Education, and Development \(OTED\)](#) designs, develops, and delivers free training to FDA, other federal, and SLTT HAF regulatory partners (including laboratories) (“*HAF regulatory partners*”).

What is the IFSS Regulatory Training Strategic Plan, and why is it important?

OTED is collaborating with HAF regulatory partners to develop a 5-year (October 2023 through September 2028) IFSS Regulatory Training Strategic Plan (“*Strategic Plan*”). The Strategic Plan will outline the high-level outcomes, goals, and objectives to help FDA and its partners design and implement an *optimal, sustainable, integrated national regulatory training system* that advances [domestic mutual reliance](#), supports the [goals of an IFSS](#), and includes the following characteristics (“*strategy principles/vision*”):

- Is built with full collaboration and support of the HAF regulatory partners within the IFSS.
- Includes flexible and adaptable learning tools that incorporate advancements in instructional design, adult learning theories, and technology to ensure effective learning and knowledge transfer.
- Ensures course content is kept current and addresses emerging training needs.
- Standardizes [job-specific competencies](#) to ensure the consistency of training HAF regulatory partners.

- Maximizes training capacity and access to meet the current and forecasted needs of HAF regulatory partners within the IFSS.
- Leverages opportunities for HAF regulatory partners to share in the responsibility of providing training.
- Ensures long-term sustainment of proficiency and knowledge to ensure effective and consistent application of competencies across HAF regulatory partners.

The Strategic Plan will ensure the IFSS regulatory training system is optimized to meet the needs of HAF regulatory partners by ensuring they have the competencies and skills needed to perform their jobs effectively and efficiently.

A 2-year implementation plan will be developed to accompany the Strategic Plan. Updated annually, the implementation plan will outline the specific activities, tactics, and projects that the IFSS regulatory partners will implement to achieve the objectives in the Strategic Plan. The completion of activities in the implementation plan will be monitored and tracked using a shared IT platform.

What HAF commodities will be included in the Strategic Plan?

The Strategic Plan will apply to training supporting all HAF regulatory partners in the IFSS (e.g., FDA, other federal and SLTT regulatory partners, laboratories, and associations) and will include the following commodity areas: manufactured food, produce, eggs, animal food, and state cooperative programs - retail, Grade “A” milk, and shellfish.

Who is involved in the development of the Strategic Plan?

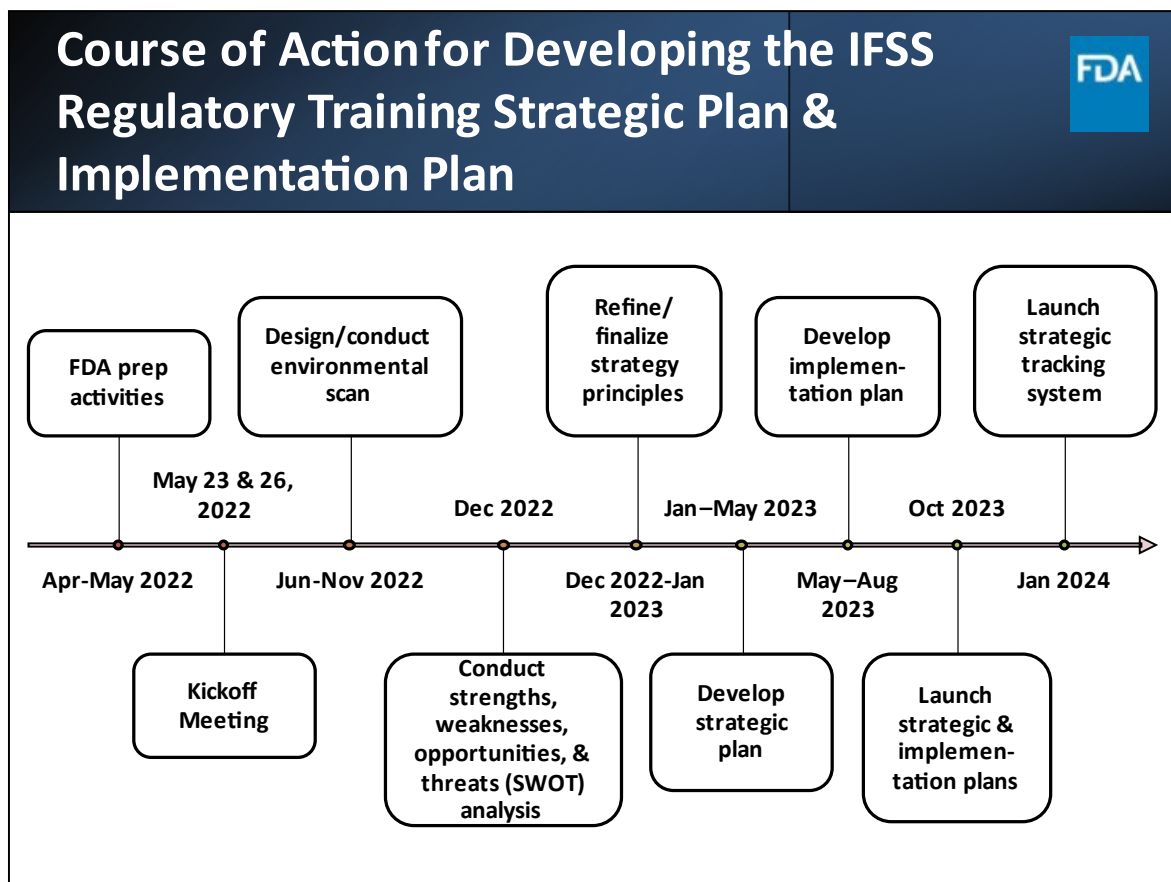
The following FDA offices and association partners will collaborate on executing the throughout all phases of the strategic planning and implementation effort (see “Course of Action” in Figure 1):

- FDA/ORO/Office of Education, Training, and Development (OTED)
- FDA/ORO/Office of Partnerships (OP)
- FDA/ORO/Office of Strategic Planning and Operational Policy (OSPOP)
- FDA/ORO/Office of Human and Animal Food Operations-East (OHAFO-E)
- FDA/ORO/Office of Human and Animal Food Operations-West (OHAFO-W)
- FDA/ORO/Office of Human and Animal Food Operations/Audit Staff
- ORO/OHAFO/Office of State Cooperative Programs (OSCP)
- FDA/ORO/Office of Communications and Project Management (OCPM)
- FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN)
 - CFSAN Staff College
 - CFSAN Office of Compliance
 - CFSAN Office of Food Safety
- FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM)/Office of Surveillance and Compliance (OSC)
- FDA Office of Food Policy and Response (OFPR)
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)
- Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO)
- Association of Animal Feed Control Officials (AAFCO)
- National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
- National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
- Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC)

- Conference for Food Protection (CFP)
- National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS)
- Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)

What is the course of action for developing and implementing the Strategic Plan and companion implementation plan?

Figure 1: Course of Action for Developing and Implementing the Strategic Plan and Implementation Plan.



Where can find out more information on the IFSS training strategic planning effort?

For more information, please contact the IFSS Regulatory Training Strategic Plan Project Team at ORAISSRegulatoryTrainingStrategicPlan@fda.hhs.gov.