



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Business Enablement at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency



Canada 

Purpose

To introduce you to the new Business Enablement and Service Improvement (BESI) Directorate within the CFIA and its supports for food businesses.

- What is Business Enablement?
- How is the CFIA approaching internal trade?
- Who is the Business Enablement team and what do we do?
- What services do we provide? How we can help.
- What opportunities and challenges do you see?

Business Enablement and Service Improvement Directorate

Support business activity in Canada by delivering tailored guidance and service improvements that build on our science-based regulations.



BE Division Strategy

- An overarching strategy for achieving CFIA BE goals and measuring success.
- Connecting BE and internal trade strategies and relationships (industry, Provinces and Territories, other government departments).
- Making sure feedback informs regulatory/red tape reduction work



BE Division Services

- Provides direct, one-on-one support to new CFIA businesses to facilitate internal trade
- Develops new tools and products to improve business understanding of CFIA rules and processes (e.g. addressing myths/misconceptions)



Business Service Improvement Division

- Pursues improvements to digital tools and services with the goal of increasing efficiency for CFIA and business users.
- Manages the CFIA's single window for imports for food, plant health and animal health.

Internal Trade is a CFIA Priority

- There is focused effort by Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments to increase internal trade by leveraging the federal food regulatory system.
- This will preserve food safety, protect export market access and market diversification work, and allow Canada to keep out low-quality and low-cost imports that would undercut Canadian businesses.
- This approach was reflected in the *Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act*, which was passed in 2025.
- This reflects that fact that most food sold in Canada is already produced and traded under federal oversight. However, we recognize there is more work to do.
- The CFIA has developed a new method and new approach to get businesses trading more food between provinces.

Business Enablement Services Model

- A CFIA-Ontario pilot project ('Ready to Grow') examined ways to help provincially-licensed businesses access interprovincial markets. What did we identify?
 - There can be misconceptions about what federal licensing requires
 - CFIA has a lot of guidance, but it can be difficult to know where to start
 - Businesses may not be aware of the flexibility in the federal food rules
- We developed a client-centred guidance model to clarify CFIA's processes and help improve licence application quality in order to make licensing more efficient for both businesses and the CFIA.
- Collectively, this supports interprovincial trade, while maintaining regulatory and inspection integrity.

Business Enablement Service Model

- Since early 2025, the CFIA has worked with more than 100 companies, and we are seeing initial success. We have:
 - Helped a small livestock producer find a federally-licensed abattoir that will enable him to sell his products in multiple provinces.
 - Worked with a manufactured food producer to refine their food safety plans and navigate the CFIA's licensing process. This business obtained a licence and can now sell products nationwide.
 - Worked with a soybean processor to obtain a licence to move into value-added products for sale within Canada and for export.
- We are ready to scale up our work, and the CFIA is actively working with provincial and territorial governments as well as industry associations to identify additional businesses that may benefit from this assistance.

What the Business Enablement Service Model Does and Does Not Do

- ✓ Explains processes, requirements, and expectations
- ✓ Helps identify the right licensing pathway
- ✓ Refers clients to appropriate resources
- ✗ Will not make regulatory decisions or provide exemptions
- ✗ Will not complete, submit, approve or deny applications

Access CFIA Business Enablement Support

If you are interested in trading food in Canada, the CFIA business enablement team can:

1. Walk you through the CFIA's Safe Food for Canadians licence application process and the process for setup of CFIA accounts (MyCFIA, accounts payable, etc.)
2. Work directly with you as you complete your preventive control plan.
3. Be your point of contact for any questions related to federal licensing and interprovincial trade.

If you have questions about our services or for more information:

CFIA.internaltrade-commerceinterieur.ACIA@inspection.gc.ca

**Business
Enablement
Intake Portal**



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