

Regulator Commitments



Jurisdictional regulators commit to:

1. Ensuring regulatory activity is proportionate to risk and minimises unnecessary burden by:

- applying regulatory obligations, compliance and enforcement actions based on evidence
- only imposing burden and costs on industry and consumers necessary for effective food safety compliance and enforcement
- applying regulatory requirements consistently and fairly
- gathering intelligence to be informed and data-driven in assessing risks to public health and safety
- adapting to safe innovation, disruption and changing industry practices.

2. Engaging meaningfully with stakeholders and other regulators by:

- allowing for appropriate stakeholder input into policy and decision making
- developing a genuine understanding of the operating environment of regulated entities
- communicating food safety risks, uncertainties, and responses in an accessible and accountable way
- collaborating with regulators across Australia and New Zealand to promote trust and improve efficiency and effectiveness
- coordinating with other food regulators national and jurisdictional responses to food safety incidents and emerging threats to public health.

3. Providing appropriate information and support to assist compliance that:

- is clear, timely, accessible to stakeholders and tailored to meet audience needs
- includes consistent and transparent advice and communicates decisions by clearly articulating what is required to achieve compliance
- does not disproportionately burden stakeholders, such as small business, or require specialist advice to understand compliance requirements.

4. Continuous improvement by:

- regularly reviewing activities, effectiveness of compliance and enforcement actions, and collaboration to ensure regulation is risk based, leverages technological innovation and remains the best approach
- prioritising, where possible, reform of regulatory activities based on the system vision/mission
- supporting regulators on the ground to achieve system outcomes and providing the necessary authority and flexibility
- providing staff with the necessary training and support to perform their duties effectively, efficiently and consistently.

5. Being transparent and accountable in actions by:

- publishing, where appropriate, regulatory frameworks and timeframes for making regulatory decisions
- clearly articulating expectations and underlying reasons for decisions
- committing to publish information relating to regulator performance against regulatory priorities consistent with food regulatory system missions and outcomes.