



Newly Released: Human and Animal Food Testing Laboratories Best Practices Manual

The Laboratory Science Workgroup is a Partnership for Food Protection (PFP) initiative that contributes to the development of an Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS) by supporting the sharing of laboratory results between strategic partners to help align decision making, recommending processes to leverage laboratory resources, and promoting the use of national laboratory best practices.

The [Partnership for Food Protection](#) (PFP) Laboratory Science Workgroup has recently released their consensus document of best practices for human and animal food laboratories. Laboratories can use the [Human and Animal Food Testing Laboratories Best Practices Manual](#) to build confidence among stakeholders in the integrity and scientific validity of laboratory analytical data and to facilitate the acceptance of laboratory analytical data by regulatory agencies.

This manual is a set of

- Tools
- Definitions and
- References

That laboratories can use to improve internal & external operations, expeditiously utilizing laboratory data to **identify, prevent and remove unsafe food products** from the marketplace.

Laboratories can use this manual to **build confidence** among stakeholders in the **integrity & scientific validity** of analytical data & acceptance of lab results by various regulatory agencies.

Documenting the quality of both sampling and analysis is essential to ensure the defensibility of laboratory generated data. To facilitate data acceptance, the PFP Laboratory Science Workgroup identified essential elements critical to the quality of regulatory data. The *Human and Animal Food Testing Laboratories Best Practices Manual* provides a set of tools, definitions, and references that laboratories can use to improve their operations. The workgroup strongly recommends that laboratories wishing to exchange data with regulatory partners adopt these best practices.

As governmental regulatory partners increasingly embrace prevention-based approaches to food safety, including widespread surveillance efforts, the demand for laboratories that meet recognized best practices of analytical competency will rise dramatically. [FDA Office of Regulatory Affairs \(ORA\)](#) has adopted the earlier revision of this document (2013) as a crucial operational

resource. The manual's degree of acceptance and integration in ORA laboratory work supports its intended purpose to promote data sharing among federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal human and animal food regulatory agencies.

These best practices enable regulatory agencies to more expeditiously utilize laboratory data to identify, prevent, and remove unsafe food products from the marketplace. Considering the rapid globalization of the U.S. food market, and the growing pressure to ensure that imported food is safe for consumption, it has never been more important for these agencies to leverage the resources of the nation's food laboratories and join forces to take a prevention-based approach to food safety.

The Partnership for Food Protection (PFP) is a multi-agency organization dedicated to establishing a strong and effective integrated food safety system in the United States. PFP's work is allocated across several workgroups, comprised of strategic partners in federal, state, and local government charged with advancing the PFP's mission in a coordinated and efficient manner.