

## Retail food establishments (RFEs) and restaurants:

### What you need to know about establishing and maintaining a traceability plan for the Food Traceability Rule

In addition to any required key data elements, RFEs and restaurants covered by the rule must establish and maintain a **traceability plan** containing the following information:

- Description of the procedures you use to maintain the required records
- Description of the procedures you use to identify foods on the Food Traceability List that you manufacture, process, pack, or hold
- A point of contact for questions regarding your traceability plan and record

The traceability plan is intended to help FDA more quickly review and understand the information you provide during an investigation into a foodborne illness outbreak involving a food on the Food Traceability List. Your traceability plan must be updated as needed to reflect your current practices and ensure compliance with the final rule. Your previous traceability plan must be maintained for 2 years after you update the plan.

#### **When do I need to comply with the Food Traceability Rule?**

The compliance date for all covered entities is January 20, 2026.

You can find additional resources at our Food Traceability Final Rule page at [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov).

#### **For additional questions:**

The Technical Assistance Network (TAN) is a central source of information for questions related to the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) rules, programs, and implementation strategies.

#### **Submit Your Question Electronically:**

Please [submit your question](#) to TAN for assistance.

#### **Mail Your Question**

If you prefer to mail in your question, please send it to the address below:

Food and Drug Administration  
5001 Campus Drive  
Wiley Building, HFS-009  
Attn: FSMA Outreach  
College Park, MD 20740

#### **How TAN Works**

Inquiries are answered by FDA Information Specialists or Subject Matter Experts, based on the complexity of the question. FDA will respond to inquiries received as soon as possible. However, response times may vary, due to complexity of question and the volume of inquiries we receive.

Once a question is submitted, the inquirer will receive notification of receipt and a case number to be referenced in future correspondence.