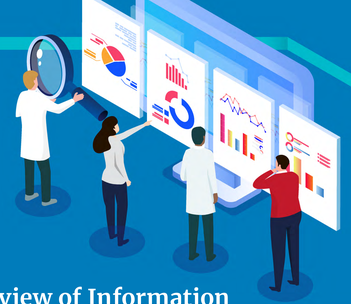
Steps in Our Risk Reviews of Chemicals in the Food Supply

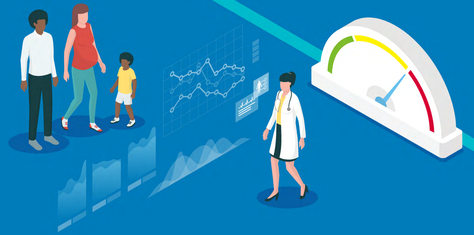


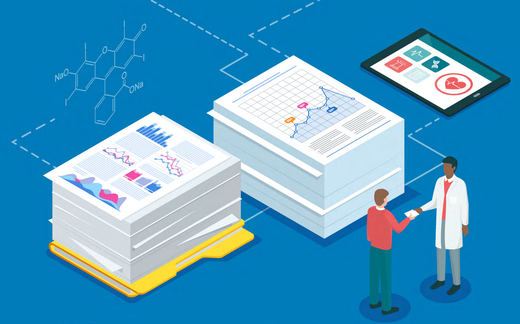
Review of Information

The FDA reviews information about a food ingredient, food contact substance or contaminant to determine if we need to move into Risk and Safety Assessment. We may obtain this information by participating in international scientific and standard-setting activities, attending scientific conferences, and other means of engaging with public health and research stakeholders. We also review peer reviewed scientific literature and information released by other agencies.

Risk and Safety Assessment

The FDA assesses whether available information about a chemical suggests a possible safety concern. We assess the possible health effects on consumers, including vulnerable populations like children, by understanding the risk, the level (or amount) of the chemical that would produce the risk, and compare it to the level of the chemical in food. To do this, we use tools and data in toxicology, exposure assessment and mathematical modeling, prioritization, and assessment, some of which the FDA has developed. Once completed, the agency moves into Risk Management Review.





Risk Management Review

The FDA moves from assessment to determining whether action is necessary to protect public health. The FDA may request new data from industry or other stakeholders, collect new analytical or exposure information or conduct exposure or safety studies. Results from these data and studies help determine whether the agency takes a Risk Management Action.

Risk Management Action

Actions the FDA takes to protect public health may include revoking authorizations or approvals for certain uses, working with industry on voluntary market phase-out agreements and recalls, developing action levels for contaminants, issuing alerts, and informing consumers and industry. The FDA continues monitoring new information for possible safety issues and takes additional actions if warranted, including Review of Information, Risk and Safety Assessment or Risk Management Review.