

GAPS Certification/FSMA Produce Safety Rule Comparison

	Good Agricultural Practices (GAPS) certification	Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety rule
Year started?	1998	2015
Required by?	Some buyers	Federal governmental regulations
What does it cover?	Basic on-farm produce safety: water, soil amendments, animals, personnel, equipment, worker training, record keeping; expected to eventually be revised for consistency with FSMA requirements.	Same foundational principles and content areas as GAPS, though specifics differ. In particular, at time of publication, the approach to water quality differed substantially and some requirements related to manure application were deferred to a future date.
Administered by?	USDA or third party	FDA; will likely work with state departments of ag and/or health
Can I get an exemption?	Only required if your buyer requires it.	There are some exemptions, which can be revoked if linked to foodborne disease outbreak.
Training requirements?	Not required, but may be helpful.	If covered, need to attend standardized FSMA Produce Safety Rule training.
Documented on-farm food safety plan required?	Yes.	No, though components of a food safety plan would aid meeting some requirements.
Audit/inspection frequency?	Audited every year that you are certified.	Farm may be inspected by governmental regulator; frequency currently unknown.
What happens if you fail audit/inspection?	You can make corrections and get audited again.	Unknown at this time.

References/resources available:

- KSU/MU Extension Produce Safety website: www.ksre.k-state.edu/foodsafety/produce/index.html (includes a fact sheet with key points on FSMA for produce growers)
- Kansas State University Extension Food Safety materials: www.ksre.k-state.edu/foodsafety/
- University of Missouri Extension Food Safety: <http://missourifamilies.org/foodsafety/newsletters/>
- FDA'S FSMA Website: www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/FSMA/default.htm
- Cornell Produce Safety Alliance: <http://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/>

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