



PRODUCE SAFETY RULE

A Quick Reference Source

The Produce Safety Rule (PSR) is a major component of the Food Safety Modernization Act. It sets science-based standards for the safe growing, harvesting, packaging, and maintaining of fruits and vegetables. This rule regulates fresh produce that is grown domestically or internationally and imported into the United States and its territories. The PSR has an ultimate goal of protecting public health, and does so by providing basic food safety oversight to prevent foodborne illness. In general, the requirements of the PSR apply when three conditions are present: covered produce; covered farms; and covered activities.

The PSR has six key requirements:

- 1) Agricultural Water
- 2) Biological Soil Amendments
- 3) Sprouts
- 4) Domesticated and Wild Animals
- 5) Worker Training, Health and Hygiene
- 6) Equipment, Tools and Buildings

It applies to farms with more than \$25,000 in average annual produce sales during the previous three years (adjusted for inflation). However, some produce is not

covered, making some farms eligible for exemption.

Under the PSR, “produce” generally means any fresh fruit or vegetable, including: mushrooms; sprouts; rhubarb; tree nuts and herbs.

When talking about produce, we are referring to the *harvestable* or *harvested* part of the crop, which may include parts that are inedible.

For example, with tree nuts, the entire unit (nut or kernel, hull, and shell) would be the harvestable or harvested part.

The term **Covered Produce** is produce that falls within the conditions of the PSR and is a raw agricultural commodity (RAC) that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has determined is usually eaten raw. (e.g., almonds; apples; apricots; artichokes (globe-type); Asian pears; avocados; bananas; blackberries; blueberries, etc.)

For more information, please contact Dr. Elizabeth B. Myles, Associate Director, Mississippi Small Farm and Agribusiness Center, at 601-877-3947 or emyles@alcorn.edu. You may also contact Dr. Harry Smith, State Program Leader for Agriculture, Alcorn State University Extension Program, at 601-877- 2311 or hsmith@alcorn.edu.

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