



‘Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009’ may have significant impact on food and beverage manufacturers.

The primary purpose of the proposed act is to improve food safety in the global market. This act, introduced by the Obama administration, is designed to tighten food safety standards and empower regulatory officials that enforce the standards.

The Food Safety Enhancement Act was just recently passed in the House of Representatives, and is expected to pass in the Senate. The act includes a plan for establishing a command system to ensure rapid response to outbreaks of food-borne illnesses. It also calls for the development of industry guidelines to help the government track contaminated products. The intent of the tighter system is to *prevent* food-borne illnesses.

All food and beverage manufacturers will be required to comply, regardless of revenue or number of employees.

“This act could have a significant impact on ProcessPro clients and all FDA food and beverage regulated manufacturers,” says Shanon Odegaard, Quality Systems Manager for ProcessPro. “If they don’t already have plans in place, they will soon be required to: (1) conduct a hazard analysis; (2) implement preventive controls; and (3) implement a food safety plan.”

Designed specifically for highly-regulated food and beverage manufacturers, ProcessPro® ERP software has features that help clients successfully navigate an audit with tools for:

- **Bioterrorism Legislation Compliance**
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Under the Food Safety Enhancement Act food manufacturers will face very stiff penalties as compared to the “Bioterrorism Act of 2001”. The new act creates severe criminal and civil penalties, including prison terms of up to 10 years and/or fines of up to \$100,000 for each violation. Owners and workers alike will be held accountable. If a company fails an audit, it may be liable for the costs of any subsequent audit thereafter. If the manufacturer cannot produce a lot recall report within a 24-hour period, the FDA will now have the authority to recall the products, and any other products that are manufactured in the same facility.

“If a food facility doesn’t have an automated recall system in place, they could find themselves in a situation where they are spending months trying to gather data for the FDA,” says ProcessPro Regional Sales Manager, Cheryl Irons. She states that she has seen this before during the peanut recall, but at that time the penalties were not as stiff.

“Sadly, with laws like this in place, a manufacturing facility that cannot produce the required information for a recall may now be out of business,” Irons adds.

It is critical that food manufacturers move away from notebook and pencil tracking to automated cradle-to-grave traceability that will protect food consumers and the manufacturers.

For more information about the Food Safety Enhancement Act, visit: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:HR02749:@@D&summ2=m&>.

For more information about ProcessPro and the manufacturers who use ProcessPro® ERP software, or to schedule a free, no-obligation demonstration, call 1-800-457-3548 or visit www.ProcessProERP.com

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