

## Health Canada

Theme	Recommendation	Status	Grade
Policy	<p>11. Health Canada should complete the revision of its 2004 <i>Listeria</i> Policy, by no later than March 2010, and ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the Policy outlines clearly and concisely the expected results for all identified food products where <i>Listeria</i> is a potential threat to human health, consistent with international standards;</li> <li>b. risk categories of ready-to-eat product are retained, although they should be more clearly defined;</li> <li>c. post-processing measures that control <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> are considered when determining product risk categories; and,</li> <li>d. it focuses only on the safety of foods (i.e. should be a food safety standard) and not on providing risk management direction to the food industry or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.</li> </ul>		
Responsiveness	<p>12. Health Canada should review its approval processes and fast track, where appropriate, new food additives and technologies that have the potential to contribute to food safety giving particular attention to those that have been scientifically validated in other jurisdictions (provinces or countries).</p>		
	<p>25. The authority of the federal Minister of Health to protect the health of all Canadians under section 30.1 of the Food and Drugs Act, and subsections 4(1) and (2) of the Department of Health Act should be used in a national foodborne emergency, whenever warranted.</p>		
	<p>29. Health Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Public Health Agency of Canada should review, update and publish the criteria for proceeding with a food recall to ensure that the weight of evidence takes into account epidemiological information, including suspected illnesses and deaths, geographic distribution, and food sample test results whether packages are opened or unopened.</p>		

Consumer awareness	42. To protect vulnerable populations, including the immunocompromised, older people and pregnant women, Health Canada should promote consumer education into the risks associated with Listeria. This could include targeted measures, such as precautionary labelling. This should be accomplished in collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada and in conjunction with provincial and territorial health partners.		
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