



Global food safety

THE RAPID GLOBALIZATION of food production and trade has increased the likelihood of international incidents involving contaminated food.

Food safety can not only be managed at the national level, but also requires closer linkages among food safety authorities internationally. This is important for exchanging routine information on food safety issues and ensuring rapid access to information in case of food safety emergencies.



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INFOSAN

Connecting Food Safety
Authorities to Reduce
Foodborne Risks



What is INFOSAN?

The International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) is a global network of national food safety authorities, managed jointly by FAO and WHO with the secretariat in WHO.

What is the purpose of INFOSAN?

INFOSAN AIMS TO:

- Promote the rapid exchange of information during food safety related events
- Share information on important food safety related issues of global interest
- Promote partnerships and collaboration between countries, and between networks
- Help countries strengthen their capacity to manage food safety emergencies

INFOSAN activities

EMERGENCY RELATED ACTIVITIES:

- Monitor a variety of information sources to detect food safety events
- Assess and verify events in collaboration with network members
- Facilitate information gathering and dissemination for food safety events
- Share alerts on urgent issues
- In collaboration with FAO and WHO emergency operation teams, provide technical assistance upon request to respond to food safety emergencies

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- Disseminate pertinent information through INFOSAN Information Notes¹
- Develop guidance and training tools related to food safety emergency management and international reporting
- Link INFOSAN outputs and recommendations with long-term capacity building activities conducted by FAO and WHO
- INFOSAN is a key element of FAO's Emergency Prevention Programme on Food Safety (EMPRES Food Safety) to exchange information pertaining to food safety with member states

Who are INFOSAN Members?

EACH COUNTRY DESIGNATES one INFOSAN Emergency Contact Point and one or more INFOSAN Focal Point(s). Membership is restricted to government authorities responsible for national food safety.

INFOSAN Emergency Contact Points

- Coordinate activities with other relevant national agencies involved with food safety incidents and emergency response.

- Inform INFOSAN secretariat about food safety related incidents and emergencies of international significance.
- Request international assistance through INFOSAN secretariat to respond to a food safety incident or emergency.
- Respond to urgent questions from INFOSAN secretariat about international food safety related incidents and emergencies.
- Take action on alerts disseminated through INFOSAN.

INFOSAN Focal Points

- Receive INFOSAN Information Notes and messages.
- Disseminate INFOSAN Information Notes to all interested parties.
- Provide comments to the INFOSAN secretariat on topics of interest.
- Communicate with other members of the network.



¹ INFOSAN publishes INFOSAN Information Notes, in the six official WHO languages, to provide its members with summaries on relevant food safety issues.