

FOOD SAFETY

The U.S. apple industry is committed to producing a safe, nutritious, and delicious product through every step of the supply chain from the orchard to the packing house and processor.

Last July, the House passed H.R. 2749, the Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009. The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee followed in October with passage of the S. 510, the “FDA Food Safety Modernization Act.” The full Senate has yet to vote on the legislation but is expected to this year.

Both bills would significantly expand FDA authority for food safety, including updated Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), mandatory recall authority, and mandatory food safety standards for the safe growing, harvesting and packaging of “high-risk” fruits and vegetables. The U.S. apple industry worked with other agriculture and produce organizations to weigh in with key congressional offices and committee staff regarding the potential impact of the proposed legislation on our industry. The industry is concerned that new regulations not impose additional registration fees, paperwork and other burdens. The U.S. apple industry believes that any new regulations should apply equally to small and large producers, organic and conventional and domestic and imported apples and apple products.

Position: *USApple believes food safety practices should be risk-based, commodity-specific and reflect sound science to help ensure consumers are provided healthy and nutritious apples and other produce items.*