

LLOYDMINSTER FOOD TRADE PILOT



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

GENERAL

What is the purpose of the pilot?

- To immediately begin to alleviate the challenges faced by food businesses in Saskatchewan and Alberta that prepare food for trade into and within Lloydminster.
- To facilitate the movement of safe food into and within Lloydminster as if the city was wholly located in one province, similar to any other Canadian city located in just one province.
- To collect information to further inform a regulatory change in the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations*.

What are the benefits of joining the pilot?

- Ease of food movement across the border within Lloydminster.
- Expanded markets within Lloydminster.
- Increased access to local food within Lloydminster.

When does the pilot start and what is the duration of the pilot?

- The pilot is set to launch **January 19, 2023**. The pilot will run for a two-year period or until changes are made to the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations*.

What is the geographical scope of the pilot?

Pilot participants may trade into all of Lloydminster, including the part that is not in their own province. Pilot participants may not prepare food for export or interprovincial trade outside the city of Lloydminster.

Why can't we trade across provincial boundaries now when provincial food is safe to eat?

- The movement of food across a provincial border is permitted when food businesses comply with federal requirements and hold a federal licence. Interprovincial trade of foods in Canada is a federal responsibility, while trade and commerce of food produced within a province is primarily a provincial responsibility.
- The federal requirements are based on international standards. They provide a consistent approach to food safety oversight across Canada that gives confidence to consumers and our international trading partners, and enables our producers to access domestic and foreign markets.
- All food sold in Canada, regardless of where it is traded, must comply with the *Food and Drugs Act* and regulations (FDA/R), and the corresponding parts of the *Safe Food for Canadians Act* and its regulations (SFCA/R). These regulatory requirements set the legislative foundation for safe food in Canada, that is not misrepresented, and is consistent in labelling. It treats imported and domestic foods on an equal footing, and it establishes export requirements for food safety and fair trade practices.
- Provinces and Territories, under their constitutional responsibilities for local commerce, may have different inspection requirements for foods sold within their jurisdiction.
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's [licensing interactive tool](#) and the guidance document [Food business activities that require a licence under the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations](#) can help food businesses determine if they would typically require a federal Safe Food for Canadians licence.

Which food businesses are eligible to participate in the pilot?

Alberta:

- Food facilities under Alberta jurisdiction must be permitted by Alberta Health Services.
- Slaughter and/or processed meat facilities in Alberta that produce products for trade into Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, that meet the regulatory requirements for legal sale in Alberta.

Saskatchewan:

- Food facilities under Saskatchewan jurisdiction must be licensed by Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) or defined as a food facility in *The Food Safety Regulations*.
- Slaughter and/or processed meat facilities in Saskatchewan that produce products for trade into Lloydminster, Alberta, that meet the regulatory requirements for legal sale in Saskatchewan.

Alberta and Saskatchewan:

- Food businesses in Alberta and Saskatchewan that conduct activities on fresh fruits or vegetables (for example, minimal processing, grading, and packaging/labelling) can participate in the pilot even when a provincial licence or permit is not required.

Which food businesses are not eligible to participate in the pilot?

Alberta:

- Food businesses that are not licensed or permitted under their provincial health or agriculture authority.
- Food businesses not routinely inspected or subject to routine inspection (e.g. low-risk home-prepared food operators).
- Alberta on farm slaughter operations and uninspected meat processed at any meat facility.

Saskatchewan:

- Home-based food processors per *The Food Safety Regulations*.
- Businesses with probationary Saskatchewan Health Authority issued Public Eating Establishment or Slaughter plant licences.

Please note: Food businesses that hold a valid *Safe Food for Canadians* licence are not impacted by the pilot.

What does routinely inspected facility mean?

- Routinely inspected facility means your operation is inspected by your respective provincial authority on a regular, risk-based frequency determined by the responsible authority.

Are there any rules specific to the trade of meat?

- To be included in the pilot, meat must come from a routinely inspected facility and must also meet the requirements to be legally sold in the province in which it was produced.
- Any meat product produced with no regulatory oversight, is not eligible for participation under the pilot. See the list of eligible participants to determine if your meat facility is eligible.

Can home-based food processors participate in the pilot?

- Home-based food processors are not included because they do not have the permit, licence or public health oversight required to participate in the pilot.

How do I apply for the pilot?

- Fill out an application form on the Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce website (lloydminsterchamber.com)
- Provide the following documents for registration:

ALBERTA PARTICIPANTS (excluding Lloydminster)

- A copy of their current food handling permit issued by Alberta Health Services or a copy of their current license issued by Agriculture and Irrigation.

SASKATCHEWAN PARTICIPANTS (including Lloydminster)

- A copy of their current food facility licence issued by the Saskatchewan Health Authority; or
- A copy of their current Domestic Meat Inspection license issued by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture; or
- A copy of their most recent Public Health Inspection report dated within the past 24 months. (PHI Inspection Report must have no critical infractions, and less than 3 non-critical)

What are the pilot requirements?

- **Pilot participants must:**

- Comply with:
 - The requirements of their provincial regulations.
 - The *Food and Drugs Act* and its regulations (FDA/R) as it applies to food.
 - The requirements of the *Safe Food for Canadians Act* and its regulations (SFCA/R) that apply to all foods sold in Canada; for example, traceability and labelling requirements.
- Keep documentation for two years that allows for tracing products received and sold – one step forward and one step back.
 - **Note** that [retailers](#) only need to trace one step back, not forward to consumers.
- Complete pilot surveys and all other pilot requirements.
- Not trade food beyond Lloydminster into other provinces or for international trade.

What if I choose not to participate in the pilot; can I still prepare food for trade into the part of Lloydminster that is not my own province?

- If you choose not to participate in the pilot you cannot prepare food for trade into the part of Lloydminster that is not your own province unless you have a Safe Food for Canadians licence.

Can food businesses be removed from the pilot?

- Yes. Any of the following situations would result in a participant being removed from the pilot:
 - Failure to comply with the pilot's [eligibility](#) criteria.
 - Violating the conditions of the pilot: Food must not be traded beyond Lloydminster city limits into the neighbouring province. For example, a pilot participant from Saskatchewan, can prepare food for trade into Lloydminster, Alberta; however, food cannot be traded beyond the Lloydminster municipal border into other parts of Alberta.
- If a company cannot consistently produce safe food.
 - If the risk level increases to become a food safety or misrepresentation risk, enforcement action would be taken by the appropriate jurisdictional authority.
- Failure to comply with traceability requirements.
- Refusal to participate in surveys or withholding information relevant to progress of the pilot.

Who will be able to access/view the information I provide?

- Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce is collecting, maintaining, and storing participant information on behalf of all the partners. Information will be shared with the respective jurisdictions to administer, manage, and assess the pilot, as needed.
- Partners in the pilot include Saskatchewan Health Authority and Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Alberta Ministry of Health, Alberta Health Services, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce.
- Aggregate information (i.e., not identifiable to an individual operation), information may be shared with other federal, provincial or territorial partners, the city of Lloydminster, other industry partners or the public.

How do I get more information?

- For more information, see lloydminsterchamber.com/lloydminster-food-trade-pilot/ or contact charlene@lloydminsterchamber.com.
- Information sessions will be offered. Please see business.lloydminsterchamber.com/events/details/lloydminster-safe-food-pilot-project-information-session-3802?calendarMonth=2023-01-01 for details.