



Fact Sheet

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Division of Food, Drug, and Radiation Safety

Center for Environmental Health

Program Mission:

The mission of the Division of Food, Drug, and Radiation Safety is to protect and improve the health of all California residents by assuring the safety and effectiveness of foods, drugs, medical devices, and radiation through investigation, inspection, and control of the sources of these products.

Program Descriptions:

1. **Food and Drug Branch (FDB):** FDB protects and improves the health of all California residents by assuring foods, drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, and certain other consumer products are safe and are not adulterated, misbranded, nor falsely advertised, and that drugs and medical devices are safe and effective for their intended use. FDB conducts general inspections of the state's food, drug, and medical device processors and works closely with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on public health issues concerning foods, drugs and medical devices in interstate commerce and has authority to embargo adulterated and/or misbranded foods, drugs, and medical devices and seek condemnation of these products. FDB administers the Youth Tobacco Enforcement program. FDB includes the following programs:

Food Safety Section: This section licenses approximately 5,475 food processors, 150 canneries, 225 bottled water manufacturers, 9,100 water vending machines, 1,200 retail water treatment facilities, 60 private water source operators, 160 water haulers, 1,500 organic processed food handlers, 140 cold storage facilities, and 275 shellfish handlers. The Emergency Response Unit (ERU) protects the public from intentional and unintentional contamination of foods, conducts complex and extensive investigations in response to outbreaks of food-borne illness in the state, and develops best practices guidelines designed to reduce the risk of future outbreaks.

Drug and Consumer Product Safety Section: Licenses are processed for approximately 449 drug manufacturers. The program is responsible for the investigation and control of unsafe drugs and responds to emergency situations where these products are at risk of contamination.

Medical Device Safety and Youth Tobacco Enforcement Section: The Section licenses approximately 1,200 medical device manufacturers and 1,800 home medical device retailers and is responsible for the investigation and control of unsafe medical devices. The Section additionally administers the Stop Tobacco Access to Kids Enforcement (STAKE) Program, which regulates the sale of tobacco products to children under the age of 18 by tobacco retailers.

Financial Operations and Program Support Section: This section provides administrative support for the various licensing programs and processes applications and documents for licensure and/or certification.

2. **Food and Drug Laboratory Branch (FDLB):** FDLB provides the necessary chemical and microbiological analytical support to screen for, identify, and quantify chemical and microbiological contaminants to ensure the safety and integrity of the food and drug supply in California. FDLB participates in several federal food safety programs including PulseNet and Cooperative Agreement programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and FDA. FDLB provides regulatory services for substances-of-abuse laboratories. FDLB includes the following programs:

Microbiology Section: The Microbiology Section provides laboratory support to FDB to conduct its inspections, food-borne disease outbreak investigations, trace-back investigations, recall investigations, and to take necessary regulatory actions.

Chemistry Section: The Chemistry Section detects levels of a wide variety of toxins and contaminants in food and drug samples and consumer products.

Forensic Alcohol Program (FAP): Ensures the competence of forensic alcohol laboratories, the qualifications of the employees of those laboratories, and the accuracy of breath alcohol testing procedures used by law enforcement.

Methadone Laboratory Program (MLP): The program ensures the competence of laboratories that provide drugs-of-abuse testing for California's narcotic treatment programs.

3. **Radiologic Health Branch (RHB):** Enforces laws and regulations designed to protect the public, radiation workers, and the environment. This includes licensing of radioactive materials, certification of medical and industrial X-ray and radioactive material users, inspection of facilities using radiation, investigation of radiation incidents, and surveillance of radioactive contamination in the environment. RHB also registers more than 74,500 X-ray machines in California that are used for medical, veterinary, dental, and industrial purposes.

Radioactive Materials Licensing and Inspection Program: The Radioactive Materials (RAM) Licensing and Inspection Program provides accountability and control for the use of radioactive material used in California and licenses approximately 1,850 users of radioactive materials.

Radiation Machine Registration, Professional Certification and Inspection Program:

- Registers approximately 85,000 radiation tubes used in approximately 32,000 facilities statewide that include uses in mammography, oncology, dental, and fluoroscopy radiation machines; computed tomography scanners.
- Certifies approximately 78,000 physicians, technologists, and technicians (medical professionals) in possession of 118,000 individual certificates or permits who operate radiation machines and 87 radiation technology schools with more than 1,000 affiliated clinical sites that provide instruction and training to individuals seeking to become a medical professional qualified to operate radiation machines.

Emergency Preparedness and Response: Maintains an emergency response capability with staff and equipment to respond to any radiological/nuclear emergency in California.

- The activities support the California Preventative Radiological/Nuclear Detection (PRND) initiative. PRND seeks to establish a statewide architecture to prevent the use of any radiological materials as a terrorist weapon within California through monitoring, detection, and intervention.