



FSMA Final Rule on Pre-harvest Ag Water: Corrective and Mitigation Measures

In May 2024, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [published a final rule on certain pre-harvest agricultural water](#), revising requirements for covered produce, other than sprouts, in the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR).

If an agricultural water source is deemed not safe or is not of adequate sanitary quality for intended use, growers must implement the following measures.

- **Corrective Measures:**

- Farms applying corrective measures can:
 - Re-inspect the agricultural water system, identify conditions that may introduce hazards, make necessary changes, and determine if those changes were effective.
 - Treat the water in accordance with the rule.

- **Mitigation measures:**

- Farms applying mitigation measures can:
 - Make necessary changes, such as repairs.
 - Increase the time interval between the last direct water application and harvest (with scientific justification).
 - Increase the time interval between harvest and end of storage and/or conduct other activities during or after harvest (with scientific justification).
 - Change the water application method.
 - Treat the water.
 - Take alternative measures.

- **Reassessment:**

- Farms must conduct an assessment at least **once annually**, and **whenever a significant change occurs**.
- Examples of significant changes:
 - Change from groundwater to surface water.
 - Changes in water use practices.
 - Growing a different type of covered produce.



- Some environmental conditions (e.g. unexpected flooding that may introduce hazards to a water source).
 - Reassessment must evaluate factors and conditions affected by the change.
- **Exemptions:**
 - An exemption may apply if a farm can demonstrate that its water:
 - Meets certain requirements for harvest/post-harvest water, including the microbial criterion, prohibition on the use of untreated surface water, and relevant testing requirements;
 - Meets certain requirements for water from a public water system or supply (including that farm has results or certificate of compliance that requirements are met); or
 - Is treated in accordance with the rule.
 - It must be reasonably likely that the quality of water will not change prior to use of the water (e.g., due to the manner in which the water is held, stored, or conveyed)

For additional resources, visit the [FDA FSMA website](#).

- [Ag Water Assessment fact sheet](#)
- [Corrective and Mitigation Measures for Pre-harvest Ag Water for Non-Sprout Covered Produce fact sheet](#)