ASTA Guidance Document

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2011 ASTA Regulatory/Legislative Workshop

ASTA Guidance Document

- April workshop attended by 25%+ member companies
- Workshop feedback developed into two-pronged strategy
  - ASTA outreach
  - Member outreach

Member Outreach

- One up – One down
- One down
  - Suppliers
    - Implement best practices
- One up
  - Customers
    - Educate about spices/best practices
    - Set expectations for all suppliers

ASTA Outreach

- Grocery Manufacturers Association Microbiological Committee
- European Spice Association
- Canadian Spice Association
- National Seasoning Manufacturers Assoc.
- International Association for Food Protection
- Rhode Island Food Safety Task Force

Guidance Document Stats

- 300+ downloads
  - One third members – two-thirds non-members
- 75 food manufacturers/retailers
- Health departments/universities
- 38 countries

Guidance Document

- Eight months from idea to publication
- Wide spread and ongoing distribution
- Will we make a difference?

FDA Learnings

- Spice farms can be very small (<1 acre); "lots may contain products from tens of thousands of farms

- Drying out of doors is common; storage can be for years

- *Salmonella* can survive in the low moisture environment of spices

- Wide diversity of *Salmonella* serotypes are found in spices

FDA Learnings

- High *Salmonella* and filth violation rates for spices sampled at U.S. import

- Contaminated spice has been found at spice processing, food manufacturing and retail settings

- Application of current control and prevention strategies is insufficient to prevent consumer exposure to and illness from contaminated spices

Risk Profile

- "Nearing" completion
- Peer review
- Revisions
- FDA approval and clearance
- Release for public comment

Risk Profile

- Will be used as new approach to assist in regulatory decisions

"application of current control and prevention strategies is insufficient to prevent consumer exposure to and illness from contaminated spices."

Guidance Document

Where do we go from here?