

ASSURING SAFETY OF IMPORTED FOODS

Public and Private Roles in a Risk-Based System

February 1-2, 2010 | RFF Conference Center, 1616 P St NW, Washington, DC

Breakout Questions

Day 1 – 3:30 – 4:30 PM

1. What is “risk-based import safety?” How should we define it, and what are its key principles?
2. What information is necessary to ascertain, evaluate, or categorize risk? For example, information that:
 - Relates to different “levels” – country level, firm level, product/food type, specifics of the value chain, shipment level
 - Relates to different types of risk factors – physical, behavioral
 - Is used by different parties – public sector, private sector, consumers

Day 2 – 12:15 – 1:30 PM

1. What steps are necessary to ensure that private food safety schemes such as third-party certification are legitimate, accurate, and meaningful?
2. Under what conditions should private schemes be considered by the government to expedite ease of entry?
3. What information – specific to imports – collected by actors in the food safety system should be shared with more frequency with other parties. For example:
 - Federal government >> private sector
 - Private sector >> government
 - Federal government >> state government
 - Federal government >> consumers
 - Private sector >> consumers