

Poster Abstracts

Risk Analysis

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IDENTIFICATION OF RISK FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS' RISK ASSESSMENT MODELS

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Abstract Content: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is developing a model that aims to assess the risks associated with food processing establishments. Prior to the model development, key risk factors need to be identified. The objective of this study was to identify and select critical food safety-related risk factors for the CFIA model. An initial literature review along with advice from an expert panel was used to identify numerous risk factors. The expertise of 75 Canadian food safety experts was then elicited to assess the relative importance of these risk factors. This was carried out using a questionnaire containing 155 risk factors, which the experts were asked to rank on a scale from 1 to 10 for importance and significance. The objective was to retain the most significant risk factors in the final model. Only one risk factor received a median score of 10, while 43 received a median score of 9, and 75 received a median score of 8, which supported the relevance of the approach taken. Variability in risk factor scoring was moderate, as generally the median interquartile range did not exceed a score of 2. The respondent profile did not have a strong influence on the attributed scores. Although few important risk factors were found as very important, experts were not able to fully discriminate risk factors based only on their impact on food safety. Therefore, there is a need for a further process to identify a limited number of risk factors to be considered for inclusion in the CFIA food establishments' risk assessment model.

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