## *Food Safety Risk Assessment in the E.U. versus U.S.*

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ABSTRACT

In matters of food safety, legislation and risk assessment in the U.S. and European Union (E.U.) have to comply with the rules set forth in the World Trade Organization (WTO)-Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement. In the E.U., food safety is increasingly regulated as compared with U.S. However, recently changes are taking place within the FDA, USDA and EPA. In the EU, the food safety "integrated approach" started with Regulation 178/2002, fixing the food safety principles and establishing an independent body for risk assessment, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Since 2002, the E.U. has decided to compartmentalize the process of risk analysis for food safety into two steps: the first, the scientific assessment (risk assessment), and the second, risk management. Risk communication of the risk assessment and risk management can be done separately. Risk assessment is carried out by EFSA and risk management by the European Legislative bodies. Since 2003, EFSA has provided scientific advice on food safety, including such issues as having a direct or indirect impact on the safety of food and feed supply chains (e.g., animal health and welfare, plant health, and nutrition) to the European Commission, member states and the European Parliament. Ten scientific EFSA panels provide advice on risk factors related to different areas of the food chain: Nutrition, Biological Hazards, Food Additives (two panels), Feed Additives, Contaminants, Pesticides, Genetically Modified Organisms, Animal Health and Welfare, and Plant Health. Since 2002, through different legislative tools (regulations, directives, or decisions), the E.U. has been developing the procedures for the evaluation of risks in different areas of the food chain.