

Food & beverage compliance checklist

For facilities supplying the U.S. market. Check applicability before filing. Includes a practical 2026 renewal worksheet.

1. Confirm whether the facility must register [3]

Facilities that manufacture, process, pack or hold food for human or animal consumption in the U.S. generally must register unless exempt. Check the activity of each actual site, not just the exporter or brand.

Examples of exemptions include farms, restaurants, retail food establishments, nonprofit food establishments, fishing vessels that do not process food beyond specified activities, and facilities regulated exclusively throughout the entire facility by USDA. Private residences are not facilities. Definitions and limits matter: a farm mixed-type facility may need registration for non-farm activities. [2,3]

An upstream foreign facility may be exempt when another foreign facility further manufactures/processes its food before U.S. entry. Mere labeling or similar de minimis activity is not enough. Document the basis under 21 CFR 1.226 rather than assuming every exporter must register. [3]

2. Keep the identifiers separate [1,2]

Food facility registration (FFR) number: FDA issues this for the food registration. It is not a public certificate, DUNS number or FEI. Protect the number and associated PIN; give necessary information only through appropriate authorized channels.

DUNS / UFI: food registration requires an FDA-accepted unique facility identifier (UFI), currently DUNS. D&B manages DUNS; the facility-specific address must match the registration address.

FEI: a separate FDA establishment identifier, publicly searchable. It does not replace the food registration number or the currently accepted food UFI. Do not use another FDA program's identifier rules for food.

3. Foreign facilities: designate a U.S. Agent [3,8]

Keep the agent's required U.S. contact details current and coordinate the confirmation FDA requires. The agent is a regulatory contact; designation alone does not guarantee import clearance.

2026 renewal: October 1 – December 31 [1]

FDA considers a registration expired if it is not renewed by December 31, 2026. Qualified facilities must also submit their applicable attestation in this period. Annual paid agent coverage does not renew the food registration. Use the worksheet on pages 3-4.

Check the product and shipment

Facility registration is one requirement. Product, process, labeling and import obligations must be assessed separately.

4. Acidified / low-acid canned foods: classify the process [4]

Commercial processors of covered shelf-stable acidified or low-acid canned foods in hermetically sealed containers must register the processing establishment and file scheduled processes. FCE (Food Canning Establishment) registration and process filings/SIDs are separate from food facility registration.

Low-acid canned food: finished equilibrium pH greater than 4.6 and water activity greater than 0.85. FDA's definition excludes alcoholic beverages and tomatoes/tomato products with finished equilibrium pH below 4.7.

Acidified food: low-acid food to which acid or acid food is added, with finished equilibrium pH 4.6 or below and water activity greater than 0.85. A beverage or sauce is not automatically acidified food just because its pH is low. Naturally acid foods, refrigeration, water activity and regulatory exclusions require separate assessment.

Use documented product/process classification and an appropriately qualified process authority. File the applicable scheduled process for each product, product style, container size/type and processing method. A sealed bottle or can alone does not determine coverage. Dry goods are not automatically exempt from other food rules.

Product / process authority / classification record location:

FCE and applicable process filing / SID evidence location (if covered):

5. Prior Notice and import coordination [5,7]

Determine whether Prior Notice is required for each imported food and observe the applicable exceptions and submission timing. Coordinate with the importer or broker; retain the confirmation. Registration renewal is not a Prior Notice submission.

Inadequate Prior Notice makes food subject to refusal and holding under applicable rules. Food from a foreign facility that should be registered but is not is subject to holding. These are legal consequences assessed under the relevant provisions, not an automatic prediction that every error means a container is refused.

6. Labeling and other applicable obligations [7]

Review the applicable identity, ingredient, allergen, nutrition, quantity and responsible-business statements and language rules. Check any exemptions or special rules for the product. Assess other relevant safety and importer obligations, including FSVP, as applicable. This checklist is not exhaustive.

Registration, an SID filing or a compliant label is not FDA product approval and does not guarantee release of a shipment. FDA may review, examine or take action based on the specific facts.

2026 renewal worksheet – prepare

Keep this worksheet in your controlled records. Assign an owner and track evidence; do not send passwords, PINs or confidential registration data in an initial enquiry.

Facility / internal reference:

Responsible owner / internal target date:

☐ 1. Applicability decision [1,3]

Confirm current site activities and any registration exemption. Record the basis. If a qualified facility, identify the applicable attestation and submission owner.

Required / exempt / unresolved; basis and supporting record location:

☐ 2. Existing registration records [2,6]

Locate the existing food registration record and number in secure records. Distinguish the DUNS/UFI and any FEI. Check registration status using the official FDA system, not a purported public FFR database.

Existing FFR and DUNS/UFI record locations; status checked on:

☐ 3. Authorized account access [2,6]

Confirm the authorized FDA Industry Systems/FURLS account holder and access. Use authorized subaccounts when appropriate; do not share individual usernames/passwords. If access is lost, obtain FDA assistance rather than creating a duplicate registration.

Account owner / access verified on / unresolved access action:

☐ 4. Current facility details [1,8]

Review legal name, physical address, owner/operator, emergency and other contacts, food categories, activities and DUNS address match. Identify changes that need correction before or with renewal.

Changes / DUNS match evidence / action owner / internal deadline:

Internal target dates are your planning dates, not extra FDA deadlines. No processing-time guarantee is made. The statutory 2026 renewal window remains October 1 – December 31. [1]

2026 renewal worksheet – complete

A payment, data update or draft application is not completion evidence. Follow the official renewal workflow and resolve pending issues.

[] 5. U.S. Agent confirmation – foreign facilities [3,8]

Verify the agent's name, required U.S. contact details and willingness to serve. Coordinate FDA's required confirmation. Separately check the professional contract and coverage term.

Agent contact checked on / confirmation evidence location:

Contract coverage term / unresolved confirmation action:

[] 6. Renewal submission [1,8]

Submit the biennial renewal electronically through FDA Industry Systems unless FDA granted a waiver. Select the renewal workflow; a routine information update does not replace it. Submit any applicable qualified-facility attestation separately.

Renewal submitted on / authorized submitter / submission reference:

Qualified-facility attestation: applicable? Submitted on / evidence:

[] 7. Completion evidence and follow-up [8]

Verify the outcome in the official system, including any pending validation or agent confirmation. Save the FDA submission/renewal confirmation and status evidence. Record unresolved issues and assigned follow-up; do not mark complete based only on a provider invoice.

Outcome / checked on / confirmation and status evidence location:

Unresolved issues / owner / follow-up date:

Final internal sign-off / date:

Keep records secure. FDA does not issue or recognize private food registration certificates as official proof of registration. Protect account credentials and registration information. [2,6]

Sources, review and optional services

Content reviewed against the primary sources below on October 4, 2026. This is an editorial review date, not a claim of FDA review or approval.

Regulatory requirements and professional services [6]

FDA charges no government fee for food facility registration or renewal. A facility may submit directly or authorize a provider. FDA Bridge's professional filing support and paid U.S. Agent coverage are commercial services; their scope, fees and contract term must be confirmed separately. Paying an annual service fee does not satisfy statutory biennial renewal.

Existing service scope and enquiries: fdabridge.com/food-facility-registration

Renewal preparation guide: [2026 renewal guide](#)

Contact: fdabridge.com/contact

Existing contacts: Batuhan Kutay Eryilmaz (Founder) and Aybüke Eryilmaz (Client Relations). No response or filing-time guarantee is made.

Primary-source references

[1] [2026 biennial renewal reminder](#)

FDA, September 29, 2026. Source: [fda.gov](https://www.fda.gov).

[2] [Protect food facility registration information](#)

FDA, July 20, 2026. Source: [fda.gov](https://www.fda.gov).

[3] [Food facility registration: exemptions and requirements](#)

FDA guidance, Seventh Edition; 21 CFR 1.226. Source: [fda.gov](https://www.fda.gov).

[4] [Acidified and low-acid canned foods](#)

FDA guidance and regulatory information; 21 CFR 108, 113 and 114. Source: [fda.gov](https://www.fda.gov).

[5] [Prior Notice: requirements and possible import actions](#)

FDA Small Entity Compliance Guide. Source: [fda.gov](https://www.fda.gov).

[6] [Food registration fees and independent providers](#)

FDA clarification. Source: [fda.gov](https://www.fda.gov).

[7] [Importing food into the United States](#)

FDA import requirements. Source: [fda.gov](https://www.fda.gov).

[8] [Biennial registration renewal user guide](#)

FDA Industry Systems instructions. Source: [fda.gov](https://www.fda.gov).

Limits and independence

FDA Bridge is an independent service provider, not affiliated with FDA and not acting on FDA's behalf. Registration and process filings are not product approval. This worksheet supports preparation; confirm current rules for your facility, product and process. It is not legal advice or an exhaustive compliance determination.