

BAHFSA Units

Food Safety & Quality Unit

- Regulates food safety and quality at every stage of the food chain;
- Regulates all food, including fish and meat;
- Protects human health, and consumer interests, including fair practices in trade.

Plant Protection Unit

- Prevents the spread of plant diseases ;
- Promotes the use of good agricultural practices;
- Regulates the trade in plants and plant products.

Veterinary Health Unit

- Promotes good agricultural practices;
- Prevents the spread of animal diseases and alien species;
- Regulates the trade in animal and animal products.



**BAHFSA
SAFEGUARDING OUR
FOOD CHAIN AND
BUILDING
SUSTAINABILITY.**

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BAHFSA

THE BAHAMAS AGRICULTURAL HEALTH & FOOD
SAFETY AUTHORITY

**BAHAMAS
AGRICULTURAL
HEALTH
&
FOOD SAFETY
AUTHORITY**

BAHFSA

What is BAHFSA?

The Bahamas Agricultural Health and Food Safety Authority (BAHFSA) is a regulatory body, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Family Islands Affairs. BAHFSA is governed by the Bahamas Agricultural Health and Food Safety Authority Act 2016. The Authority provides for a more efficient, effective, transparent and coordinated administration of matters dealing with food safety, animal and plant health. It is responsible for providing a framework to ensure that there is harmonization among public sector agencies in order to attain the highest levels of food safety and protection of animal and plant health.

Our Mandate

To oversee the administration and enforcement of:

1. The Food Safety and Quality Act, 2016;
2. The Animal Health and Production Act, 2016; and
3. The Plant Protection Act, 2016.



Functions of the Authority

1. Monitoring the performance of enforcement agencies in administering the legislation for which they are responsible;
2. Formulating strategies and policies on food safety and quality, including procedures for emergency response, and monitoring their implementation;
3. Protecting human or animal life or health from food-borne risks arising from additives, contaminants, toxins or disease-causing organisms in foods, beverages or feedstuffs;
4. Protecting animal and plant life or health from the entry, establishment or spread of pests, disease-carrying or disease-causing organisms;
5. Protecting human life and health from diseases carried by animals, plants or products thereof;
6. Ensuring that there is wide consultation with all sectors of the food industry, animal health and plant health in carrying out its activities;
7. Providing advice, information or assistance to any relevant body in relation to food safety and quality and food trade;
8. Obtaining, compile and keep under review information concerning, food safety and other sanitary and phytosanitary matters;
9. Coordinating training programs for food safety; animal health and plant health; and
10. Carrying out any other matters in connection with or reasonably incidental to the foregoing.

Activities

For the purpose of performing its functions, the Authority may carry out any or all of the following activities:

- a. setting standards of performance whether for enforcement agencies generally or for particular enforcement agencies in relation to the administration of any relevant legislation;
- b. collecting information from any member, officer or employee of the relevant enforcement agency;
- c. reporting to any enforcement agency on its performance in the administration of legislation for which it is responsible;
- d. providing guidance to any enforcement agency as to actions which the Authority considers would improve the agency's performance with regard to the administration of legislation for which it is responsible.

BAHFSA is committed to effectively defending against threats to the agricultural health and food safety system in The Bahamas as well as facilitating agri-trade.