



**Association of
Food and
Drug
Officials**

2550 Kingston Road, Suite 311
York, PA 17402

Contact: Krystal Reed at (717) 757-2888 or afdo@afdo.org

AFDO Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Government, Industry and Academia Join Forces to Ensure the Safety of Our Nation's Food and Drug Supply

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Implementing an integrated safety system for food, drugs and medical devices will be the focus of this year's Educational Conference of the **Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO)**.

This nonprofit organization, composed of local, state and federal government officials and industry leaders, will hold its 117th Annual Educational Conference at the Louisville Marriott Downtown, in Louisville, Ky., from June 8-12, with co-sponsorship by the Association of Food and Drug Officials of the Southern States (AFDOSS).

The conference, titled "**Implementing the Integrated Food, Drug and Medical Device Safety System,**" is a forum for delegates from the United States and Canada. It will feature keynote addresses by federal, state and international food safety leaders, including Michael R. Taylor, the Deputy Commissioner for Foods for the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, as well as representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Canada, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Safety-system integration was first proposed by AFDO more than a decade ago, and the integration of government resources at all levels is now coming to fruition in the United States. To assist with this integration, AFDO will offer a pre-conference workshop, "**Using the Integrated Food Safety System Toolkit – an Approach to Assessment and Planning,**" on June 8 in Louisville.

The workshop is sponsored by the International Food Protection Training Institute (IFPTI), an AFDO member agency, and will help guide government agencies by clearly defining an Integrated Food Safety System. The workshop will offer the first introduction to the IFSS Toolkit, which can be used to assist jurisdictions in evaluating their safety integration efforts and identifying areas where they can implement integration measures or improve on integrating with other stakeholders.

Food and drug safety continues to be of national and international significance, since it has a substantial impact on both public health and economic activity. The conference will address safety matters on a wide range of topics, including food transportation, lab accreditation, cooperative agreements, drug and medical device trends, and the regulation of health-care products in Canada.

For participants: The conference and workshop programs will be available on the [AFDO website's conference pages](#). Continuing education credits are typically available to conference participants.

For journalists: Journalists are welcome to attend the conference. Free media registration is available and staff will be on-site to arrange one-on-one interviews with presenters when feasible. Please contact AFDO by phone or send e-mail for further information or media registration.