



NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release, November 12, 2019

Contact: Mary Coppola

mcoppola@unitedfresh.org

202-303-3425

United Fresh Seeks Public Comments for Revisions to the Produce GAPs Harmonized Standard

Deadline to submit comments is January 30, 2020

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 12, 2019) – United Fresh has opened the public comment period to the just-posted redline version of the Produce GAPs Harmonized Standard, detailing the proposed revisions that were reviewed by the Technical Working Group at their September meeting.

"We continue to strive for a balanced standard that is both accessible for a variety of growers and packers, while remaining acceptable for the buyers who rely on the Standard to ensure adequate food safety practices are in place at their suppliers' operations," said Dr. Emily Griep, United Fresh's Manager of Food Safety. "User feedback is essential in making that happen, and we hope that stakeholders will take this valuable opportunity to participate in the revision process."

This will be the first update to the standard since revisions were made in 2016 to align with the FDA's Produce Safety Rule.

Throughout the update process, United Fresh continues to coordinate the efforts of a diverse group of buyers, producers, and other industry partners to identify additions and revisions to the current standard that reflect a deeper understanding of the hazards and risks associated with produce growing and handling environments. Additionally, general modifications have been considered to make the standard more user-friendly and minimize the opportunity for misinterpretation. Ultimately, United Fresh aims to further strengthen industry awareness and buyer acceptability of the Harmonized by closely involving stakeholders in each step of the process.

On Thursday, November 14 at 2 pm EST, United Fresh will host a free webinar, [**GAPs Harmonized Standard: Where Are We Now?**](#), exploring the Technical Working Group's proposed revisions to the Harmonized.

The deadline to [**submit comments**](#) on the redline version of the Produce GAPs Harmonized Standard is January 30, 2020. For more information, contact [**Dr. Emily Griep**](#) at egriep@unitedfresh.org or 202-303-3401.

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About United Fresh Produce Association

Founded in 1904, the **United Fresh Produce Association** brings together companies across every segment of the fresh produce supply chain, including growers, shippers, fresh-cut processors, wholesalers, distributors, retailers, foodservice operators, industry suppliers and allied associations. We empower industry leaders to shape sound government policy. We deliver the resources and expertise companies need to succeed in managing complex business and technical issues. We provide the training

and development individuals need to advance their careers in produce. Through these endeavors, we unite our industry with a common purpose – to build long-term value for our members and grow produce consumption.