

Drug Administration was developed jointly by the two agencies and the Office of the Secretary, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. This document, which is currently under revision, identifies and compares the activities of these agencies, and summarizes the cooperative agreements, understandings, and working relationships between PHS and FDA in the area of milk, food service, and shellfish sanitation. A similar document on PHS-FDA activities concerned with pesticide hazards indicates that the enforcement efforts of FDA against adulteration and misbranding of foods in interstate commerce are strengthened by the collateral efforts of PHS to support intrastate and local food protection programs. The differences in responsibilities of the two agencies are effective deterrents to duplication, even in research, when both may work on different facets of the same problem to the mutual advantage to all concerned. Continued cooperation and coordination are needed (1) in other areas of food protection; (2) to keep pace with the rapid developments in food science and technology; and (3) to keep abreast of the needs, requirements and desires of the American people.

(c) *With other Federal Government departments or agencies.*—PHS and the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior have a memorandum of agreement relative to the certification of interstate shellfish shippers. This relationship provides the basis for informal liaison and collaboration in research efforts and development of sanitation guides of mutual concern, such as those for public health protection in fish-smoking processes and operations.

Working relationships with the U.S. Department of Agriculture are primarily related to dairy, meat, and poultry products. The Public Health Service, the Atomic Energy Commission, and USDA have undertaken cooperatively the development of a feasible process for the removal of radioactive contamination from milk. The method of treatment of milk with ion-exchange resins to remove radionuclides was derived by Milk and Food Branch research staff of the PHS and pilot plant studies of the process were undertaken at the Beltsville Laboratory of the USDA.

A variety of relationships is maintained with the Department of Defense, ranging from individual consultation to formal agreements. The various departments within the Department of Defense use the technical food sanitation recommendations of the Milk and Food Branch, PHS, and rely on PHS for assistance in the resolution of specific food safety problems. PHS and DOD, together with FDA and the Food Research Institute of the University of Chicago, collaborate on problems, such as the study of staphylococcal enterotoxin, which is a commonly reported cause of food poisoning in the United States. Cooperative relationships also exist with other components of the Department of Defense, including the Armed Forces Food and Container Institute, and the Army Biological Laboratories.

(d) *With State governments or their instrumentalities.*—The basic mission of the Milk and Food Branch of the PHS is to assist State and local agencies in establishment and maintenance of effective food protection programs. Cooperation and coordination between the PHS and these governmental levels are both well established and close. The States traditionally look to the Public Health Service for leadership in the food protection area and closely follow PHS recommendations.