

Dr. Mauricio Castelo

Produce Safety Expert

Division of Produce Safety, FDA

Dr. Castelo is part of the Produce Safety Expert Network in the Division of Produce Safety of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). At FDA, the Division of Produce Safety is the work unit responsible for writing and updating the Produce Safety Rule, developing the rule's guidance for industry, leading the development and distribution of FDA-supported produce safety education initiatives, and providing technical assistance to members of the agricultural community when they have questions about the Produce Safety Rule, the guidance, and the science involved.

He has over 20 years of experience in the food industry, from produce growing to produce processing, in various management roles and responsibilities. Prior to working with the FDA, he spent the last 4 years as a food safety consultant for the Produce industry in the United States and Latin America. In addition, he worked with the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement (LGMA) as a qualified trainer providing training to companies on food safety programs.

As a consultant, he conducted training and audits in different regions of the United States and Latin America. He also conducted verification audits for the Foreign Supplier Verification Program in compliance with the Produce Safety Rule and the Preventive Controls for Human Food regulation.