



# DRC

Fruit & Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation

Corporation de règlement des différends dans les fruits et légumes

Corporación de solución de controversias sobre frutas y hortalizas

## How the new Safe Food for Canadians Regulations Impact Non-Resident Importers (NRI) of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

You may already be an NRI shipping to Canada, thinking about becoming a NRI if you are shipping to Canada, or maybe your customer wants you to be the importer of record for shipments going to them in Canada. It is important to know as of January 15, 2019, the new Safe Food for Canadians Regulations come into effect which will impact the way NRIs currently export to Canada.

For the purposes of this note we will ignore tax and valuation components of being a NRI. For now, let's just worry about what it means from a DRC and SFCR perspective.

The CFIA defines a non-resident importer as a person importing food into Canada whose fixed place of business is in a country other than Canada. Starting January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in order to be an NRI for fresh fruits and vegetables, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is going to apply four main conditions:

1. Food Safety:
  - Non-resident importers will only be recognized in countries with equivalent food safety systems to those in Canada. On January 15, only companies in the United States of America will be recognized to be non-resident importers. As more food safety systems are evaluated, more countries may be added in the future.
2. Port of Entry (United States):
  - Product must enter Canada directly through the US. In other words, the product must land and clear US customs before it can move into Canada. You cannot be a US NRI and ship the product from another country straight into Canada.
3. DRC Membership:
  - A DRC Membership is required for NRIs shipping fresh produce into Canada. This is because the SFCR requires that anybody importing or moving fresh fruits and vegetables across provincial/international lines needs to be a member in good standing with the DRC.
4. CFIA Licensing:
  - Obtain a license as an NRI from CFIA. This means setting up a myCFIA account and applying for a license. We would strongly recommend getting this in place prior to the January 15, 2019 implementation date to avoid any delays.

As always, if you still need help or want to explore other scenarios, please give us a call (613-234-0982) or drop us a line at [info@fvdrc.com](mailto:info@fvdrc.com)