

Primary Production and Processing Standards

Food Safety Registration Guide

Melons, berries, and leafy vegetables



Food Standards Australia and New Zealand introduced new food safety and compliance standards for berries, leafy vegetables and melons into the national Food Standards Code. These Standards took effect in February 2025 and are regulated in Victoria by Agriculture Victoria.

Who is required to register

The Standards apply to all leafy vegetable, melon and berry businesses that grow or complete primary or 'early-stage' processing. The Standards apply to large scale businesses, as well as smaller businesses who have farm-gate, u-pick and local market stands to sell their produce.

- Leafy vegetables are defined in the Standard as vegetables of a leafy nature where the leaf is consumed raw. Examples include but are not limited to: lettuces, watercress, radicchio, baby leaf, kale, rocket, Asian leafy greens, leafy herbs, spring onions, microgreens, spinach, silverbeet and cabbage.
- Berries are defined in the Standard as fresh berries and include strawberries, blueberries and berries from the genus *Rubus*.
- Melons are defined in the Standard as fresh melons and include watermelon, rockmelon, honeydew melon and piel de sapo.

Legal requirements

There is a legal requirement under the Food (Primary Production and Processing) Regulations 2025 for Victorian leafy vegetable, berry and melon businesses to register with Agriculture Victoria.

The current program of educative and awareness farm visits for registered businesses will continue in 2026. However, compliance action on unregistered businesses, or where an immediate and serious food safety risk is present (under the Food Act 1981 and associated regulations) will be considered.

Registration pathways

Once you begin your registration with Agriculture Victoria, there are different registration 'pathways' dependant on commodity group and whether you are in a Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) benchmarked food safety scheme or not.

If your business is already in a GFSI scheme, you must register and provide information so that Agriculture Victoria can verify your certification(s). Provided your certification is maintained and available for review and verification by Agriculture Victoria, your business will be immediately recognised as meeting the relevant standard.

Leafy vegetable and melon businesses not within recognised schemes need to complete a food safety management statement (FSMS). A FSMS is completed as part of the online registration process, it summarises your business activities and identifies food safety risks and how you manage them. In future, you may be required to participate in an audit to verify if your business is compliant with the Food Standards Code.

Registration fees

There is an annual fee to register with Agriculture Victoria depending on the pathway and a fee for audits, where needed. The fees are scaled to the size of the business's production area. A business's production area is the area of land (in hectares) under production or intended for production of the selected crop(s) for the next year.

Fees will be applied based on registration pathway:

- Pathway 1 (berries): registration fee
- Pathway 2 (recognised GFSI scheme leafy vegetable and melon): registration fee and scheme recognition fee
- Pathway 3 (non-recognised GFIS scheme leafy vegetable and melon): registration fee and FSMS approval fee (plus time-based travel and audit fees).

All businesses that register in 2026 will receive a 50% reduction in registration fees and where applicable, statement approval or recognition fees. In addition, no audit fees will be charged until February 2027. The registration fee is non-refundable.

Businesses with a production area of under 1 ha will not pay fees for the approval or recognition of a FSMS, or fees for audits and travel. These businesses will still need to meet all requirements of the standards and regulations.

The table provides the fee units and value prior to any discount or reduction that may be applied.

Data valid at
January 2026.



Fee Units (FU) and value			
Production Area	Registration (All Pathways)	Scheme Recognition (Pathway 2)	FSMS Approval (Pathway 3)
≤1ha	2 FU (\$33)	Fee Waived	Fee Waived
>1 to ≤5ha	20 FU (\$327)	12 FU (\$196)	25 FU (\$408)
>5 to ≤20ha	27 FU (\$440)		37 FU (\$604)
>20 to ≤100ha	33 FU (\$539)		48 FU (\$784)
>100ha	40 FU (\$653)		60 FU (\$979)

How to register

Agriculture Victoria has developed an online system called Agriculture Victoria Connect. The system provides a single-entry point for accessing services related to regulatory compliance.

Businesses are required to log into Agriculture Victoria Connect to complete their food safety registration. Use the QR code to access Agriculture Victoria Connect.



Step-by-step guide

1. To register your business on [Agriculture Victoria Connect](#), you must first register as an individual and create a user account. To do this, watch our quick video tutorials: [How to create an account](#) and then [Create your profile](#).
2. Once you have created your account, you can register your business by following the videos on [How to add a business](#) and then how to [Manage your business roles](#).
3. If your business is Freshcare Certified, you will need to opt-in and provide consent via your profile on the Freshcare website, prior to registration with Agriculture Victoria. There may be a delay for this to register in Agriculture Victoria Connect.
4. Follow the prompts to complete your relevant food safety registration pathway. For non-GFSI certified growers, this will include completing an online [Food Safety Management Statement \(FSMS\)](#).
5. The 50% discount will have already been applied to the total shown in the summary and payment sections. The registration fee is non-refundable.
6. Your registration will be valid for 12 months from the approval date. As the renewal date approaches, you will be sent reminders.

Free food safety farm visits

If you need guidance on implementing the new food safety standards on your farm, Agriculture Victoria is offering free on-farm educational visits. Our Biosecurity Team can visit your farm and:

- outline the Standards and their requirements;
- assist you to complete your registration and FSMS;
- work through any observed changes required to ensure compliance; and
- discuss any specific food safety issues and questions you may have.

Visit [our website](#) or email food.safety@agriculture.vic.gov.au for more information, or to arrange a farm visit.

Need help?

Agriculture Victoria's Biosecurity Services Centre is also available to assist businesses from Monday to Friday between 9 am and 4:30 pm. Please call 1800 403 224 and one of the friendly team will assist you.