

The Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) has the following requirements when it comes to advertising an FSPCA Foreign Supplier Verification Programs (FSVP) course.

Referencing your distinction as a Lead Instructor

The easiest way to distinguish yourself as a Lead Instructor is to reference the title of the course: "I am a Lead Instructor for the FSPCA Foreign Supplier Verification Programs (FSVP) course." Do not use terms such as 'certified,' 'recognized,' 'approved,' etc. It is acceptable to include your certificate number if you wish: "Lead Instructor (certificate #5G67D9) for the FSPCA FSVP course."

Referencing certification in your advertisement

FSPCA participant courses are NOT certification courses. Do not use the terms certification course or Qualified Individual certification. The certificates that are issued by the FSPCA for the participant course are certificates of successful completion. FSPCA does not provide or manage certifications.

Use of the FSPCA logo

A high quality FSPCA logo is available for your use in advertising your course. It can be downloaded from the FSVP Lead Instructor Resource Portal (<https://lms.ifpti.org/>). Be sure to associate the logo with the course using the correct course title. It should be clear that the advertisement is associated with your company or organization – so your logo should be predominant. The FSPCA logo should be subordinate and used in sub-context where the course is mentioned.



Example of logo usage

Remember that the logo is for advertising use. Do not use the logo on course slides that you have created and that are not part of the FSPCA FSVP curriculum.

Referencing FDA recognition of the FSPCA FSVP curriculum

Do not use the phrase "FDA Approved." The FSVP curriculum was designed by regulatory, academia, and industry professionals and developed with funding from FDA as part of the FSPCA. While FDA assisted in the preparation of the course materials, the materials have been written and produced by the Alliance and are not official FDA materials.

Implying the course is required

Do not state that the FSVP course is mandatory or that FDA's FSVP regulation requires an FSVP "qualified individual" to take the FSPCA FSVP course. In contrast to the Preventive Controls (PC) rules for human or animal food, the FSVP rule does not require an FSVP "qualified individual" to attend a training program following a "standardized curriculum" recognized by FDA. Therefore, completing this course is not mandatory. Attending this course, however, will help course participants understand the FSVP requirements and how those requirements can be met in their particular circumstance.

Responsibilities of an FSVP “Qualified Individual”

Under the FSVP rule, a “qualified individual” must develop an importer’s FSVP and perform activities required in the rule. An importer can use one or more “qualified individuals” to carry out all the FSVP requirements. A “qualified individual” must have the education, training, or experience (or a combination thereof) necessary to perform their assigned activities and must be able to read and understand the language of any records that must be reviewed in performing an activity.

Adding requirements for obtaining a certificate

To successfully complete the course, a participant must be present for the entire delivery and actively participate in the exercises. Otherwise, do not approve participant completion. An FSPCA assessment is not associated with the FSVP course at this time. If a Lead Instructor chooses to add additional requirements to their own delivery, such as passing a test or demonstrating the ability to perform a task, a distinction must be made that the additional requirements are the Lead Instructor’s and not FSPCA’s.

Example: “In addition to the FSPCA course completion requirements, our delivery will require passing an exam.”

Referencing regulator attendance in your course

You can reference regulator attendance if you wish to emphasize a collaborative course environment. However, do not imply that regulator attendance is special to this course or offers an advantage in order to attempt a marketing edge. The purpose of regulator attendance is to obtain training, not to provide answers to rule and policy interpretation questions.

Requirements for delivering and registering an FSPCA FSVP course

Use properly descriptive terms for identifying whether your course is face to face live instructor-led; virtual (web-based, live) instructor-led; or 100% online, self-paced asynchronous course. The requirements FSPCA lead Instructors and their administrators must follow to register and deliver an FSPCA FSVP participant course are outlined in FSPCA Policy 0017 which is located in the FSPCA Lead Instructor Resource Portal at <https://lms.ifpti.org>. The policy includes criteria for conducting a virtual (web-based, live) course. Criteria for 100% online, self-paced asynchronous courses is outlined in FSPCA Policy 0019.

Remember! Virtual courses must be registered “with modifications”. Please allow additional time for review of such courses.

Reporting advertising issues

If you wish to report advertising that does not comply with these requirements, you may email fspca@iit.edu. FSPCA uses a progressive approach to assist the advertiser in correcting any discrepancies such as:

1. A friendly reminder by email
2. A request for correction
3. A warning
4. A suspension of Lead Instructor status (or possibly all Lead Instructors associated with the advertiser)

FSPCA embraces the right of due process and has established an appeals policy.