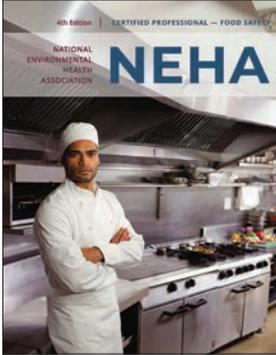


NEHA NEWS

NEHA CP-FS Study Materials Now Available in Print and Electronic Versions



The NEHA *Certified Professional—Food Safety (CP-FS) Study Guide* (4th ed.) was updated in 2022 to the current FDA *Food Code* and includes information and requirements from the Food Safety Modernization Act. It was developed by retail professionals to help prepare candidates for the NEHA CP-FS credential exam with in-depth content, an examination blueprint, practice test, and many helpful appendices. The

study guide is the go-to resource for students of food safety and food safety professionals in both regulatory agencies and industry.

A CP-FS is an individual who possesses the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure safe food in any retail environment as a quality assurance or quality control manager, facility manager, food-safe chemical supplier, or regulatory inspector/investigator. The CP-FS credential is well respected throughout the industry and is highly valued by employers when hiring food safety professionals.

We are excited to announce that the *CP-FS Study Guide* is now available in paperback and electronic versions. The e-book can be purchased via Google Play Books at \$199 for members and \$229 for nonmembers. NEHA members can access the discounted rate by adding the *CP-FS Study Guide* e-book to their cart in our bookstore and checking out to receive a promo code via email that allows them to purchase the book via Google Play at the members-only price.

We also offer over 195 flash cards to quiz you on the information presented in the CP-FS credential exam. Flash cards are strategically designed to enhance and encourage active recall and we have updated our flash cards to include pictures to help jog your memory as you study. You can now purchase the flash cards from our bookstore in either print or electronic versions. Both are available for \$24.99.

Learn more about the CP-FS credential and our study resources at www.neha.org/cpfs-credential.

Nearly 2,500 Food Safety Experts Shared Their Needs

In early 2022 we launched a one-of-a-kind comprehensive national census—the Retail Food Safety Regulatory Training Needs Assessment—to identify strengths and knowledge gaps in the retail food safety regulatory community to better direct scarce training and education resources and identify where training should be developed or modified. Specifically, we aimed to:

- Determine the degree of exposure retail food regulatory professionals have to key content knowledge areas.
- Discover strengths and gaps between exposure to content and the working needs of the regulatory community.

We are pleased to report that we had an excellent response rate and received 2,443 qualified survey responses representing the regulatory workforce from across the regulatory community, as well as at different jurisdiction levels (Table 1).

TABLE 1

Jurisdictions of Survey Respondents From the Retail Food Safety Regulatory Training Needs Assessment (N = 2,443)

Jurisdiction	Respondents # (%)
Federal	54 (2.2)
State	473 (19.4)
Local	1,862 (76.2)
Tribal	37 (1.5)
U.S. Territory	9 (0.4)

The complete survey findings will be shared this summer and will be used to help bolster educational resources, reduce knowledge gaps in the profession, and improve overall workforce capabilities.

Thank you to every retail food safety professional who participated. The honest and thorough feedback we received showcases the commitment of our workforce to the future of regulatory retail food safety.

To learn more about the assessment and to check back for findings this summer, visit our needs assessment webpage at www.neha.org/retail-grants-needs-assessment.

NEHA Staff Profile

As part of tradition, we feature new staff members in the *Journal* around the time of their 1-year anniversary. These profiles give you an opportunity to get to know our staff better and to learn more about the great programs and activities going on in your association. This month we are pleased to introduce you to one NEHA staff member. Contact information for all NEHA staff can be found on pages 50 and 51.



Chintan Somaiya

I joined NEHA in March 2022 as a senior project coordinator to manage and support the NEHA-FDA Retail Flexible Funding Model (RFFM) Grant Program. The FDA Voluntary Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards apply to the operation and management of a retail food regulatory program that is focused on the reduction of risk factors known to cause or contribute to foodborne illness and to the promotion of active managerial control of these risk factors. My

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goal is to support the vision of leadership to deliver a comprehensive data-driven program that enhances jurisdiction participation in the Retail Program Standards across the U.S. In addition to the NEHA-FDA RFFM Grant Program, I also support grants management, data management, research, and dashboard development projects at NEHA to demonstrate the impact of our work on communities.

I graduated with a master of business administration in health-care administration from Loma Linda University in 2013. Along with that degree I also earned a master of science degree in food science and nutrition from Montclair State University in 2010 and an undergraduate degree in biotechnology in 2007 from the Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra.

I have had the great fortune of working with some of the finest industry experts who have mentored me through various academic and professional endeavors. At Montclair State University, I was able to work on research studies assessing the safety of ready-to-eat deli meats served in older adult care facilities in New Jersey. My second research study was to test the microbial safety of raw milk samples collected from farms across Pennsylvania.

At Loma Linda University Health (LLUH), I was able to work on the San Bernardino County Medi-Cal Outreach, Renewal, and

Enrollment (SBC-MORE) initiative, a county-sponsored grant program that extended Medi-Cal to high-risk populations in San Bernardino County, California. At the Institute for Community Partnerships at LLUH, I led the development and enhancement of its Community Benefit program and investments for LLUH's four licensed hospitals. Our work in training and development of the Community Health Worker program was nationally recognized and adopted. While at LLUH, I also had the opportunity to work and support multiple short film projects including *A Certain Kind of Light*, a story about the work and contributions of Dr. Wil Alexander, and *Community Health Worker "Saw Me as a Human,"* a video that highlights how a community health worker helped an individual navigate the complexities of our healthcare system.

My wife and I were blessed with a baby boy in 2022. Interestingly, my wife and son share the same birthday. I enjoy filmmaking, reading (*Ikigai* and *When Breath Becomes Air* are always on my reread list), long walks, and playing or watching the game of cricket. I consider myself an avid learner. I feel very fortunate to be part of NEHA, where we are surrounded by inspiring leaders and talented individuals willing to support the growth of aspiring healthcare and public health leaders. 🌸

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