

GEORGIA Food Safety Jurisdictions and Enforcement Authorities



Agency jurisdiction and responsibility for regulating food safety varies from state to state. While an agency may have jurisdiction over a facility or commodity, not all agencies issue licenses or routinely inspect every facility or commodity type. All of the State agencies which have jurisdiction to regulate food safety within the state are listed in the tables below, with their jurisdiction over a particular facility type or commodity denoted by the word “Authority” or “Split Authority” in the row of the facility or commodity type within their column.





MANUFACTURER/PROCESSOR

FACILITY TYPE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	LOCAL AGENCIES
Food Processor	Authority			
Food Repacked	Authority			
Food Salvager	Authority			
Bottled Water	Authority			
Ice	Authority			
Dietary Supplements	*			
Warehouse	Authority			
Food Banks	Authority			
Seafood	Authority			
Food Transport	Authority			
Beer/Wine	Authority			
Distilled Spirits	Authority			

COMMENTS:
 * Defers to the FDA





DAIRY

FACILITY TYPE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	LOCAL AGENCIES
Grade-A Plant	Authority			
Raw Milk	Authority			
Cheese	Authority			
Yogurt	Authority			
Cream/Sour Cream	Authority			
Butter	Authority			
Ice Cream	Authority			
Milk Pooling	Authority			
COMMENTS:				





MEAT/POULTRY

FACILITY TYPE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	LOCAL AGENCIES
Meat	Authority			
Poultry	Authority ¹			
Rabbit	Authority			
Other Non-Amenable Species	Authority			
Custom Slaughter	Authority			
Livestock Inspection	Authority			
Pet Food – Raw	Authority			
Pet Food – Processed	Authority			
Egg Inspection/Grading	Authority ²			

COMMENTS:

¹ GDA regulates <20,000 exempt poultry operations. USDA FSIS regulates all others.

² GDA conducts inspections of small egg facilities. Egg grading is regulated by USDA AMS.





ANIMAL FEED

FACILITY TYPE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	LOCAL AGENCIES
Feed	Authority			
Medicated Feed	Authority			
BSE Inspections	Authority*			
Rendering Plant	Authority			
Grain	Authority			

COMMENTS:
* Enforcement Authority





RETAIL FOOD

FACILITY TYPE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	LOCAL AGENCIES
Restaurant		Split Authority		Split Authority
Food Service		Split Authority		Split Authority
Grocery Store	Authority			
Market	Authority			
Convenience Stores	Authority			
Public/Private Schools		Split Authority		Split Authority
Correctional Facilities		Split Authority		Split Authority
Hospitals		Split Authority		Split Authority
Long-Term Care		Split Authority		Split Authority
Nursing Homes		Split Authority		Split Authority
Other Institutions		Split Authority		Split Authority
Vending Machines	Authority			
Mobile Food Facilities	Split Authority	Split Authority		Split Authority
Caterers		Split Authority		Split Authority
Home Based Processors	Authority			

Retail Food list continued on next page.





RETAIL FOOD (continued)

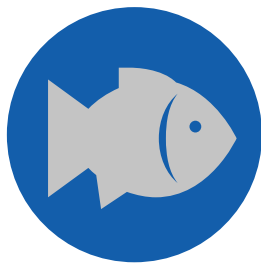
FACILITY TYPE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	LOCAL AGENCIES
Temporary Food Facilities		Split Authority		Split Authority
Water Vending Machines	Authority			
Ice Vending Machines	Authority			
Farm Stands	Authority			
Farmers Markets	Authority			
Live Poultry Markets	*			
Food Pantry	Authority			

COMMENTS:

* Not allowed in the State.

State Department of Health delegates authority to local agencies for all retail food service inspections in the state.



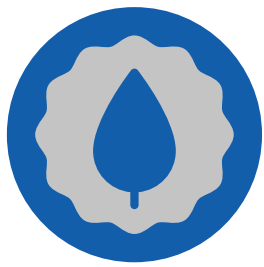


SHELLFISH/AQUACULTURE

FACILITY TYPE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	LOCAL AGENCIES
Shellfish Growing Areas			Authority	
Shellfish Post Harvest Handling	Split Authority		Split Authority	
Shellfish Depuration	Split Authority		Split Authority	
Shellfish Patrol			Authority	
Biotoxin Monitoring			Authority	
Aquaculture	Split Authority*		Split Authority*	

COMMENTS:
* Department of Natural Resources handles Growing, Department of Agriculture handles Processing.





ORGANIC FOODS

FACILITY TYPE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	LOCAL AGENCIES
Organic Production	*			
Organic Food Handling	*			
Organic Food Processing	*			

COMMENTS:
* Defers to the USDA





PRODUCE

FACILITY TYPE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	LOCAL AGENCIES
Farms	Authority			
Packing Sheds	Authority			
Repackers	Authority			
Terminal Markets	Authority			
COMMENTS:				





ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

Each state regulatory agency has enforcement authorities that are established through state laws, regulations, or administrative rules. These enforcement authorities enable the agency to perform their regulatory functions and ensure the safety of the food supply. Below are the authorities of each agency.

FACILITY TYPE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	LOCAL AGENCIES
Embargo/Quarantine	Authority	Authority		
Seizure		Authority		
Condemnation & Destruction	Authority	Authority		
Voluntary Condemnation & Destruction	Authority	Authority		
Stop Sale Orders	Authority	Authority		
Health Advisories		Authority		
Administrative Penalties	Authority	Authority		
Criminal Penalties	Authority	Authority		
Civil Penalties				
Injunction	Authority	Authority		
Warning Letters	Authority	Authority		

Enforcement Authority list continued on next page.





ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY (continued)

FACILITY TYPE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	LOCAL AGENCIES
License Suspension	Authority	Authority		
License Revocation	Authority	Authority		
Hearings	Authority	Authority		
Closure	Authority	Authority		
Mandatory Recall	Authority ¹	Authority		
Inspection Warrant	Authority			

COMMENTS:
¹ Mandatory Recall of animal feed.

