

RLTS

Regulatory and Laboratory
Training System

Regulatory & Laboratory Training System (RLTS)

December 2025

Agenda

1 What is the RLTS?

2 Strategy and Implementation

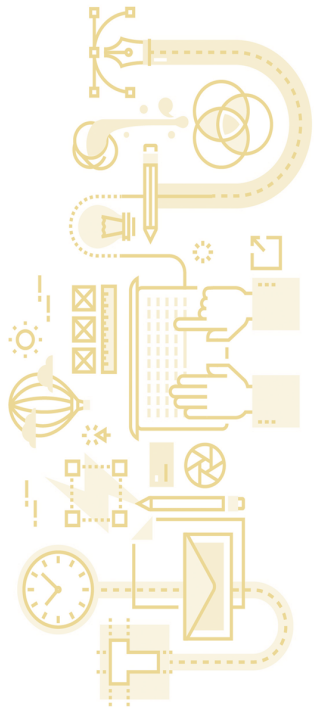
3 Governance

4 Features

5 Next Steps

6 Q&A & References

What is the RLTS?



- The **Regulatory and Laboratory Training System (RLTS)** is a collaborative infrastructure used for accessing high-quality, competency-based training for regulatory and laboratory personnel.
- It is a cornerstone of FDA's efforts to build a well-trained and skilled workforce within the Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS).

RLTS Partners



Lead by FDA, the IFSS RLTS Steering Committee includes partners
from over 13 organizations

NCIMS

National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments



AAFCO
Association of American Feed Control Officials



NACCHO
National Association of County & City Health Officials



USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service



astho[®]



NASDA

neha

2024 FDA Strategic Training Plan



FEBRUARY 2024

IFSS Regulatory and Laboratory Training
Strategic Plan

JUNE 10, 2024

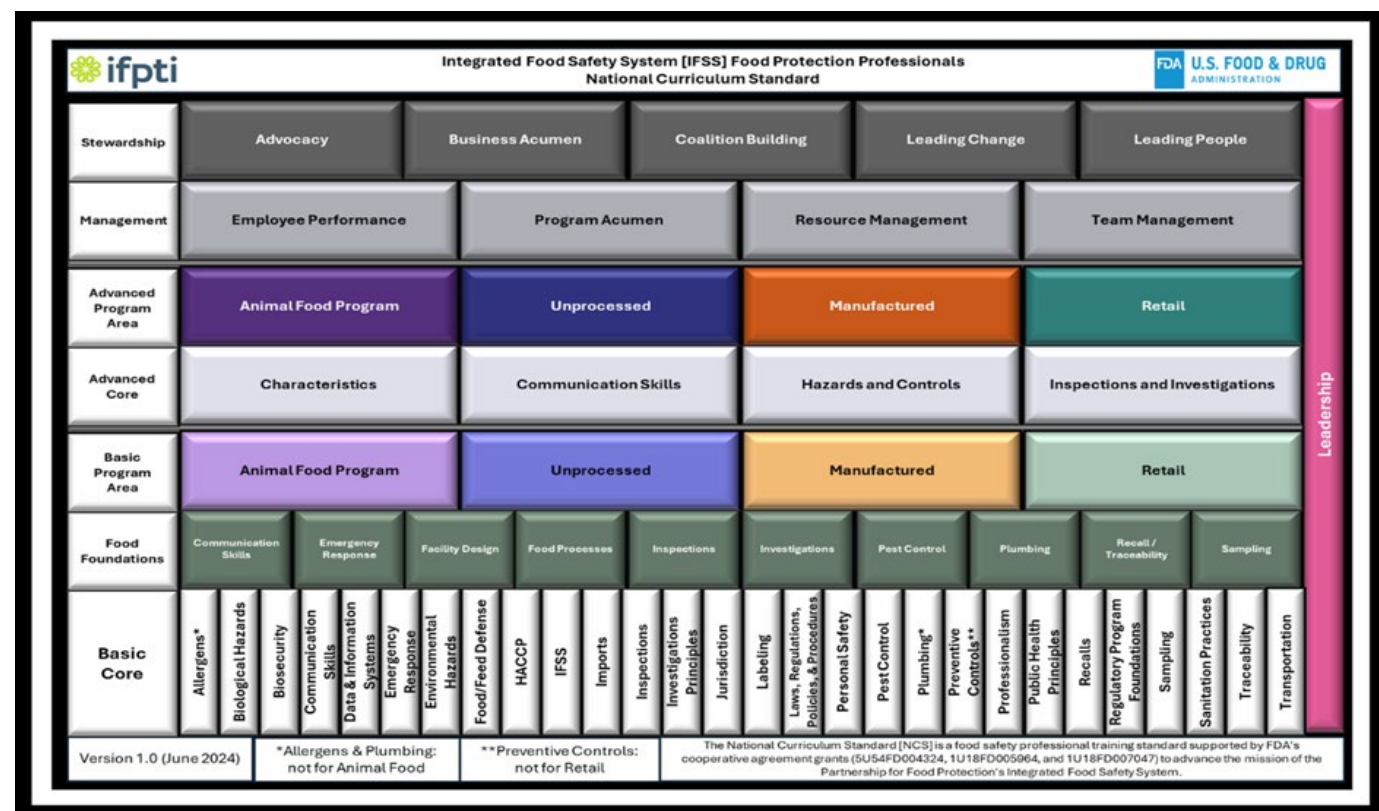
IFSS Regulatory and Laboratory Training System

Implementation Plan

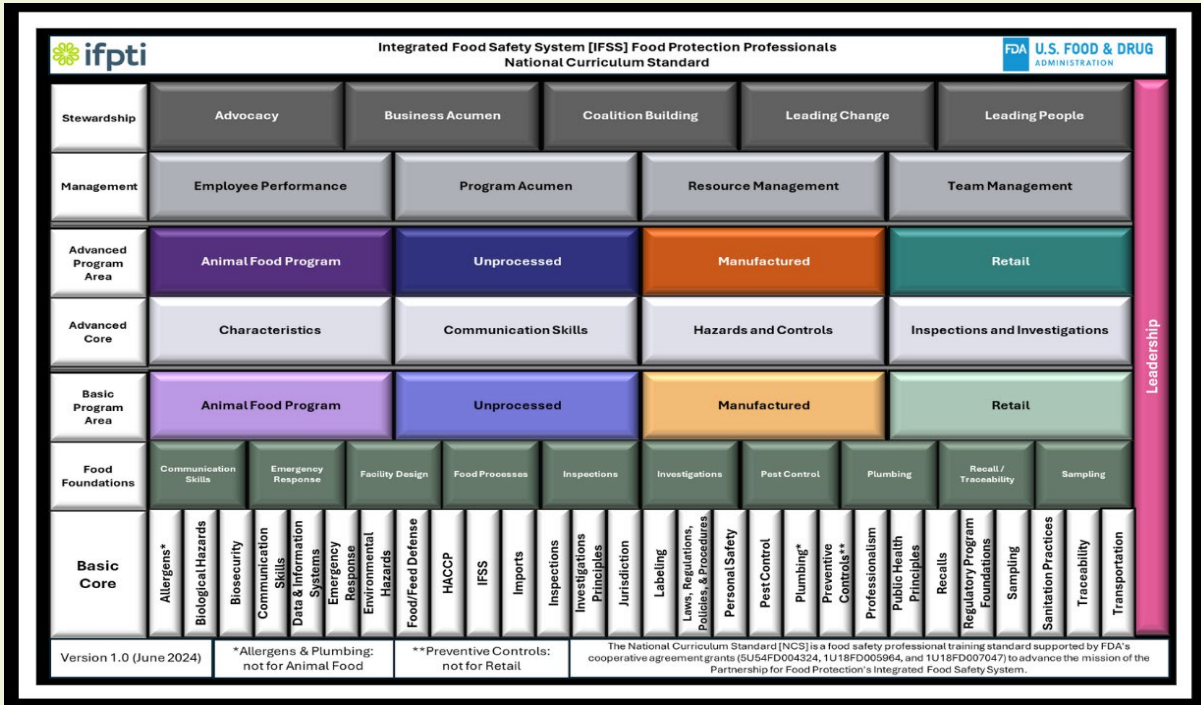
October 2023 – September 2025

Foundation of the RLTS

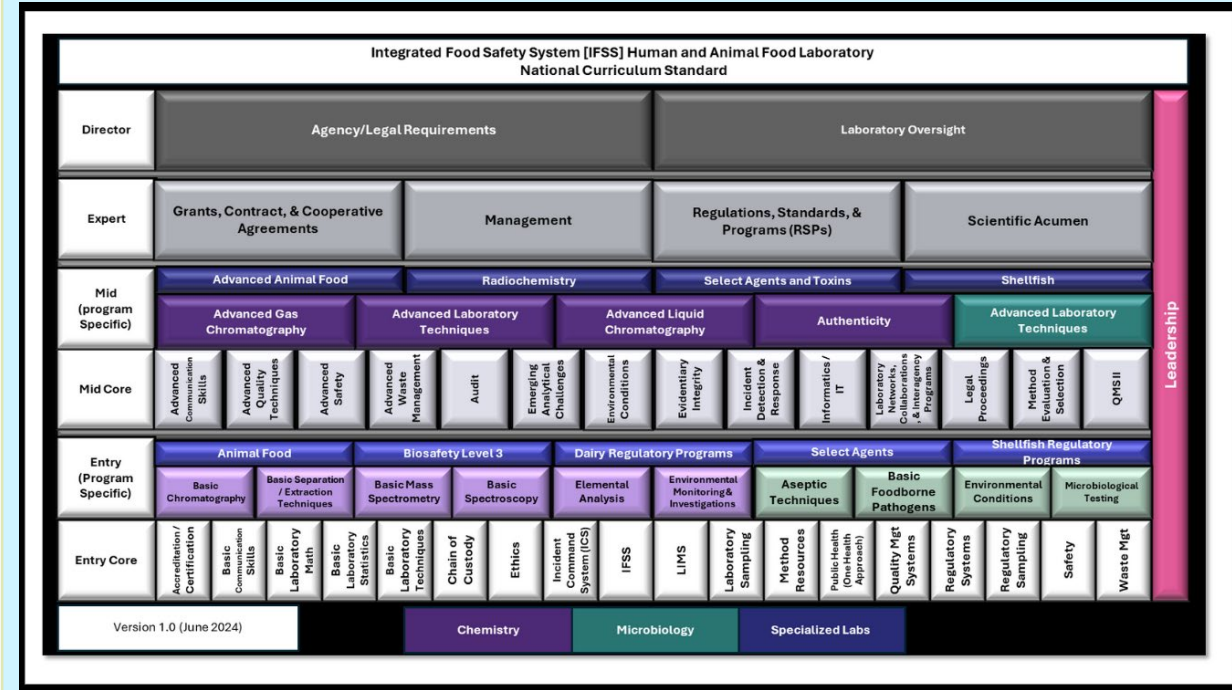
- RLTS is built on **National Curriculum Standards (NCS)**: competency-based framework that aligns knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to do a job



IFSS National Curriculum Standards



National Curriculum Framework for Regulators



National Curriculum Framework for Laboratorians

<https://www.ifpti.org/ncs>

Shift to Skill-Based Learning



- Traditional training has measured success by course/ topic completion or hours spent in instruction.
- RLTS emphasizes **competency attainment**—ensuring that individuals can demonstrate knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) required for regulatory or laboratory roles, not just attend a class.

Use of Alternative Learning Modalities

Beyond traditional FDA classroom learning:

- Scenario-based learning and case studies
- Virtual labs and simulation-based inspections
- On-the-job training, mentoring, and assessment
- Microlearning modules for just-in-time education
- AI-interactive tools for building resources



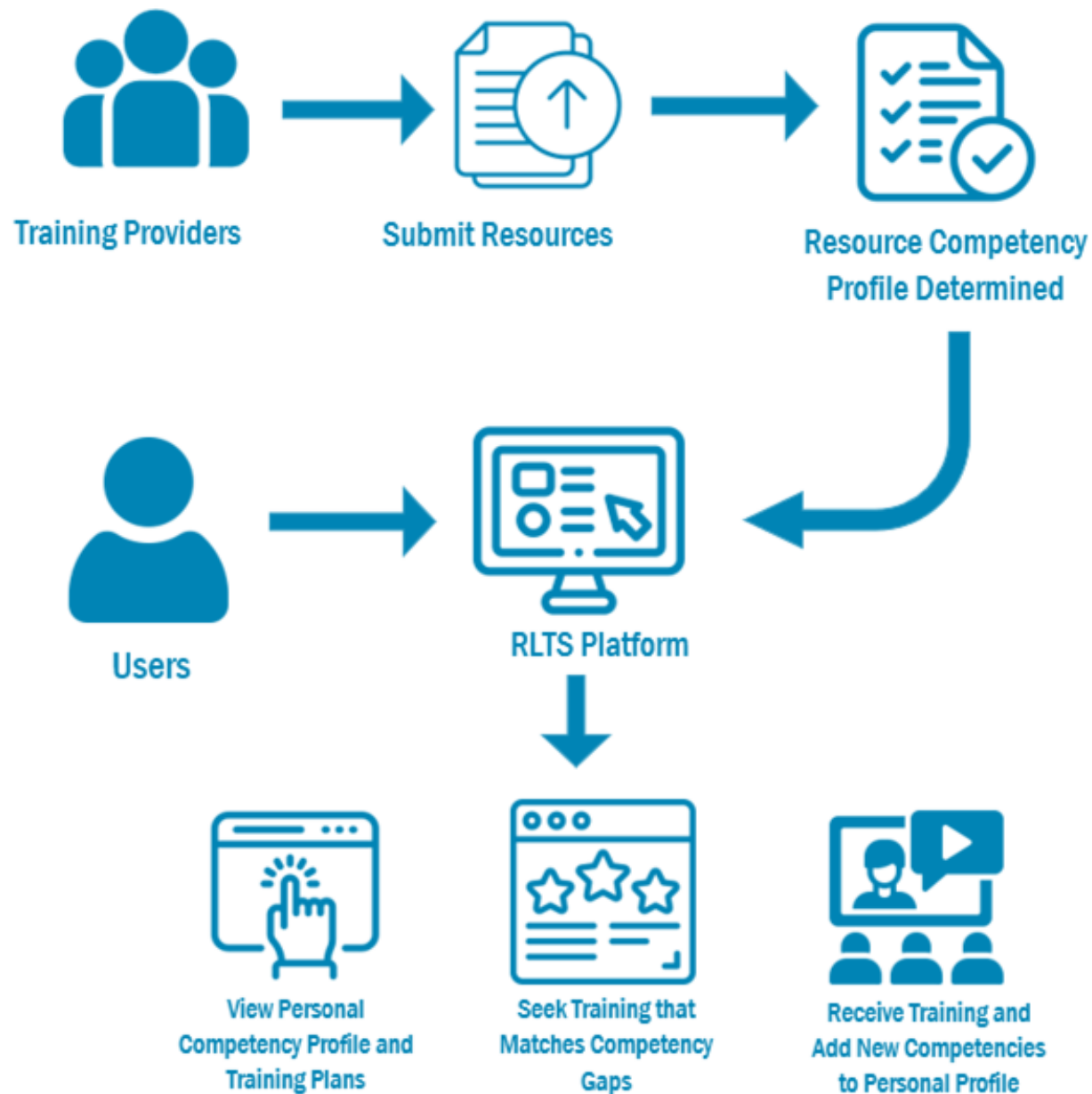
Accommodating different learning styles and operational constraints

Demonstration of Competency Attainment

Competency Area	Examples of Demonstration
Knowledge-Based	Exams, quizzes, policy tests
Training Completion	E-learning courses, ILT sessions, blended learning
Performance-Based	Field assessments, observed inspections
Standardization	Standardized inspections, certification
Documentation	Mock inspections, sampling
Workplace Verification	Supervisor evaluations, checklists
Field Audits	QA audits, compliance reviews
Ongoing Maintenance	Refreshers, advanced courses, re-standardization

Open-Marketplace Approach

In addition to FDA, training providers—including academic institutions, nonprofits, and commercial entities—can offer training to regulatory and laboratory professionals.



RLTS Governance

• T

Steering/ Advisory
Committee

National Coordination Center

NCIMS

National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments



AAFCO
Association of American Feed Control Officials



NACCHO
National Association of County & City Health Officials



USDA
Food Safety and Inspection Service



astho®

NASDA

neha



Sub-Committees and
Workgroups

What's Been Built



Developed 7 best practices/SOPs collaboratively with **Advisory Committees with members from federal agencies, SLTT, academia, and industry**

Best Practices (Quality Standards):

- Learning Resource Content Development
- Learning Resource Design
- Learning Resource Delivery

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs):

- SCORE (Submission & Alignment Process)
- NCS Development and Maintenance
- Demonstration of Competency

Strategic Comms Subgroup

ifpti.org/rfts

RLTS Website

New, updated RLTS website that will allow us to share up-to-date information with our audiences:



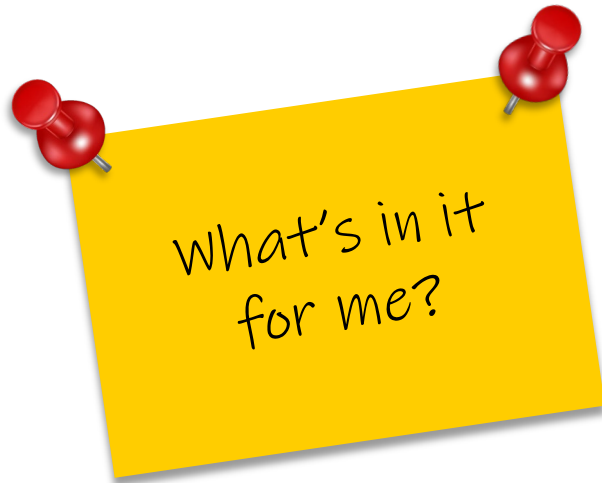
Up Next:

Standardized presentation for conferences

Updated Strategic Communications Plan for RLTS launch

Publications Subgroup: Dedicated papers and op-eds for the RLTS

Benefits for the RLTS User



- One-stop shop national listing of resources
- Timely access to quality resources
 - Courses, assessments, alternative attainment
 - Learning paths
- Career pathways & performance plans
- Individual competency profile tracking
 - Portability – take your profile with you
 - Workforce readiness, cross jurisdictional recognition

What's Next

- Amend Standards #2 of the Regulatory Program Standards to align with NCS
 - CFP approved 2025
- RLTS Subgroup work continues (Communications, Market Analysis, and Publications)
 - Sustainability Plan
 - Food Safety Magazine article
- Resource submission system
 - Resource competency profiles
 - Starting with FDA catalog
- User interfaces – launch Summer 2026





References

- [IFPTI NCS](#)
- [National Curriculum Framework for Regulators](#)
- [National Curriculum Framework for Laboratorians](#)
- [RLTS Website](#)

