

# FDA Classification of Seaweed

## Seaweed is a "raw agricultural commodity"

A raw agricultural commodity - also referred to as a RAC - includes any food in its raw or natural state. It does not include food that has been processed or manufactured.



## Examples of raw agricultural commodities

Fruit, vegetables, grains, nuts, eggs, raw milk, meats, and similar agricultural products.



## FDA does not consider seaweed to be produce

Seaweed is not covered by the Produce Safety Rule (PSR). The PSR's list of covered produce does not currently include seaweed or algae, though the list could be amended in the future.



## FDA does not consider seaweed to be seafood.

The Seafood HACCP regulations do not include algae in the definition of fish or fishery product.



## Seaweed is potentially subject to FDA's Preventive Controls Rule

Seaweed operations may be exempt based on the type of seaweed product produced or face modified requirements due to the monetary value of the seaweed products sold.