

Senior VP, Regulatory & Scientific Affairs

International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) is seeking an individual with notable regulatory and scientific expertise in the dairy processing industry or related fields to lead the trade association's Regulatory & Scientific Affairs division. This is an Executive Level role as a part of IDFA's Executive Team and will report directly to the CEO.

This executive will be responsible for overseeing a team of subject matter experts who monitor, assess, and engage on matters of importance to the dairy processing industry, including dairy manufacturing and marketing standards, food safety, nutrition, labeling, and environmental and worker health and safety measures. The expert will lead and manage cross-functional workplans internally with colleagues and externally with association members with a focus on informing, advocating for, and assessing risk on emerging regulations/guidance, providing timely sharing of best practices, and delivering relevant intelligence and perspective to drive IDFA's progress and sufficiently meet member needs. Additionally, the SVP, Regulatory & Scientific Affairs, will develop and lead programming to educate association members on relevant issues, and participate in and lead committees and professional working groups of peers in the food, beverage, and agriculture industries.

A successful candidate will enhance and support the visibility of IDFA's efforts with regulators, policymakers, and a variety of other key stakeholders, including relevant allies across the food and agriculture sector to drive progress and support for shared outcomes. This person, along with their team, will shape and create relevant positions on regulatory policy topics. This role will greatly contribute to supporting IDFA's perspective in the regulatory and scientific community and be the industry spokesperson in leading a meaningful and effective dialogue on issues affecting the dairy industry.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

- Manage and oversee the Regulatory & Scientific Affairs Team, serve as a subject matter expert in dairy manufacturing and marketing standards, food safety, nutrition, labeling, environmental and worker health and safety measures, and others.
- Coordinate with the legislative, communications and membership teams and provide thought-leadership and strategic input at the Executive Level.
- Focus on risk assessment/management/advocacy, technical problem solving, scientific research, nutrition, food science, and food safety science, with a full understanding of dairy industry and supply chain and within relevant federal agencies including FDA, USDA, EPA, and OSHA.
- Work with relevant team leads to co-develop and implement a regulatory and scientific viewpoint and strategy that delivers value to IDFA members and the entire dairy processing industry.

- Participate in relevant conferences and speaking opportunities; and be the voice of the Regulatory & Scientific Affairs Team at IDFA Spring/Fall Board Meetings and all Membership Updates.
- Work in partnership with Membership Team and others to develop or contribute to conference agendas and speaker programs for Regulatory RoundUp, Ice Cream Technology Conference, Yogurt & Cultured Innovation Conference, and the IDFA Dairy Forum.
- Oversee Regulatory & Scientific Affairs business unit annual budget planning, manage goals/deliverables of the RSA Team, and provide mid- and year-end performance reviews.
- Analyze and assess impact of meaningful emerging regulatory policies and effectively engage in strategic engagement and advocacy with colleagues, collaborators, clients, regulatory entities, and association members as appropriate.
- Coordinate with government and industry entities to understand and anticipate evolving regulatory changes and trends (food safety, labeling, nutrition, etc.) and work with internal team members to respond appropriately.
- Work with IDFA members and strategic partners to ensure members have necessary resources and information to ensure best practices and guidelines of performance.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- PhD in biological sciences preferred, with an ideal focus on food nutrition, food science, microbiology, toxicology.
- Master's degree acceptable with longstanding relevant experience and strong expertise level in areas mentioned above.
- 20+ years in the food industry with experience managing subject matter expert staff and business unit resources, preferably with familiarity with the dairy industry.
- Strong focus on nutrition policy/science versus food safety, and learnings about USDA and FDA offices and agencies.
- This position is available for full-time telework, if desired, but the person must be willing to travel several times a year to IDFA's Washington, DC offices, industry meetings in Chicago, and other meetings and conferences as needed.
- Must have strong leadership skills and be able to lead a team with multiple projects.
- Must have strong written and oral communications skills and be able to communicate detailed and often complex technical information to dairy companies and other stakeholders.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

- Expert understanding of the U.S. regulatory and procurement environment, the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, the Farm Bill, Child Nutrition Act, and associated regulations and guidance documents.
- Shown success at regulatory, industry, and partner engagement with ability to lead highly sophisticated situations and engender trust when taking care of critical issues.
- Knowledge/familiarity of the broad food and beverage industry; professional relationships with administration or instructors/researchers at U.S. colleges or universities is also useful.
- Areas of expertise: Human health and nutrition, chemical food safety (toxicology), allergen management, food production and processing, regulatory inspection non-compliances, and food standards.
- A proven leader with a demonstrated ability to deliver value for members, clients, shareholders, or other constituents.
- Positive relationship management and outstanding communication skills.
- Ability to influence without authority, demonstrate resourcefulness, and operate independently.