



# FOOD AND DRUG INSPECTORATE

## Oversee the administration of the Food and Drugs Act and Regulations Chapter 30:01

The **Food and Drug Inspectorate** in Trinidad and Tobago operates under the **Chemistry, Food, and Drugs Division (CFDD)** of the **Ministry of Health**. It is the regulatory agency responsible for ensuring that food, drugs, cosmetics, and medical devices meet national safety and quality standards before they are manufactured, imported, distributed, or sold in Trinidad and Tobago.

A Food and Drug Inspector inspects foods, drugs, cosmetics, chemicals and devices used for the manufacture, processing or preserving of such items to ensure and enforce compliance throughout the nation with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act. Work involves visits to manufacturing establishments and inspecting and sampling of items produced for purity, quality and maintenance of prescribed standards.

## Steps to begin your career

Pursue a Bachelor's Degree in a related field such as Chemistry, Biology, Biochemistry, Nutrition Pharmacology, or Pharmacy.

Gain experience in quality control, research, or health sciences.

Review and become familiar with the Trinidad and Tobago Food and Drugs Act and Regulations.

Look out for job listings on Service Commission Department website or Ministry of Health website.

## Key Skills for Success

**Attention to Detail** – Observe compliance to relevant regulations and record non-compliance in labels, manufacturing processes, and storage conditions.

**Critical Thinking** – Assess safety risks and review corrective actions.

**Communication** – Write clear reports, respond to consumer inquiries and articulate findings to manufacturers/importers.

## Key Responsibilities:

- **Inspection & Compliance** – Visit food processing/ manufacturing plants, supermarkets, importers, distributors, pharmacies, and drug manufacturing facilities to ensure compliance with the Food and Drugs Act and Regulations.
- **Importation Inspections** - Examines imported food, drugs, medical devices and cosmetics at ports of entry.
- **Sample Collection & Testing** – Take food and drug samples for laboratory analysis to detect contamination, illegal additives, or expired products.
- **Labeling** – Verify that food and drug labels meet legal requirements and do not mislead consumers.
- **Consumer Complaints & Investigations** – Respond to reports of substandard processed/packaged foods, counterfeit drugs, or unsanitary conditions.
- **Public Health & Safety** – Educate businesses and the public on best practices for food hygiene, proper drug storage, and safe manufacturing practices.
- **Issuance of Permits and Certificates** - Prepare Certificates related to free sale of locally manufactured products, export of food products, import of pharmaceuticals and licenses for manufacturing premises.