

NETWORK FAQ'S:

- *What is the difference between a Network and a Council?*

While Councils have a vertical focus for the industry segment that in which they operate, FPSA networks will focus on specific areas of work that span across all segments of the food and beverage industry. One example of this is the Food Safety Network. Network members will engage in substantive food safety work which could include creating meaningful content for FPSA members, the Annual Conference program, webinars, or PROCESS EXPO regardless of which segment (or Councils) the participants come from. In what is essentially a matrix structure, (see graphic) information will flow down from Councils to help support this work and up from Networks to inform and educate Councils on critical topics or create a platform for new networking and career opportunities moving up into the vertical segments for Network members.

- *What type of work will the Networks engage in?*

Each Network is going to determine its own mission. However, at this stage we expect they will take the lead or participate in a variety of projects such as:

- ✓ Sessions at Annual Conference
- ✓ Sessions at PROCESS EXPO
- ✓ Meet Ups at PROCESS EXPO
- ✓ Webinars on Critical Topics
- ✓ Relevant Floor Activities at PROCESS EXPO
- ✓ White Papers
- ✓ Other Independent Research

- *The new Networks being formed are Packaging, Food Safety and Technology. What do these mean? What is the scope of the work of these three Networks?*

The scope of work in these three areas will be determined by each Network. Each will hold its first meeting in the coming months with the goal of establishing its mission and defining the wide array of topics that are pertinent to the food processing and packaging industry.

- *Does this announcement change anything for the existing Networks – the Women’s or the Young Professionals Group (YPG)?*

Not really. If anything, it just formalizes a structure that they were already living in. The one difference it will make is that now, it is a priority that each Network has representation from all Councils on it. So, for example, if the YPG did not have someone on the Beverage Council before, it will soon be asked to identify one of its members in this segment who can act as a representative. It’s a tremendous opportunity for learning, sharing specific technical and specialized knowledge, and networking.

- *Can someone be a member of both a Network and a Council?*

Of course! In fact, that is the way the new Networks are being set up, with representation on both to ensure strong communication and collaboration between these important groups.

- *Can Associate Members participate on the Networks?*

Absolutely. We welcome their input.

- *What are the benefits to participating on a network?*

Networking with colleagues, subject matter experts and other professionals in areas of similar interest across industry segments that one might not typically have access. Additionally, working side-by-side with the experts on critical issues in the food and beverage industry and having access and input to the substantive content that comes as a result of this work.

- *Does one need to be an FPSA member to be part of a Network?*

Participating in the Networks is a membership benefit just like in the case of being a member of a Council. Some exceptions can be made for certain experts such as government officials and academics, so be sure to check with FPSA staff if you fit into that category. Otherwise, consider [joining FPSA](#).

- *What is the time commitment involved in serving on a network?*

As in the case of all FPSA volunteers, the time commitment will be what each individual is willing to invest. Each Network will establish its own mission and what substantive work they wish to engage in. Obviously, the more they wish to gain from their participation, the more time they will need to invest in the work.

For more information or if you have any questions regarding the FPSA's Networks please do not hesitate to contact the FPSA staff.