safety, purity and quality of food and drug products and to prevent misrepresentation in labelling and advertising. There are prohibitions, for example, on the sale of food or drugs that do not meet prescribed standards, are harmful, adulterated, dirty, improperly stored, or manufactured under unsanitary conditions. The Act also prohibits the advertising of any food, drug, cosmetic or medical device as a preventive or cure for a number of serious diseases and also lists drugs that may be sold only by prescription.

Standards of safety and purity are maintained through constant and widespread inspection and laboratory research. The inspection of food-manufacturing establishments plays a major role in the production of clean, wholesome foods. The sale for human consumption of meat from animals that were not healthy at the time of slaughter or that died from disease is expressly prohibited. With advances in modern food technology, methods of laboratory analysis must be developed to assure the safety of new types of ingredients and packaging materials. In recent years there has been an increase in the number of chemicals used in foods and the safety of the foods to which they are added becomes a matter for special research. Another subject of current importance is the bacteriology of frozen foods in guarding against contamination through improper storage of frozen foods already cooked. Since the Food and Drugs Act is intended for the protection of consumers, a section of the Food and Drug Directorate has been established to obtain consumer opinion and deal with individual consumer complaints as well as to provide sound information on which consumers can base opinions.

Drug standards are subject to continuous review and testing. Stringent licensing controls apply to drugs made for injection into the human body, such as vaccines, sera and antibiotics and, prior to licensing, the safety of the product is verified in federal laboratories. Detailed information on all new drugs must be reviewed by the Directorate before release for sale is permitted. The listing of drugs to be sold only on prescription is determined in co-operation with the medical and pharmaceutical associations. In general, any drug that can be classed as a sedative, hypnotic or tranquillizer goes automatically on the prescription list. To provide more effective control of certain drugs coming mainly under the class of barbiturates and commonly known as 'goof balls', an amendment to the Food and Drugs Act was enacted in 1961. This requires the licensing of persons dealing in these substances, as well as the keeping of special records, and limits the importation, manufacture, distribution and use of such drugs to medical purposes.

The Food and Drug Directorate also administers the Proprietary or Patent Medicine Act which is concerned with the registration before marketing and the annual licensing of secret-formula medicines sold under proprietary or trade names.

Regulation of the supply and use of narcotic drugs is carried out under the Narcotic Control Act. The legislation, as revised in 1961, authorizes more severe penalties for smuggling and trafficking in narcotic drugs, and introduces special provisions relating to the control and custody of narcotic addicts for purposes of treatment. The minimum sentence of six months for illegal possession is removed and the legislation now prescribes a penalty of seven years with no minimum for this offence; the maximum penalty for trafficking is increased from 14 years to life imprisonment; and illegal export and import is established as a special offence for which the minimum and maximum penalties are, respectively, seven years and life imprisonment. Persons convicted of offences under the Act who are found to be drug addicts may be sentenced for treatment, for an indeterminate period, in institutions that will operate under the penitentiaries system and the National Parole Board service.

During 1962 three amendments to the Food and Drug Act were enacted to reinforce certain aspects pertaining to the control of drugs. These were concerned with providing authority (1) to prescribe the conditions respecting the distribution of samples of drugs by pharmaceutical manufacturers to the medical, dental, veterinary and pharmacy professions; (2) to prohibit the sale of certain designated drugs (Schedule H) in the interests of public health; and (3) to define more clearly the requirements regarding the introduction of new drugs for clinical trial and marketing.