

Subject: FMI Board Policy Statement on the Use of Artificial Intelligence

Issue: There has been a rapid rise in the use of tools with artificial intelligence (AI), amplified in the past year due to the widespread influx of generative AI products. As the technology and related frameworks continue to evolve, FMI and our members are committed to promoting the safe, reliable, responsible, and ethical use of AI while leveraging its potential benefits for the food industry.

This policy statement addresses FMI members' commitment to the safe, reliable, responsible, and ethical use of artificial intelligence within the food industry.

Recommendation: To adopt the following Policy Statement on the Use of Artificial Intelligence.

FMI Board Policy Statement on the Use of Artificial Intelligence

Date: January 19, 2024

In an era marked by rapid technological advancements, artificial intelligence (AI) and generative AI (GenAI) have emerged as transformative tools for the food industry. While FMI and our members are committed to embracing new technologies that support its mission, we also recognize the risks associated with AI. Our goal is to promote the safe, responsible, and ethical use of AI to protect employees, members, suppliers, customers, and the organization.

Principles

Responsible Use of AI

FMI and our members advocate for the development and use of AI in a manner that respects human dignity, rights, and freedoms. AI enhances human capability. Use of AI should be focused on enhancing customer service and driving operational efficiency.

Reliability and Safety

AI systems should perform the expected tasks with the right level of accuracy, reliability, and compliance, within the context for which they were designed.

Transparency and Accountability

The use of AI technologies should be clearly communicated to stakeholders and customers when employed in ways that might affect privacy, human dignity, rights, and freedoms, ensuring accountability in AI-driven outcomes.

Data Privacy and Security

The use of AI and GenAI should adhere to all relevant standards of data privacy and security. AI systems should be designed to safeguard sensitive and personal data, complying with all relevant data protection laws and regulations.

Inclusivity and Fairness

AI users should regularly review and evaluate AI systems to ensure they are fair, inclusive, and non-discriminatory.

Compliance with Legal and Ethical Standards

AI initiatives should comply with existing legal norms and relevant ethical standards, as appropriate. FMI will support members in staying informed about relevant AI laws and regulations.

FMI and our members encourage regular evaluations and updates of AI systems to improve their efficacy, address emerging issues, and adapt to evolving legal and ethical standards.

These principles will be reviewed regularly to reflect the rapidly evolving advancements in AI and changes in legal and ethical standards. Amendments will be made as necessary to ensure the principles remain effective and relevant.

These principles reflect FMI's and our members' goal to promote the adoption of AI and GenAI for the food industry responsibly and ethically, balancing innovation while adhering to transparent and inclusive practices.