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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**INFORMATION TO MEMBERS: UNITED STATES – REQUIREMENT FOR ADDITIONAL
TRACEABILITY RECORDS FOR CERTAIN FOODS**

SUBMISSION BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The following document, received on 13 November 2020, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the United States of America.

1.1. On 23 September 2020, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published a proposed regulation to establish additional traceability record-keeping requirements for persons who manufacture, process, pack, or hold certain foods defined in the regulation. It was notified to the WTO with notification: [G/SPS/N/USA/3203](#). If finalized, the proposed rule, titled "Requirements for Additional Traceability Records for Certain Foods" would implement section 204(d) of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act. It is also a key component of FDA's New Era of Smarter Food Safety blueprint.

1.2. Food traceability is the ability to follow the movement of a food product and its ingredients through all steps in the supply chain, both backward and forward. Traceability involves documenting and linking the production, processing, and distribution chain of food products and ingredients.

1.3. In the case of a foodborne illness outbreak or contamination event, efficient product tracing helps the FDA and those who produce and sell food to rapidly find the source of the contaminated product and identify where contamination may have occurred. This enables faster removal of the affected products from the marketplace, reducing incidences of foodborne illnesses.

1.4. The proposed rule would require persons who manufacture, process, pack, or hold foods on the Food Traceability List (including foods that contain foods on the list as ingredients) to keep certain records describing their traceability operations and the listed foods they handle. This information can help FDA understand their traceability procedures and records when reviewing them during a foodborne illness outbreak or a routine inspection.

1.5. The record-keeping requirements in the proposed rule would only apply to foods on the Food Traceability List (including foods that contain foods on the list as ingredients).

1.6. FDA is accepting comments through 21 January 2021. After the comment period closes, FDA will publish the final rule and Food Traceability List.

1.7. FDA will be holding a series of three public meetings to discuss the proposed rule. The public meetings are open to all interested parties. Additional information about these meetings and registrations is available on the FDA website.

More information

a. Documents

- Federal Register Notice: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/09/23/2020-20100/requirements-for-additional-traceability-records-for-certain-foods>;

- Proposed Food Traceability List: <https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/food-traceability-list>.

 - b. Links
 - Food traceability rule: <https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/fsma-proposed-rule-food-traceability>;
 - New Era of Smarter Food Safety: <https://www.fda.gov/food/new-era-smarter-food-safety>;
 - Public meeting: Information on the public meetings, including registration information, is available through FDA's website at: <https://www.fda.gov/food/cfsan-constituent-updates/fda-hold-public-meetings-discuss-requirements-additional-traceability-records-certain-foods-proposed>.
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