

## ABC Global Update

### Upcoming Public Meetings Ahead of Codex Food Labeling and Codex Food Hygiene Committee Sessions

On August 25, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) published two notices in the *Federal Register* notifying of upcoming meetings to provide information and receive public comments on draft positions of the U.S. ahead of two separate, official Codex meetings. These include the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) and the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH).

The USDA meeting concerning CCFL will discuss drafting provisions on labeling applicable to all foods, and matters referred to the Committee by Codex and other codex Subsidiary Bodies. The meeting will take place September 13, 2017 and at the FDA offices in College Park, Maryland, and the 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCFL will take place October 16-20 in Asuncion, Paraguay. For more information on topics covered, attending, and submitting public comments, please see the U.S. *Federal Register* **notice**

The USDA meeting concerning CCFH will discuss topics concerned with basic provisions for food hygiene, including those proposed by other Codex commodity committees. This meeting will take place at the USDA's offices in Washington, D.C. on October 11, 2017, and the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCFH is scheduled for November 13-17 in Chicago, Illinois. For more information on topics covered, attending, and submitting public comments, please see the U.S. *Federal Register* **notice**. Documents for all upcoming sessions are

available at the [Codex Alimentarius](#) website.

### European Commission Food and Veterinary Office Visit

The European Commission Food and Veterinary Office visited U.S. pistachios and peanuts from September 4-15, 2017. The focus of the visit was to better understand food safety and export controls for both of the commodities. ABC had the opportunity to assist by working with the Port of Oakland to arrange a tour of the SSA terminal.

ABC will be meeting the European Commission Food and Veterinary Office – Directorate F at the end of September in Ireland to discuss the Pre-Export Check program and import controls.

### Trade Agreements

#### NAFTA

The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of NAFTA negotiations wrapped up in Mexico City, Mexico on September 5<sup>th</sup> 2017. All three countries have vowed to have negotiations wrapped up by December 31, 2017. Discussions have focused around rules of origin for automobiles and intellectual property rights, while discussions around agriculture have been relatively quiet with the exception of the Southeast produce growers who are pushing negotiators to implement seasonal and regional tariffs on Mexican imports that make it difficult to compete. President Trump has reiterated that the U.S. could still withdraw from NAFTA if a good deal could not be reached. The next round of NAFTA will take place in Ottawa,

Canada from September 23-27, 2017.

#### KORUS

The U.S. and South Korea met in a special session on August 22, 2017. The U.S. stated concern over a trade deficit between the two countries. South Korea requested an examination of what is causing the deficit stating it believed that the free trade agreement has been mutually beneficial. On September 3, 2017, President Trump announced that the U.S. may have to withdraw from the free trade agreement if the two sides could not come to an agreement. The announcement was met with heavy push back from government and business leaders alike. This has prompted USTR to announce the withdraw from KORUS has now been taken off the table.

#### France to Vote Against Glyphosate License Renewal

The European Commission (EC) called for a vote regarding the authorization of glyphosate on June 29, 2017, and at the time, the European Union (EU) Member States could not reach a majority. Consequently, the EC adopted an extension of the approval of glyphosate for a limited period.

EU Member states now plan to vote on extending the license on October 4 and, according to media sources, France will vote against the EC's proposal to renew the license. France and Germany have previously abstained on the glyphosate license votes.

The most recent extension is limited to six months after the receipt of the

European Chemicals Agency [assessment](#) of the potential carcinogenicity of glyphosate, and expires on December 15, 2017.

The EC similarly issued a temporarily extended the authorization of glyphosate in June 2016, despite a 2015 European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) [assessment](#) that determined the substance is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic threat to humans (*BCI Monitor* 7-1-16). Conflicting opinions by other organizations have contributed to a dispute regarding the re-authorization of glyphosate.

Glyphosate is the most frequently used herbicide in the world and within the EU, and its loss would cause a large disruption in the agriculture industry. More information regarding the glyphosate extension and approval process can be found [here](#)

**China Releases White Paper on Food Import Situation**

In July, China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) released the "2016 White Paper on the Safety and Quality of Imported Foods." The White Paper reports statistics on China's growing food imports, the main causes for food shipment rejections, and the oversight process for imported foods.

China has diversified the origin of its food imports as well as the categories and varieties of the goods. In 2016, China imported goods from 187 regions, with the European Union (EU), Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the U.S. accounting for over 50 percent of the total import value.

In 2016, China continued to face a slower annual growth rate for imported food with the average over the past five years being 2.6 percent. China has a national savings rate 26 percentage points higher than the global average and correspondingly low consumption, which contribute to the slowing import food growth rate.

However, the International Monetary Fund in a recent [report](#) revised China's general growth outlook up in comparison to last year. Growth between 2017 and 2021 for the world's second largest economy is now expected to average 6.4 percent, compared to 6 percent last year.

A U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agriculture (USDA) Service (FAS) GAIN [report](#) has a full translation of the 2016 White Paper.

**Other Updates**

Following is the latest on several on-going issues:

- Fosetyl/Phosphonate dossier still being evaluated by French authorities.
- China AQSIQ has advised new health certificate *does not* apply to almonds.
- Request for China market access for almond hulls is under review with AQSIQ.

**New! ABC Trade & Regulatory Affairs Website**

The ABC Global Technical and Regulatory Affairs is pleased to announce a new portion of almonds.com. The new section is tailored to trade and regulatory affairs issues. To get to the new website click [here](#), or go to: [www.almonds.com/processors/international-trade](http://www.almonds.com/processors/international-trade)

Please contact Beth Van Meter to provide feedback or if you have an idea for content.

**The Almond Conference**

**Reminder!** Many of these issues will be covered during the Almond Conference, which is being held December 5-7, 2017 in Sacramento.

**Be sure to register now**, the Almond Conference is expected to be the largest ever, with over 4,000 attendees and 250 exhibitors. Hotels are now accepting reservations. Register at: [www.Almondconference.com](http://www.Almondconference.com)

**Travel**

- **September 18-22**  
Bunnie Ibrahim will be traveling to Washington DC for the United Fresh Conference and congressional staffer meetings.
- **September 19-20**  
Richard Waycott in Washington DC for meetings with the USDA.
- **September 24-28**  
Beth Van Meter will be in Ireland, Spain, and the U.K. to discuss import controls with respective authorities.

**Staff Contacts:**  
 Julie: [jadams@almondboard.com](mailto:jadams@almondboard.com)  
 Beth: [evanmeter@almondboard.com](mailto:evanmeter@almondboard.com)  
 Gabriele: [gludwig@almondboard.com](mailto:gludwig@almondboard.com)  
 Jesse: [jroseman@almondboard.com](mailto:jroseman@almondboard.com)  
 Bunnie: [bibrahim@almondboard.com](mailto:bibrahim@almondboard.com)

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