



**CHEESE IMPORTERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

Bulletin 18-04 January 25, 2018

CIAA Bulletin

**An Exclusive CIAA Member
Update**

FDA Issues Several FSMA Guidance Documents *CIAA Member Input is Requested*

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued five guidance documents yesterday to help importers and food producers meet key food safety provisions mandated by the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). A formal notice soliciting comments on these guidance documents is in today's [Federal Register](#). Comments on complying with FSVP requirements are due May 25.

CIAA members are encouraged to review these various guidance documents and share your thoughts with us so that CIAA can submit informed comments.

Two of these documents will be of particular interest to CIAA members. According to FDA, the [draft guidance](#) provides FDA's current thinking on how best to comply with the FSVP requirements. Importers are responsible for ensuring that their foreign suppliers use processes and procedures that provide at least the same level of public health protection as the preventive controls or produce safety regulations, if applicable, and to ensure that the suppliers' food is not adulterated or misbranded with respect to allergen labeling. The [Small Entity Compliance Guide \(SECG\)](#) offers specific guidance to small businesses.

The third [draft guidance](#) addresses the term "same level of public health protection" that is used in both the [FSVP](#) regulation and the [Produce Safety](#) regulation. This draft guidance aims to provide a framework for determining the adequacy of a process, procedure, or other action intended to provide the same level of protection as those required under the FSMA regulations for produce and for human or animal food.

The fourth guidance is another chapter in the draft guidance that FDA has been issuing to help food processors and manufacturers comply with the regulation implementing FSMA's requirements for hazard analysis and risk-based preventive controls for human food. This [chapter](#) is designed to help food facilities comply with the supply-chain program requirements of that regulation.

FDA also issued [guidance](#) announcing the agency's intention to exercise enforcement discretion with regard to the application of the FSVP regulation to certain importers of grains brought into the United States as raw agricultural commodities (RACs). This enforcement discretion is meant to better align the FSVP rule with the exemption for non-produce RACs under the PC rules.

Please contact Roger Szemraj, CIAA's Director of Government Relations and Legislative Affairs at rszemraj@theciaa.org or (202) 789-1212 with any questions or comments you might have.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 1, 2018 (approximately)

FAS issues final notice of calendar year 2018 licenses to licensees

March 15, 2018

The license fee for each license issued is due and payable in full no later than March 15 of the year for which the license is issued. Licenses issued after March 15 of any quota year are payable in full no later than 10 days from the date of issuance. Fee payments are payable to the Treasurer of the United States and shall be made solely utilizing the electronic software designated for the purpose by the Licensing Authority

May 4, 2018

Member Meeting
9:00 am - 11:00 am
Saddle Brook Marriott
Saddle Brook, NJ

May 4, 2018

Dinner Gala
Liberty House Restaurant
6:30 pm - 10:30 pm
Jersey City, NJ

July 2, 2018

Last day for an exporting country that is not designating importers for calendar year 2018 to notify FAS

August 31, 2018

Last day to enter dairy products into U.S. Customs territory that may be used to qualify and establish eligibility for a calendar year 2019 license.

* If a deadline date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the deadline will be the next business day (Section 6.36(a) of the Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Quota Licensing Regulation). This does not apply to dates of entry for eligibility.

Cheese Importers Association of America

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