Administration's Reorganization Plan Proposes to Move FDA Food Safety Responsibilities to USDA

Congressional Action Required Before Proposal May Be Implemented

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has issued a proposal entitled "Delivering Government Solutions in the 21st Century - Reform Plan and Reorganization Recommendations". As part of this plan, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection and food safety functions of HHS's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) would be combined into a single agency within USDA.

Actual implementation of this plan requires Congressional action to modify existing statutes assigning various food safety responsibilities to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as opposed to the Secretary of Agriculture. Should the reorganization occur, responsibility for all food safety activities, including those under the Food Safety and Modernization Act, would fall to USDA. According to the proposal, approximately 5,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees and $1.3 billion from FDA would be merged with about 9,200 FTEs and $1 billion in resources in USDA.

The idea of a single food safety agency has been discussed before, with various bills having been introduced over the years in Congress to do so. However, these prior proposals would have set up this single agency as an independent agency rather than as part of USDA or any other department. The Obama Administration also made a similar proposal regarding FDA in early 2015.

The full reorganization proposal would realign other USDA programs, moving the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps) and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program to a renamed Department of Health and Public Welfare, and rural housing programs to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Departments of Education and Labor would be combined.

We will continue to report on any further developments, including Congressional consideration.
DATES TO REMEMBER

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.

September 1, 2018
First day of 2018 license applications
Last day to request a globalization of a calendar year 2018 license

September 15, 2018
Last day of licensees applying for reallocated license amounts for 2018

October 1, 2018
Last day to surrender 2018 license amounts

October 15, 2018
Last day of 2018 license applications

October 20-24, 2018
SIAL Trip to Paris, France
Click here to register

* 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.

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