



Bulletin 15-26 July 10, 2015

CIAA Bulletin

An Exclusive CIAA Member
Update

United States and Switzerland Set Agreement to Streamline Organic Trade

The United States and Switzerland announced that beginning July 10, 2015, organic products certified in the United States or Switzerland may be sold as organic in either country. According to a [release from the US Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#), The organic equivalency arrangement between the two nations is characterized as one that will streamline organic trade, strengthen organic agriculture and support jobs and businesses on a global scale.



The agreement was signed by Johann N. Schneider-Ammann, Federal Councillor, Switzerland; Krysta Harden, Deputy Secretary, USDA; and Darci Vetter, Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). Daniel Schnyder, CIAA's Treasurer and the Director of Import Procurement & Licensing for Emmi Roth USA, attended the event.

This agreement can facilitate the importation of organic cheeses produced in Switzerland. Similar agreements have been reached previously with Canada, the European Union, Japan, and Korea.

The National Organic Program (NOP) is administered by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. To import product, a NOP Import Certificate must be filled out by an accredited certifying agent and accompany each shipment; the certifying agent must provide the signed NOP import certificate to the certified operation so it may travel with the product to the U.S. Here is a [link to all organic certifying agents](#) accredited by the USDA-NOP.

According to USDA's announcement, technical experts from the United States and Switzerland conducted thorough on-site audits to ensure that their regulations, quality control measures, certification requirements and labeling practices were compatible. The United States and Switzerland will review each other's programs periodically to verify that the terms of the arrangement are being met.

If you have any questions, please contact Roger Szemraj at rszemraj@theciaa.org or (202) 789-1212.

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 31, 2015

Last day to Enter dairy products into U.S. Customs territory that may be used to qualify and establish eligibility for a calendar year 2016 license.

September 1, 2015

First day of license eligibility period for next quota year-plus one. Example: entries made on September 1, 2015 can be used to establish eligibility for a license for calendar year 2016: the last day to enter items to qualify for a 2016 license will be August 31, 2016.

September 15, 2015

Last transmission date for licensees applying for reallocated license amounts for calendar year 2015.

October 1, 2015

Last transmission date for licensees to surrender the unused portion for the 2015 calendar year.

October 15, 2015

Last transmission date for all applications for 2016 calendar year licenses.

November 5, 2015

CIAA Member Meeting

9:30 am - 11:30 am

Location: Saddle Brook Marriott, Saddle Brook, NJ

December 22, 2015 (approximately)

FAS issues first notice of calendar year 2016 licenses to licensees.

December 31, 2015

Last day for licensees to make entries to fulfill the requirement to use 85% of their calendar year 2015

license amount. Last day for which calendar year 2015 licenses are valid.

January 17, 2016

CIAA Fancy Food Show Reception

5:00 pm- 7:30 pm

Thirsty Bear Brewery

San Francisco, CA

* 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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