



**CHEESE IMPORTERS  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

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**CIAA Bulletin**

**An Exclusive CIAA Member  
Update**

## **Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Processed Foods Issues Addendum to its Report Regarding United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement**

The Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) for Trade in Processed Foods has issued an [addendum](#) to [its earlier report](#) regarding the [United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement](#) (USMCA). Former CIAA President Tom Gellert serves as a member of this ATAC representing the CIAA.

In this addendum, the Committee addressed cheese provisions as follows:

### **U.S.-Mexico Side Letter on Cheese Names**

*The Committee remains seriously concerned that the list of "terms used in connection with cheeses from U.S. producers currently being marketed in Mexico" does not include critical generic terms (such as parmesan and romano) that have been commonly marketed by U.S. producers and also does not protect use of these terms for products made in Mexico. Any limitation on use of generic terms could prevent U.S. companies from gaining market access for newly innovated products which is necessary to meet shifting market needs. The Committee insists it is critical for USTR to clarify that omission of a specific product name does not eliminate U.S. market access rights for that product.*

The Committee further requests the administration clarify the definition of "U.S. products" in the phrase: "market access of U.S. products in Mexico is not restricted due to the mere use of these individual terms."

The reports of all of the Advisory Committees can be found [here](#).

Congress is expected to examine the terms of the USMCA and related analyses early in 2019, and this review could be significantly impacted by the results of this week's midterm Congressional elections.

## **FDA Issues Draft Guidance on Food Labeling: Serving Sizes of Foods**

In the November 5, 2018 Federal Register, the [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) [announced](#) the availability of a [draft guidance](#) for industry entitled "Food Labeling: Serving Sizes of Foods That Can Reasonably Be Consumed At One Eating Occasion, Reference Amounts Customarily Consumed, Serving Size-Related Issues, Dual-Column Labeling, and Miscellaneous Topics."

According to FDA, this guidance provide questions and answers on topics related primarily to two final rules: (1) "Food Labeling: Serving Sizes of Foods That Can Reasonably Be Consumed At One Eating Occasion; Dual-Column Labeling; Updating, Modifying, and Establishing Certain Reference Amounts Customarily Consumed; Serving Size for Breath Mints; and Technical Amendments"; and (2) "Food Labeling: Revision of the Nutrition and Supplement Facts Labels."

FDA's guidance documents, do not establish legally enforceable responsibilities. Instead, they describe FDA's current thinking on a topic and should be viewed only as recommendations, unless specific regulatory or statutory requirements are cited.

While cheese-containing products, e.g. cracker and cheese packs and macaroni and cheese kits, are referenced at various points, the only specific reference related to cheese follows:

*For random weight products, you may declare "varied" for the number of servings per container provided the nutrition information is based on the RACC expressed in the appropriate household measure based on the hierarchy described in 21 CFR 101.9(b)(5) (21 CFR 101.9(b)(8)(iii)). Random weight products are foods such as cheeses that are sold as random weights that vary in size, such that the net contents for different containers would vary. You may provide the typical number of servings in parentheses following the statement "varied" (e.g., "varied (usually 5 servings)" or "varied (usually 4 to 6 servings)") (21 CFR 101.9(b)(8)(iii)).*

Comments on the draft guidance may be submitted to FDA by January 4, 2019.

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### ***Dates to Remember***

**November 9, 2018**

Member Meeting 9:30 am - 11:30 am Saddle Brook Marriott, Saddle Brook, NJ

**December 21, 2018 (approximately)**

FAS issues first notice of calendar year 2019 licenses to licensees.

**December 31, 2018**

Last day for licensees to make entries to fulfill the requirement to use 85% of their calendar year 2018 license amount. Last day for which calendar year 2018 licenses are valid.

**December 31, 2018**

All Food Facility Registrations must be renewed with FDA by this date.

**January 1, 2019**

First day of validity for calendar year 2019 licenses.

**January 13, 2019**

CIAA Fancy Food Show Reception  
5:00 pm- 7:30 pm  
Thirsty Bear Brewery  
San Francisco, CA

**March 1, 2019 (approximately)**

FAS issues final notice of calendar year 2019 licenses to licensees

**March 15, 2019**

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.

**July 2, 2019**

Last day for an exporting country that is not designating importers for calendar year 2019 to notify FAS

**August 31, 2019**

Last day to enter dairy products into U.S. Customs territory that may be used to qualify and establish eligibility for a calendar year 2020 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.**

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