



NOTIFICATION

1.	Notifying Member: <u>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
3.	Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Human food under the jurisdiction of the US Food and Drug Administration which excludes meat, poultry and processed egg products. HS Codes: 03, 04, 05, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22; ICS Codes: 65, 67
4.	Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
5.	Title of the notified document: Accreditation of Third-Party Auditors/Certification Bodies to Conduct Food Safety Audits and to Issue Certifications, Proposed Rule Language(s): English Number of pages: 59 http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-07-29/pdf/2013-17994.pdf https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2013/sps/USA/13_3029_00_e.pdf
6.	Description of content: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is amending its regulations to provide for the option of accreditation of third-party auditors/certification bodies to conduct food safety audits of foreign food entities, including registered foreign food facilities, and to issue food and facility certifications, under the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Use of accredited third-party auditors/certification bodies and food and facility certifications would be voluntary and will help FDA prevent potentially harmful food from reaching US consumers and thereby improve the safety of the US food supply. FDA also expects that these regulations will increase efficiency by reducing the number of redundant food safety audits. Importers will not generally be required to obtain certifications, but in certain circumstances the FDA may use certifications from accredited auditors in determining whether to admit certain imported food into the United States that the FDA has determined poses a food safety risk or in determining whether an importer is eligible to participate in a voluntary program now under development for expedited review and entry of food.
7.	Objective and rationale: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests.
8.	Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text) Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification (CAC/GL 20-1995)

<p><input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</p>
<p>9. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: FDA Food Safety Modernization Act at "http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-111publ353/pdf/PLAW-111publ353.pdf" (G/SPS/N/USA/2156) (available in English)</p>
<p>10. Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy): Not applicable Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy): Not applicable</p>
<p>11. Proposed date of entry into force: <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</p>
<p>12. Final date for comments: <input type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): 26 November 2013</p> <p>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body: You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. FDA-2011-N-0146 and/or Regulatory Information Number (RIN) 0910-AG66, by any of the following methods.</p> <p>Electronic Submissions Submit electronic comments in the following way: Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.</p> <p>Written Submissions Submit written submissions in the following ways: Mail/Hand delivery/Courier (for paper or CD-ROM submissions): Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.</p> <p>Instructions: All submissions received must include the Agency name and Docket No. FDA-2011-N-0146 and/or RIN 0910-AG66 for this rulemaking. All comments received may be posted without change to http://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided. For additional information on submitting comments, see the Comments heading of the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document.</p> <p>Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to http://www.regulations.gov and insert the docket number, found in brackets in the heading of this document, into the Search box and follow the prompts and/or go to the Division of Dockets Management, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.</p>
<p>13. Texts available from: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>United States SPS National Notification Authority, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, International Regulations and Standards Division (IRSD), Stop 1014, Washington D.C. 20250; Tel: +(1 202) 720 1301; Fax: +(1 202) 720 0433; E-mail: us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov</p> <p>The text is available at: 78 FR 45782 and "http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-07-29/pdf/2013-17994.pdf"</p>