

## **G/TBT/N/CHN/190**

2006 No. 44

### Notice on Modifying the Labelling Audit System for Import and Export Foods and Cosmetics

To follow the guidelines of the State Council for reforming the administrative examination and approval system, simplify the procedures, and facilitate imports and exports, we, upon deliberation, have decided to modify the labelling audit system for import and export foods and cosmetics, as set out below:

I. The labels of import foods and cosmetics must comply with the PRC laws, regulations and mandatory standards (for relevant laws, regulations and standards, please refer to the website of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China, [www.aqsiq.gov.cn](http://www.aqsiq.gov.cn), click on “safety of import and export foods and cosmetics”, and go to “management of labels of import and export foods and cosmetics”); the labels of export foods and cosmetics must comply with the requirements of the importing country/region.

II. As from 1 April 2006, the labelling audit for import and export foods and cosmetics will be conducted together with their inspection and quarantine, and a pre-audit will no longer be conducted. The relevant authorities at various levels will no longer handle applications for pre-auditing labels of import and export foods and cosmetics, and the entry and exit inspection and quarantine authorities will no longer require presentation of a Labelling Audit Certificate for Import (Export) Foods and Cosmetics before inspection and quarantine.

III. The local entry and exit inspection and quarantine authorities, when conducting inspection and quarantine on import and export foods and cosmetics, will check whether the labels of the import and export foods and cosmetics comply with the relevant laws, regulations and standards and whether the quality related contents are true and accurate; and if the results

meet the requirements, will add “Audited labels are found to meet the standard” in the inspection certificates issued as stipulated.

Before 1 October 2006, if the labels of import and export foods and cosmetics do not comply with the PRC laws, regulations and mandatory standards, corrections are made under the supervision of the entry and exit inspection and quarantine authorities until the labels meet the requirements.

As from 1 October 2006, labels of import foods and cosmetics that do not comply with the PRC laws, regulations and standards will be handled pursuant to Article 19 of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Import and Export Commodity Inspection; and labels of export foods and cosmetics that do not comply with the provisions of the importing country/region will be handled pursuant to Article 27 of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Import and Export Commodity Inspection.

IV. Labelling Audit Certificates for Import (Export) Foods and Cosmetics already obtained will remain effective; if the labels of the import and export foods match the contents set out in said audit certificate, label audits may be exempted.

Where new certificates are made necessary by the change in requirements on the labelling of foods pursuant to new standards such as the General Standard of the People's Republic of China for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods (GB7718 - 2004) and the General Standard of the People's Republic of China for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses (GB13432 - 2004), the certificates already obtained will be replaced pursuant to Notice on Audit and Replacement of Labelling Audit Certificate for Import Foods issued on 9 December 2005 by the import and export food labelling office of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the PRC. The deadline for replacement of certificates is 1 May 2006. After the aforementioned deadline, certificates not meeting the new requirements under the relevant laws or

standards will automatically become void.

V. Inspection and quarantine conducted by the inspection and quarantine authorities on import and export foods and cosmetics includes labelling audit, test and inspection, and is charged as per the unified inspection and quarantine charging standards and no fee for the labelling audit is collected.

24 March 2006