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Dominican Government Simplifies Sanitary Registration Process

Report Categories:

Dairy and Products

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Report Highlights:

On December 28, 2017, the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MPH) issued two Resolutions, which aim to simplify the process for obtaining the required Sanitary Registration for food and beverage products. These Resolutions clarify that all U.S. food products authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) qualify for the Simplified Procedure to obtain a Sanitary Registration, which is required for all consumer products. Importers should follow the application procedure published by MPH, but must submit a certificate of free sale and a certificate of good manufacturing practices issued by the FDA. Alcoholic beverages and other products identified as low-risk by MPH are also eligible for the Simplified Procedure and do not have to submit these additional certificates. Sources expect that the Simplified Procedure will significantly reduce the wait time for Sanitary Registrations for new products. Additionally, MPH is working to simplify the renewal process for products that already have a Sanitary Registration and through a Notice of Public Consultation informed that they will receive comments until Friday, February 2, 2018 from any natural or legal persons, national or foreign, legally domiciled in the country.

General Information:

Background Information

Since April 1, 2017, food and beverage products produced in the Dominican Republic (DR) and imported must have a current Sanitary Registration (Registro Sanitario in Spanish). Importers register new products with the DR's Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MPH). Once obtained, the sanitary registration number must be printed on the label of the product or be affixed to the product and is valid for five years.

On December 28, 2017, the MPH published two resolutions to simplify the Sanitary Registration process, both of which were effective immediately. Highlights include:

1. Alcoholic beverages are now eligible for the Simplified Procedure for Sanitary Registration (Resolution No. 000020, Article 3). The full list of products that have been identified as low-risk by MPH and are therefore eligible for Sanitary Registration (without additional documentation) now includes:
 - Condensed milk, evaporated milk and milk candy/sweetener (dulce de leche)
 - Fats, oils and fat emulsions
 - Fruits and vegetables (packed)
 - Confectionery/Candy Shop products
 - Cereals and derivatives
 - Bread and bakery and pastry products
 - Sweeteners or sweeteners including honey
 - Sauces, dressings, spices and condiments
 - Non-Alcoholic Beverages (except for bottled water and energy drinks)
 - Alcoholic beverages
 - Dry snacks
 - Broths, soups, creams and dehydrated mixtures.

2. U.S. products not identified as low-risk but authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are eligible for the Simplified Procedure for Sanitary Registration (Resolution No. 000021, Articles 1 and 2). Applicants utilizing these eligibility criteria must submit a certificate of free sale and a certificate of good manufacturing practices issued by FDA.

Importers should follow the application procedure published by MPH, with the exception of the additional certificates identified if required (see item 2 above). Sources anticipate that the Simplified Procedure will reduce the wait time for sanitary registration for eligible new products. MPH is also working to simplify the renewal process for products that already have a sanitary registration and expects to publish the new procedures for public comments in the coming month.

Attached is a detailed comparison of the previous and new requirements for the two Resolutions in both English and Spanish.

For further information, direct questions to:
[Office of Agricultural Affairs \(OAA\)](#)

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