

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Draft Amendments for Food Additives and Food Flavors Standards Notified

Country: China - People's Republic of

Post: Beijing

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Report Highlights:

On May 12, 2026, China submitted notifications of the Amendments of National Food Safety Standards for Food Additives and Food Flavors to the WTO under reference number G/SPS/N/CHN/1371 and G/SPS/N/CHN/1372. The draft amendment of food additives standard deleted some natural and synthetic flavoring substances and removed some substances to food flavors standard for compliance. This report provides analysis and unofficial translations of the draft notifications. The comments may be submitted to the China's SPS National Notification and Enquiry Center at sps@customs.gov.cn until July 11, 2026.

FAS China provides this reporting and analysis as a service to U.S. farmers, ranchers, rural communities, and agribusinesses in support of a worldwide agricultural information system and a level playing field for U.S. agriculture.

On May 12, 2026, China’s State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) and the National Health Commission (NHC) notified two draft amendments of the existing food safety standards:

- No. 1 Amendment to [National Food Safety Standard for Food Additives](#) (GB 2760-2024) under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1371](#)
- No. 1 Amendment to [National Food Safety Standard for Food Flavors](#) (GB 30616-2020) (link in Chinese) under [G/SPS/N/CHN/1372](#)

China’s SAMR and NHC have made coordinated revisions in the two amendments to the existing standards for food additives and food flavors. The major revisions include:

- Removed three substances from Table B.3 “List of Synthetic Flavoring Substances Permitted in Foods” of Appendix B in food additives regulation. After the removals, they will not be allowed for usage as additives in food processing in China.
 - Mintlactone, FEMA¹ code: 3764
 - Estragole, FEMA: 2411
 - 3-Acetyl-2,5-dimethylfuran, FEMA code: 3391
- Removed two food substances from Table B.3 “List of Synthetic Flavoring Substances Permitted in Foods” of Appendix B in Food Additives Standard and added them into Food Flavors Standard as other ingredients in the manufacture of food flavors.
 - Glycerol ester of rosin, FEMA code: 4226: Although it was removed from the synthetic flavoring substances list, glycerol ester of rosin can still be used for other purposes in food additives regulation. For example, glycerol ester of wood rosin (INS² No. 445 (iii)) may be used as emulsifier for coatings of candies and chocolates, and glycerol ester of rosin may also be used as a processing aid for dehairing treatment of livestock and poultry.
 - Gum Arabic, hydrogenocetylbutane dioate, FEMA code: 4227: after removal, the use of the substance needs to comply with Food Flavors Standard (GB 30616).
- Removed one substance from Table B.2 “List of Natural Flavoring Substances Permitted in Foods” and removed two substances from Table B.3 “List of Synthetic Flavoring Substances Permitted in Foods” of Appendix B in Food Additives Standard (GB 2760). They are still allowed for other purposes in food processing and have been previously included in the list of substances permitted for use as solvents and carriers for food flavors in China’s Food Flavors Standard (GB 30616).

¹ Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association

² International Numbering System for Food Additives

- Arabic gum, FEMA code: 2001: after removal from Table B.2 in Food Additive Standard, it can still be used as a food additive (INS No. 414) for thickeners and other purposes, as well as being used as a processing aid for wine processing,
 - 1,2-Propanediol (Propylene glycol), FEMA code: 2940: after removal from Table B.3 in Food Additive Standard, it can still be used as a food additive (INS No. 1520) for fresh wet flour products and pastries, as well as a food processing aid for beer processing.
 - Methyl cellulose, FEMA code: 2696: after removal from Table B.3 in Food Additive Standard, it can still be used as a food additive (INS No. 461) for thickener purposes in China.
- Removed dehydroacetic acid, sodium dehydroacetate from Food Flavors Standard (GB 30616). It remains in the food additives regulation, so it can still be used as a food additive (INS No. 265 and 266) such as a preservative for food categories specified in Food Additives Regulation (GB 2760).

Comments may be submitted to China's SP National Notification and Enquiry Center at sps@customs.gov.cn until July 11, 2026. Stakeholders should conduct their own review of the regulations to assess any market or regulatory effect on their business.

BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Amendment No. 1 to National Food Safety Standard for the Use of Food Additives (GB 2760-2024) (Draft for Comments)

This amendment was approved by Announcement No. [] of 202X, jointly issued by the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China and the State Administration for Market Regulation, and shall come into effect as of the date of approval.

Amendment Items

Table B.2 in Appendix B

1. Delete Arabic gum (Code N249, FEMA No. 2001);

Table B.3 in Appendix B

1. Delete 1,2-Propanediol (Propylene glycol) [Code S0001, FEMA No. 2940];
2. Delete Methyl cellulose (Code S1076, FEMA No. 2696);
3. Delete Mintlactone (Code S0641, FEMA No. 3764);
4. Delete Estragole (Code S0061, FEMA No. 2411);
5. Delete 3-Acetyl-2,5-dimethylfuran (Code S1215, FEMA No. 3391);
6. Delete Glycerol ester of rosin (Code S1358, FEMA No. 4226);
7. Delete Gum Arabic, hydrogen octenylbutane dioate (Code S1367, FEMA No. 4227).

Amendment No. 1 to National Food Safety Standard for Food Flavors (GB 30616-2020) (Draft for Comments)

This amendment was approved by Announcement No. [] of 202X, jointly issued by the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China and the State Administration for Market Regulation, and shall enter into force on the date of approval.

Amendment Items

Table B.2 in Appendix B

1. Delete serial No. 98: dehydroacetic acid, sodium dehydroacetate;
2. Add gum Arabic, hydrogenoctenylbutane dioate and Glycerol esters of rosin (gum rosin, wood rosin, and tall oil rosin).

Table B.2 of Appendix B Other Auxiliary Materials

English Name of Other Auxiliary Materials	CNS Code	INS Code
gum Arabic, hydrogen octenylbutane dioate	—	—
glycerol esters of gum rosin, wood rosin and tall oil rosin	—	—

Note: The quality specifications for glycerol esters of gum rosin shall comply with the provisions for glycerol ester of rosin in GB 10287 National Food Safety Standard for Food Additives Glycerol Ester of Rosin and Hydrogenated Glycerol Ester of Rosin.

The quality specifications for glycerol esters of wood rosin and tall oil rosin shall comply with the provisions for glycerol ester of wood rosin and glycerol ester of tall oil rosin in GB 1886.359 National Food Safety Standard for Food Additives Gum Base and Ingredients.

END UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Attachments:

No Attachments.