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Panama Pulls Non-Iodized Salt Off the Shelves

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Trade Policy Incident Report

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Report Highlights:

On Tuesday, August 2, 2016, the Panamanian Food Safety Authority (AUPSA) issued Resolution No. 048-AG-2016, disabling the Sanitary Registration of all imported non-iodized salt for human consumption. On Thursday, August 4, AUPSA ordered a nationwide recall of all imported non-iodized table salt from retail outlets.

General Information:

On August 2, Panama's Food Safety Authority (AUPSA) issued Resolution No. 048-AG-2016, disabling the Sanitary Registration for all imported non-iodized salt for human consumption.

AUPSA's Resolution is based on the Executive Decree No. 20 of March 2, 2001 which establishes that all the Salt that is processed, produced, imported or sold, for human consumption inside of Panama must contain an amount of iodine between 20 to 60 mg/Kg (20 to 60 ppm).

Executive Decree No. 20 of 2001 was issued to reduce the iodine deficiency in children and pregnant women living in the remote mountain areas in Panama, where some cases of mental retardation, Cretinism, Thyroid Goiter, and poor academic performance, were found.

This measure includes 31 salts produced in the United States and imported into Panama which are now banned. U.S. salt imported into Panama currently faces a tariff of 63.99 percent. In 2015, Panama imported \$148,286 of kitchen or table salt of which \$126,471 was imported from the United States.