

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: December 04,2019

Report Number: VM2019-0066

Report Name: Vietnam Renews Regulations on Food Additives

Country: Vietnam

Post: Hanoi

Report Category: Beverages, Dairy and Products, Fishery Products, Livestock and Products, Poultry and Products, Tomatoes and Products, Wine

Prepared By: Thu Pham

Approved By: Robert Hanson

Report Highlights:

On August 30, 2019, Vietnam's Ministry of Health (MOH) issued Circular 24/2019/TT-BYT regulating the management and use of food additives. Vietnam continues to adopt the use of additives in food in accordance with Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA). The Circular also permits several additional food additives for wine, dairy products, spices, cereals, processed meat, sauces, and fish. Circular 24/2019 took effect on October 16, 2019.

Summary:

On August 30, 2019, MOH issued Circular 24/2019/TT-BYT to renew regulations on the use of food additives in Vietnam. Circular 24/2019 took effect on October 16, 2019 and replaced MOH's Circular 27/2012 and Circular 8/2015 on food additives.

Lists of Permitted Food Additives and Maximum Use Levels (MLs) in Food

Vietnam continues to adopt the use of additives in food in accordance with Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) STAN 192-1995. Appendix 2A of Circular 24/2019 lists the additives permitted for use in food and their MLs in accordance with GSFA.

In addition, the Circular permits the use of additional additives for wine, dairy products, spices, cereal, processed meat, sauces, and fish, which are currently not adopted in Codex standards. The list of additives and MLs that are not prescribed in GSFA, is provided in Appendix 2B of Circular 24/2019.

The whole list of additives permitted for use in Vietnam is provided in Appendix 1 of Circular 24/2019. The list of food additives permitted for use in accordance with good manufacturing practices (GMP) is provided in Appendix 3 of this Circular.

Flavorings

Vietnam allows the use of flavorings that are evaluated and determined as safe at estimated intakes or acceptable daily intake (ADI) by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). These flavorings must satisfy corresponding technical requirements on identity and purity and comply with National Standard TCVN 6417:2010 guiding the use of flavorings.

General Rules for the Use of Food Additives

Article 7 of Circular 24/2019 regulates the use of food additives in Vietnam. Accordingly, additives must be on the List of Additives Permitted for Use in Vietnam and must be used only for prescribed food items. The amounts of additives used in food must not exceed MLs permitted for one kind of food or one food category.

Food additives must comply with technical and food safety requirements prescribed in technical regulations, provisions of legislative documents promulgated by Vietnamese competent agencies, or national standards. In the case where there are no applicable regulations, Vietnam allows the use of technical and quality standards for food additives established by Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), JECFA, regional, and foreign standards. Manufacturer standards are acceptable in cases where there are no Vietnamese regulations or international standards.

Review and Amendment of the List of Food Additives Permitted for Use in Vietnam

The Vietnam Food Administration (VFA) can propose amendments to the List of Food Additives Permitted for Use in Vietnam every two years or on an ad hoc basis per CAC updates and requests of stakeholders involved in the manufacture and trade of additives and food.

Circular 24/2019 (Vietnamese) is available at: <http://www.vfa.gov.vn/van-ban/thong-tu-so-242019tt-byt-quy-dinh-ve-quan-ly-va-su-dung-phu-gia-thuc-pham.html>

Should U.S. exporters have any questions, please email: aghamoi@fas.usda.gov

Attachments:

[Unofficial translation of Circular 24 on Food Additives.docx](#)